IN THIS ISSUE:
A CLOSER LOOK AT AMC’S WORLDWIDE REACH
Today more than ever before, our United States Army must be equipped to win in a complex world across multiple mission sets, under widely varied conditions, in unforgiving geographies, against evolving threats. As a result, the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) is positioned around the world as the Army’s enablee to ensure combat readiness. With a presence in nearly 150 countries, AMC is a global logistics and materiel powerhouse, providing predictive readiness to our Army and the joint force.

This edition of AMC Today highlights our global presence. From aviation to ground combat vehicles, from communications to contracting, from munitions to weapons, AMC develops and delivers global readiness solutions every day and in every theater.

“...AMC DEVELOPS AND DELIVERS GLOBAL READINESS SOLUTIONS EVERY DAY AND IN EVERY THEATER”

AMC provides flexible and agile contracting support for Army, joint and installation operations within the continental United States and overseas. Transportation Brigades are involved in worldwide operations around the clock, moving nearly all defense cargo for unit deployments, redeployments, training rotations, exercises, humanitarian assistance missions and other contingencies. Research and Development Forward Elements serve as a critical link between our stateside and overseas research efforts. Meanwhile, our Army Prepositioned Stocks and Activity Sets provide operational support to units and commanders. Contracting Support Brigades provide the face to the field, integrating and synchronizing logistical support and delivering full materiel enterprise capabilities to units and commanders. Contracting Support Brigades provide flexible and agile contracting support for Army, joint and installation operations within the continental United States and overseas. Activation

As the commanding general of AMC, I am continually impressed by the daily worldwide accomplishments of this tremendous organization and its people. AMC’s workforce of 63,000 strong continues to provide readiness to the joint warfighter amidst a complex and ever-changing environment. On any given day around the world, the AMC workforce provides 120,000 meals, supplies more than one million gallons of water, obligates nearly $150 million in contracts, resets 230 pieces of equipment, and secures nearly $70 million in Foreign Military Sales. Wherever and whenever the Army calls, AMC provides.

In an ever-increasing complex and uncertain world, AMC will continue to provide the advanced equipment and materiel solutions that will ensure our United States Army remains the most dominant land power force the world has ever known. AMC – Sustaining the Strength of the Nation!
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Maintenance is the cornerstone of readiness, and our Soldier’s Creed affirms this, stating, “I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.” The creed confirms our commitment to reinvest in Soldiers, and by doing so, sustains the readiness of our expeditionary Army.

With the current fiscal realities of the Budget Control Act of 2011, we must seize opportunities to reshape and rebalance for the future – and remain capable of providing readiness for a smaller, expeditionary Army. Our investments in Soldiers will ensure that we have the best trained, best led and best equipped Army in the world. This starts with ensuring that our Soldiers are capable of operating, maintaining and sustaining the equipment of today, as well as the equipment of 2025 and beyond.

The U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) plays a critical role in enabling our formations to operate the complex equipment that has been fielded across the Army over the past decade through support from our life cycle management command Logistics Assistance Representatives. We must strike the right balance between contracted logistics support and Soldier sustainment in order to ensure that our Soldiers are capable of preserving operational effectiveness within our warfighting formations.

As we do this, the over-the-shoulder support from AMC’s military and Department of the Army Civilians will remain critical and reinvigorate Soldier ownership for operating, maintaining and sustaining their equipment.

Whether deployed in support of contingency operations, deployed to a combat training center, or at home station, AMC’s Army Field Support Brigades and Brigade Logistics Support Teams act in direct support to Army Corps, Divisions and Brigade Combat Teams to bring the capabilities of the entire materiel enterprise. AMC delivers readiness to our formations at the tactical point of need. Our organization reinforces our Soldiers’ capacity to maintain their equipment at home or deployed around the world.

Units at all levels must plan for, resource and execute “command maintenance, motor stables or assembly area operations” in order to codify this vital practice as part of day-to-day business across our Army. Our AMC professionals stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our Soldiers in providing readiness solutions for our forces around the world.

Army Doctrine Publication 4-0, Sustainment, states that logistics provides the maneuver commander with options, and the linchpin of this starts with our Soldiers’ ability to conduct sustainment operations, as well as plan and incorporate sustainment across the tactical, operational and strategic levels of operations.

In order for our readiness to be optimized within affordability, Soldiers must take ownership for their arms and equipment. For me, as a young paratrooper, this began with placing my name on the windshield of my vehicle, participating lock-step in command maintenance with the truck commander and unit maintenance personnel, and ensuring that services appeared on the training schedule. Readiness began with my own stewardship and ownership for the equipment that the Army entrusted to me. In other words, sustainment started with me – the Soldier!
The U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) is a global organization with a presence in nearly 150 countries. To speed our forces to the fight, AMC manages combat-ready equipment and materiel, strategically prepositioned around the world and ready for issue to Soldiers at a moment’s notice.

AMC receives, stores, maintains and issues Army Prepositioned Stocks, or APS, in support of Combatant Commanders. Prepositioned sets of equipment are based in the U.S., Europe, Southwest Asia, Northeast Asia and afloat, with planned expansion to South America and the Pacific Rim over the next several years.

“We live in a complex, dangerous world, and APS allows the Army to be responsive and adaptive,” said Gen. Dennis L. Via, AMC commander. “Our APS stocks are strategic enablers for Combatant Commanders, allowing them to train and respond quickly whenever and wherever needed.”

APS provides critical assistance equipment strategically positioned to allow the Army to quickly react to contingencies, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and stability and support operations. Along with airlift and sealift, APS constitutes one leg of the Strategic Mobility Triad essential for meeting force projection timelines. The APS program’s primary mission is to reduce the initial amount of strategic lift required to support overseas operations and to sustain Soldiers and units until traditional lines of communication are established. APS allows early entry of forces into a geographic theater of operations to provide responsive combat power and support while reducing the demands on initial strategic airlift and sealift.

“APS provides the means to rapidly employ an expeditionary Army by delivering the right equipment and materiel to respond quickly to whatever contingency may occur,” said Via.

The Army’s APS strategy provides a range of capabilities through five categories that enable Combatant Commanders to shape the environment, provide operational flexibility and implement a Regionally Aligned Forces construct.

- Unit sets include equipment stored in unit configurations, reducing force deployment response time.
- Operational Project Stocks include equipment and supplies required above normal unit authorizations, tailored for key strategic capabilities to support Army operations, plans and contingencies.
- Army War Reserve Sustainment equipment includes major end items to replace battle losses and secondary items to replace supplies used during contingency operations.
- War Reserve Stocks for Allies ensures U.S. preparedness to assist allies in war. Directed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, AMC transfers stock equipment to support allied forces under the Foreign Assistance Act.
- Activity Sets include unit equipment prepositioned to equip Army forces, primarily in support of training exercises outside the U.S. AMC and U.S. Army Europe made history in 2014 with the development and activation of the first of these, the European Activity Set (EAS). Built in 18 months to a battalion-sized set of equipment, the EAS was first used in multinational training exercises in France, Latvia, Poland and Germany in April 2014. The EAS has since grown to a brigade-sized set of equipment that can be issued in 96 hours for rapid deployment capability.

“The EAS provides flexibility and facilitates U.S. Army Europe’s rapid, efficient and effective response to requirements and contingencies,” said Via.

With the first fully operational Activity Set built in Europe, the Army and AMC are now looking to develop future sets in Central or South America, Africa, the Pacific and Southwest Asia beginning in Fiscal Year 2016.
ABOVE: Vehicles and equipment in the Army Prepositioned Stocks.

"The expansion of Activity Sets supports rotational training and exercises across the globe," Via said. "These sets significantly reduce shipping and transportation costs, increase our Army’s combat readiness posture, and provide reassurance to our allies of our commitment and resolve.”

Even as new Activity Sets are positioned around the world, AMC is enhancing and modernizing existing APS sets. For example, an AMC project to store equipment in climate-controlled warehouses in Southwest Asia yielded great benefits in extending the equipment’s use life. AMC is now expanding the program, called Care of Supplies in Storage, or COSIS, warehouses to other sets, with an estimated cost savings of $100 million annually.

“APS capabilities must be modernized and prepared for operations and contingencies when needed, and COSIS improves readiness and extends the life of our critical equipment, saving a significant amount of money in the process,” said Via. Operational Project Stocks will also be enhanced in the coming years, with modernized humanitarian assistance and disaster relief equipment, route clearance equipment and bridging material.

Army forces have used APS equipment in various theaters for years. Equipment was drawn from Livorno, Italy, in 2014 to respond to Operation United Assistance and the fight against Ebola in Liberia. In 2011 and 2009, medical supplies, generators, shower and latrine kits, personal protective gear and more were sent to Japan and Haiti respectively for earthquake and tsunami relief. APS stocks were also used state-side in 2005 to respond to Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast.

“We are deliberately looking at how we can most effectively and efficiently support the full range of Army and joint missions and contingencies,” said Via. “We are geographically positioning equipment sets, and tailoring them to meet the Combatant Commanders’ most likely scenarios based on population, politics, and topography.”

RIGHT: Stryker armored vehicles from Iron Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, travel down the E67 highway towards Riga, Latvia, on day two of Operation Dragoon Ride, demonstrating the nation’s commitment to NATO allies in Europe. (U.S. Army photos)

ABOVE: Vehicles and equipment in the Army Prepositioned Stocks. Inventory are stored inside humidity-controlled warehouses. Inside storage has increased the equipment’s readiness, dependability and accountability, and reduced maintenance costs.

AMC PROVIDES WORLDWIDE READINESS

Whether it’s a well-planned training exercise or a spur of the moment contingency, the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) lives its mission to develop and deliver global readiness solutions every day around the world.

As Operation United Assistance stood up to help combat the spread of the deadly Ebola virus, AMC responded, providing logistics, training and engineering support and setting up life support services in an austere and potentially lethal environment. AMC’s Army Field Support Brigades prepared and shipped Force Provider Modules that delivered climate-controlled billeting, shower, latrine, kitchen, power distribution and more. Other AMC elements supplied everything from transitional logistics support to contracting to repair parts for aviation assets.

It was AMC scientists and engineers who fast-tracked the modification of existing technology to neutralize Syria’s dangerous chemical weapons. AMC’s Research, Development and Engineering Command civilians added the portability factor to existing equipment resulting in the Field Deployable Hydrolysis System that was installed on the U.S. cargo vessel MV Cape Ray. AMC answered the call to develop a system that would work effectively at sea, as no nation was willing to permit the Syrian chemical agents to be destroyed on their soil. The system, which garnered a British innovation award, destroyed more than 600 tons of chemical material.

While contingencies are the true test of the command, the support AMC provides during scheduled military exercises is what challenges its flexibility, capability and proficiency. The command has established, modernized and maintained prepositioned stocks, and built ready-for-action activity sets of combat vehicles and equipment, all located strategically around the world. From bolstering the Army’s expeditionary capabilities in the Pacific through the Pacific Pathways initiative, to demonstrating the nation’s commitment to NATO allies in Europe through Operation Atlantic Resolve and Combined Resolve, AMC is involved in nearly every joint and multilateral military training exercise.

AMC’s continued commitment to sustain unified land operations anytime, anywhere, is constantly displayed as it provides to the nation’s warfighter at home and around the world.
AMC News & Notes

1 AMC welcomes new Executive Deputy

Lisha Adams returned to Army Materiel Command this summer as the new Executive Deputy to the Commanding General. Adams served as the command’s assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics integration, G4, before taking a position as the deputy assistant secretary of defense for materiel readiness in 2014. Adams has held various leadership positions during her more than 30 years of government service.

2 JMC recognized as superior unit

The U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command (JMC) was recognized for its exceptional service with the Army’s Superior Unit Award during a ceremony July 30. The Army Superior Unit Award is a decoration established by the Secretary of the Army, and is awarded to an Army unit that displays outstanding meritorious performance in a difficult and challenging mission, carried out under extraordinary circumstances. JMC earned this distinction by successfully providing ammunition and logistics support during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation New Dawn in Iraq, from Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2012.

3 AMCOM recognized for value engineering

The Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) was a big winner this year at the Department of Defense Value Engineering Achievement Awards. AMCOM and its partners were presented with four value engineering awards by Stephen Welby, deputy assistant secretary of defense for systems engineering, during the June 26 ceremony held at the Pentagon. The awards included the organization award for its “extensive and extremely successful” value engineering program, and three individual awards for team members in the Utility Systems Engineering Division of the Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center’s Aviation Engineering Division.

4 Mission and Installation Contracting Command recognized

Army officials recognized the Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC) in June for its outreach and support efforts with the presentation of the Secretary of the Army Award for Small Business Utilization for 2014. George Cabaniss, deputy to the MICC commanding general, was presented the award during a ceremony at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The award recognized the command’s efforts in exceeding four of five small business goals for the first time since Fiscal Year 2010, and the MICC outpacing all five categories from the preceding year. The MICC Small Business Program Office consists of personnel around the country who provide advice and counsel to small businesses, as well as conduct outreach events to inform industry representatives of installation acquisition forecasts. In addition to providing advice to individual small businesses, MICC members advocate within the command’s 32 contracting offices to ensure small businesses have the maximum opportunity to compete for Army contracts awarded by those offices.

5 Army Contracting Command honored by acquisition leadership

Four acquisition professionals and one team from Army Contracting Command-Rock Island were announced as winners of several 2014 Secretary of the Army Excellence in Contracting Awards in April. Derek Schnorrenberg (pictured), contracting officer, was awarded Outstanding Contracting Officer for Specialized Services and Construction Contracting for support he provided for three large aviation service contracts for Special Forces in Africa and Afghanistan. Schnorrenberg was able to save more than $25 million on three contracts. Joan Wysoczka, a former ACC-Ri chief who retired in 2014, received the Ability One Award for her efforts in developing employment opportunities for the visually impaired. Stephen Dunbar, contracting officer at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, McAlester, Oklahoma, was honored for his excellent customer service support and ability to work through unique situations with integrity. Susan McKinnis (pictured) was honored with the 2014 Director Acquisition Career Management Award, which recognized her 37 years of outstanding federal service. Finally, Branch E of the Global Reachback Contracting Division was awarded Outstanding Unit/Team Award for Specialized Services and Construction Contracting. This 24-member team of civilians and military professionals awarded around 640 mission-essential transportation requirement actions, with total obligations exceeding $170 million and contracts valued in excess of $400 million.

6 Army Greatest Innovation Awards program looking for submissions

Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Army’s Greatest Innovation Awards. Military, civilians or teams may now submit their best technology solutions for review. The Army’s Greatest Innovation Awards program replaces the Army’s Greatest Invention Program. Past winners included programs that enhanced weapons, improved Soldier protection and upgraded field systems. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit the website at www.amc.army.mil/AGIAP.
Bringing the Full Might of the Materiel Enterprise to the Front Lines

By ASC Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command, or AMC, is the Army’s industrial, research and development arm, responsible for overseeing the Army’s acquisition and support system. AMC’s acquisition organizations develop and deliver materiel, while its logistics support organizations ensure the Army has what it needs to do its mission. AMC’s logistics support components provide support to deployed and non-deployed combat units, including the Army Field Support Brigades (AFSBs) and Logistics Support Elements (LSEs), which complement Mission Command (MTOE) units. They also manage equipment upgrades to assure that units are provided with the latest and greatest technology. For example, vehicles brought to AFSBs have come out in like-new condition, often with supplemental armor providing an additional layer of protection.

To cover their broad geographic areas of responsibility, the seven AFSBs have six subordinate battalions, totaling 18 in all, as well as brigade logistics support teams. In recent years, the brigades have also taken on the responsibility of overseeing operations at ASC’s Logistics Readiness Centers (LRCs). LRCs are located at every major Army installation in the U.S. and overseas, providing the supply, maintenance and transportation services required to run an installation and managing laundry, dining and basic issue facilities.

Although the AFSBs are designed to be deployable and are led by field grade officers, their personnel rosters reflect AMC as a whole. The AFSB workforce primarily includes Department of the Army civilians and contractors are foreign nationals from the host nation or other nations.

Managing such a personnel mix is not without challenges, yet the successes achieved by the AFSBs show that it can be done, and done well.” Cartwright said. Given their modular design, the AFSBs are not anchored to particular locations, and can be moved as needed. A significant move occurred in the summer of 2015, when the 402nd AFSB cased their colors in Kuwait and resumed operations at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

The AFSBs were designed as modular commands to match the needs and structure of a post-Cold War Army that was becoming more mobile, flexible and adaptable in order to include security challenges of the 21st Century,” Cartwright said. "The AFSBs are commanded by colonels centrally selected at the branch level, and their officers-in-charge are experienced leaders who are both proficient at their specialties and knowledgeable about how the Army functions as a whole.” The AFSBs are now formally designated as presented tables of organization and equipment (PME) units, as opposed to their predecessor organizations which were usually just numbered with no explicit support tasks assigned. TDA units, TDA units largely perform administrative and support functions, while MTOE units are designed to be fully deployable, ready to go to the front lines when called. In keeping with a modular design, the AFSB is truly modular in design. AFSBs have the capabilities and competencies to support any unit, as well as joint and allied forces, regardless of their function.

AFSBs also have access to the wide breadth of knowledge provided by logistical experts at AMC’s life cycle management commands and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

The AFSBs act as a focal point for ASC’s primary missions, including Army Prepositioned Stocks, the Logistics Assistance Program and the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program. They also coordinate the activities of Logistics Assistance Representatives, or LARs, from AMC’s other commands. AFSBs assure that LARs have the facilities and equipment needed to carry out their vital role of providing hands-on maintenance and repair support to Soldiers in combat units – Soldiers whose lives depend on having reliable, effective weapons and equipment.

Given their modular design, the AFSBs are not anchored to particular locations, and can be moved as needed. A significant move occurred in the summer of 2015, when the 402nd AFSB cased their colors in Kuwait and resumed operations at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.
Army Sustainment Command, a subordinate organization of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, is the command and control hub for global Army logistics, supporting Combatant Commanders and the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program. The command bridges the national sustainment base to the Soldiers in the field, bringing together the capabilities of AMC to provide the right equipment, at the right place and time, and in the right condition.

The 402nd was first established at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of operations in Iraq, Qatar and Southwest Asia. Meanwhile, the 401st AFSB had set up shop at Bagram Airfield in support of operations in Afghanistan.

The withdrawal of most U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan allowed the 401st AFSB to move to Kuwait, where it essentially took over the mission of the 402nd AFSB while still overseeing elements in Afghanistan. This, in turn, enabled the 402nd to make the move to Hawaii.

The relocation of the 402nd reflects the recent shift in the emphasis of U.S. security strategy toward the Pacific theater of operations. In its new location, the 402nd AFSB will write another chapter in the story of AMC’s front-line logistical support mission, a mission that moves as the Army moves and goes where the Soldier goes.

The seven Army Field Support Brigades, their locations, subordinate units and areas of operations are currently as follows:

**401ST AFSB:** CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT
Supports the U.S. Central Command area of operations in Southwest Asia and Afghanistan. Subordinate units include the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan; the Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait; and the Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar.

**402ND AFSB:** FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII
Supports the U.S. Pacific Command area of operations. Oversees five Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include the Army Field Support Battalion-Alaska and the Army Field Support Battalion-Hawaii.

**403RD AFSB:** CAMP HENRY, KOREA
Supports units in Korea and Japan, with direct support to the 2nd Infantry Division. Oversees six Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include the Army Field Support Battalion-Korea and the Army Field Support Battalion-Northeast Asia.

**404TH AFSB:** JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WASHINGTON
Supports units in the western United States. Oversees 11 Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include the Army Field Support Battalion-Lewis.

**405TH AFSB:** KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY
Supports units in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of operations. Oversees 17 Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include the Army Field Support Battalion-Germany and the Army Field Support Battalion-Italy.

**406TH AFSB:** FORT BOURGEOIS, NORTH CAROLINA
Supports units in the eastern and southern United States. Oversees 27 Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include Army Field Support Battalion-Bragg; Army Field Support Battalion-Campbell; Army Field Support Battalion-Durban; Army Field Support Battalion-Stewart; and the Army Strategic Logistics Activity-Charleston.

**407TH AFSB:** FORT HOOD, TEXAS
Supports units in the central and southwestern United States, as well as Puerto Rico and Honduras. Oversees 14 Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include Army Field Support Battalion-Bliss; Army Field Support Battalion-Carson; Army Field Support Battalion-Hood; and Army Field Support Battalion-Riley.

**408TH AFSB:** FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI
Supports units in the central United States. Oversees five Logistics Readiness Centers. Subordinate units include the Army Field Support Battalion-Northwest.

With the transfer of responsibility came the realignment of contracting authority and mission command of ECC-A, placing the 418th CSB under the command and contracting authority of U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC), a subordinate organization of U.S. Army Materiel Command’s Army Contracting Command (ACC).

“Deploying in contingency contracting units will allow our contracting professionals to deploy as more cohesive teams that have trained and prepared together, leading to greater support and accomplishment of mission,” said Cooper.

Col. Dennis McGowan and Command Sgt. Maj. Marion Cooper were part of Army history in Afghanistan this summer as they transitioned contracting responsibilities from a joint contracting command to the first Contracting Support Brigade (CSB) to deploy as a unit. The transition also signified the designation of the Army as the lead service for contracting within Afghanistan. McGowan and Cooper closed a chapter of contingency contracting history June 26 when they cased the colors of the U.S. Central Command Joint Theater Support Contracting Command (C-JTSCC) at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Originally established as the Project and Contracting Office in 2003 to support reconstruction efforts within Iraq, C-JTSCC later expanded to provide operational contract support across the entire U.S. Central Command.

After casing the C-JTSCC colors, they opened the next chapter of history as the colors of the 418th CSB were uncased. In that moment, the 418th CSB became the first CSB to have deployed as a unit, identified as Expeditionary Contracting Command-Afghanistan (ECC-A). This deployment marks a significant achievement in fulfilling the 2007 Gansler Commission Report recommendations for Army expeditionary contracting.
“When casing the colors, we could not go without acknowledging the hard work of so many contracting professionals, from all branches of service - military and civilian - who supported the warfighter through the past decade plus of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,” McGowan said. “Those executing the current C-JTSCC mission carry on a long-standing pursuit of excellence. Those who have served in the command have much to be proud of.”

The ceremony also marked the transition from a joint organization manned by a joint manning document to an Army organization staffed by a request for forces. “The Army contingency contracting officers and noncommissioned officers demonstrated their exceptional skills and excelled at contract execution that carried the organization through transition, while ensuring uninterrupted support to the warfighter,” said Lt. Col. Scott McKee, commander of the 904th Contracting Battalion and chief of Regional Contracting Center-East.

The transition was not without challenges, including the loss of experienced civilian personnel who were required to redeploy stateside. The Army contracting officers identified the challenge early and responded in order to provide continuity of operations. Supported by the ACC Deployed Cadre Program, the Army’s contracting workforce demonstrated the capacity to adapt and deploy both military and civilian personnel with critical skill sets to increase operational effectiveness and ensure success, said Lt. Col. Wayne Hiatt, executive officer, 418th CSB. Several other subtle but key changes for the new, Army-led organization also exist. The head of contracting activity authority that once resided with the commanding general of the C-JTSCC now resides with the AMC commanding general. Simply stated, the authority to sign certain policies and procedural items now resides at AMC as opposed to the C-JTSCC. McGowan transitioned from the title of senior contracting official-Afghanistan under the C-JTSCC to the principal assistant responsible for contracting, which requires detailed knowledge of procurement, contract law and other issues.

“Other than the name change, the transition proved transparent to those organizations receiving contracting support from ECC-Afghanistan,” he said. “The operational contract support mission in Afghanistan has changed significantly since the majority of U.S. combat forces have left the country. Today, Combined Security and Transition Command Afghanistan (CSTC-A), with the highest value and most complex contracts, is the largest ECC-A customer. CSTC-A’s primary mission is the training and development of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. The command’s contracts range from simple purchases such as guard towers and basic life support services to multi-million dollar information technology infrastructure projects in support of the Afghan Ministries of Defense and Interior.

While the contracting footprint will decline along with the U.S. presence in Afghanistan based on the strategic and operational environment that develops over time, Army contingency contracting officers will continue to deploy in units such as contracting teams, battalions and support brigades. “

The 418th Contracting Support Brigade, from Fort Hood, Texas, is normally assigned to the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The brigade’s ranks are augmented with Soldiers from the 904th Contracting Battalion, also based at Fort Hood, and currently deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and Qatar. ECC-A is also supported by the 904th Contracting Battalion deployed from Fort Knox, Kentucky, which is currently supporting Bagram Airfield and Train, Advise, and Assist, Command East. To provide additional support across Afghanistan, the 605th and 619th Contracting Teams from Fort Drum, New York, are providing contracting support at New Kabul Compound and Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The Fort Riley, Kansas-based 633rd and 634th Contracting Teams provide ECC-A with over-the-horizon support from Qatar.

In Fiscal Year 2014, ECC supported 181 expeditionary missions in 52 nations around the world. Some of the first personnel to arrive in West Africa for the fight against Ebola were contracting officers. Other ECC contracting personnel have deployed to Nepal, Iraq, Kuwait, Thailand, various African nations and other nations around the world to support Department of Defense exercises, contingency operations and U.S. government relief operations.

ACC also operates six contracting centers at key locations across the continental U.S. that are the Army’s “centers of gravity” for weapons system contracting. The centers support research, development and engineering; program executive offices and program management; the Organic Industrial Base (depots, arsenals and ammunition plants); life cycle management; logistics; and Foreign Military Sales. From food and clothing to bullets and bombs, from tanks and trucks to boats and aircraft, from weapons to installations, ACC ensures U.S. Soldiers have what they need where they work and live while contractors’ families are successful. If a Soldier drives it, flies it, wears it, shoots it, communicates with it or eats it, ACC buys it.

ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND SUPPORTS GLOBAL BUYING FOR ARMY OPERATIONS
THOUSANDS OF AMC SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS AND CONTRACTORS WORK EVERY DAY PROVIDING OPTIMAL SUPPORT TO THE JOINT WARFIGHTER WITH SKILL, PASSION AND DEDICATION. THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE ORGANIZATION. ENSURING MISSION SUCCESS. ARSENAL OF THE BRAVE PROFILE A FEW OF THE MANY OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS FROM ACROSS AMC WHO EXHIBIT THESE VALUES.

ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND (AMC)

In recognition of their exceptional contributions to the Army, three senior-level AMC civilians were honored with Presidential Rank Awards during a ceremony at the Pentagon June 22. James Dwyer, AMC deputy chief of staff for logistics, G-4, was presented the Meritorious Senior Executive award. Joseph Wienen, former director of Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, was also named a Meritorious Senior Executive. Joseph Mait, senior research scientist in electromagnetics for the Research, Development and Engineering Command, was presented a Meritorious Professional award. The Presidential Rank Awards recognize professionals who have demonstrated the highest levels of strength and integrity and provided exceptional service over an extended period of time.

Army musician Staff Sgt. Jeremy Baharlou, a percussionist with the Army Materiel Command Band stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, won the Army Materiel Command’s Best Warrior Competition and was named the command’s Soldier of the Year. Walton is a native of Champaign, Illinois, and has been in the Army two years. He previously served in the 8th Army Band in Korea. Walton is currently working toward a doctorate from the University of Illinois. He recently completed Air Assault School at Fort Campbell with five fellow band members. Before he joined the Army, He said he could never have completed such a grueling competition. “It’s really a testament to the people who trained me,” he said. “They provided me with the motivation.” Walton will compete for the title of the Army’s Best Warrior in October at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

Army 17 years and is a native of Melbourne, Florida. He recently organized and led a group of five other band members to attend Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He participated in the Best Warrior Competition on a two-week notice after a previous competitor was unable to attend. Baharlou said he plans to continue his physical training, brush up on his weapons knowledge and continue studying before he heads to the Department of Army competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. “It’s going to take even more hard work and commitment,” he said.

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (ASC)

Rhonda VanDeCasteele serves as the executive director for ammunition for JMC. Recently promoted to the Senior Executive Service, she has the responsibility of providing joint conventional munitions acquisition and production support to Program Executive Office Ammunition, as well as the readiness and logistics direction for all U.S. military services, allies and friendly nations.

Joint Munitions Command's Best Warrior Competition on a two-week notice after a previous competitor was unable to attend. Baharlou said he plans to continue his physical training, brush up on his weapons knowledge and continue studying before he heads to the Department of Army competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. “It’s going to take even more hard work and commitment,” he said.

U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND (ACC)

Rhonda VanDeCasteele serves as the executive director for ammunition for JMC. Recently promoted to the Senior Executive Service, she has the responsibility of providing joint conventional munitions acquisition and production support to Program Executive Office Ammunition, as well as the readiness and logistics direction for all U.S. military services, allies and friendly nations.

Maj. Thomas Lutz, a division chief for the Facilities Maintenance Division, Theater Contracting Center, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, provides operational contracting support to U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe forces, focusing on installation support and construction for the Rheinland-Pfalz community. “I’ve learned a tremendous amount from the synergy involved with the integration of the military, Department of the Army civilians and local national workforce,” said Lutz, who has been with the 409th for two years.

In recognition of their exceptional contributions to the Army, three senior-level AMC civilians were honored with Presidential Rank Awards during a ceremony at the Pentagon June 22. James Dwyer, AMC deputy chief of staff for logistics, G-4, was presented the Meritorious Senior Executive award. Joseph Wienen, former director of Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, was also named a Meritorious Senior Executive. Joseph Mait, senior research scientist in electromagnetics for the Research, Development and Engineering Command, was presented a Meritorious Professional award. The Presidential Rank Awards recognize professionals who have demonstrated the highest levels of strength and integrity and provided exceptional service over an extended period of time.
ARSENAL OF THE BRAVE

Roland Becker, contracting specialist with the Regional Contracting Office-Benelux, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, is a Belgian local national who is a vital link to the annual Normandy commemoration events. This year, Becker awarded six Normandy support contracts including food service, tents and electrical, and provided on-site contract coordination while embedded with the 21st Theater Sustainment Command.

U.S. ARMY SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMMAND (USASAC)

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Alexander was recognized as the Office of the Program Manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard (OPM-SANG) NCO of the Month. He has been nominated for a Department of the Army award following his support during a medical emergency. While aboard a flight from Frankfurt, Germany, to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Alexander provided life-saving assistance to a civilian passenger. He was instrumental in the decision to land the plane. “It was a pretty simple call for me,” said Alexander, who urged the captain to land as quickly as possible. “We were still over two hours from Riyadh. I told [the flight attendant] we need to get on the ground now. [The passenger] was not going to last long enough to reach our destination.”

U.S. ARMY TANK-ARMOR/AVIATION AND ARMAMENTS COMMAND (TACOM)

Jennifer West is a general financial specialist in the TACOM G-8 Resource Integration Office. Shortly after her arrival in G-8, a colleague was diagnosed with stage IV cancer. In addition to assuming significant amounts of workload to ensure coverage, West headed a campaign of moral support for her colleague, including a Facebook page, T-shirts and a support walk at TACOM.

Sandra Watkins-Peay joined USASAC in 2008 and currently works as a support contract officer for the Central Command regional operations. Watkins-Peay was in attendance, along with her father, during USASAC’s opening July 19, 1965. She also celebrated USASAC’s 50th anniversary in 2015. “When I started work at USASAC, my dad was still alive and we talked about how ironic it was that I finally was going to participate in what he was doing when he retired,” she said. “Today, I can see reasons for what I do every day in the world news. It is a very soul-satisfying situation.”

U.S. ARMY COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMAND (CECOM)

Kevin Ivory was selected as the CECOM 2014 Logistics Assistance Representative of the Year. Ivory works in Logistics Information Technology in the Logistics Assistance Division, Field Support Directorate, Logistics Readiness Center. He earned the recognition for his assistance and training efforts while assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Logistics Support Team in Vilseck, Germany. Ivory’s assignments in Vilseck include completing a six-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, during which he was able to recover more than $650,000 in misplaced or discarded equipment for reutilization, Ivory also conducted over 200 hours of formal and informal Soldier training.

Albert James (AJ) Sparks, an artillery work leader at the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, has served in multiple positions for more than 10 years. Today, he works on the HMMWV ambulance shelter and integration line where he ensures that the line is operational and properly stocked with parts. He coordinates with TACOM and Product Director - Light Tacttical Vehicles to travel to units receiving the fielded ambulances, supporting and assembling a wide variety of products such as the M19 howitzer, Forward Repair System and Shop Equipment Contact Maintenance.

Branch employees receive, store, maintain accountability and issue COMSEC and Information Security equipment and material. The COMSEC branch also performs depot maintenance and demilitarization of equipment and sub-assemblies. The branch boasts five sections plus two Forward Repair Activities in Southwest Asia, supporting AMC’s worldwide mission.

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC)

Salvatore Granese, personal property storage specialist, was recently recognized for his work in transitioning operations from the Central Regional Storage Management Office to SDDC. Granese, a native of Long Beach, Illinois, with the stand-up of the newly established Command Storage Management Office (SMO), Graneese resolved critical database issues, streamlined database operations and provided training to all personnel, allowing the SMO to assume the duties of the Central RSMO by the established deadline.

Kent Beck has served as SDDC’s command historian since 2007. During the commemoration of SDDC’s 50th year as an Army command, he was responsible for the organization’s year-long celebration. Beck led the planning and coordination efforts for numerous 50th anniversary events and activities, each developed to educate the SDDC workforce about the command’s heritage and how SDDC has supported the warfighter for half a century.

U.S. ARMY AVIATION AND MISSILE COMMAND (AMCOM)

Philip-Michael Agee is a secondary items manager with the AMCOM Systems Surveillance Management Division, Logistics Service Branch, where he provides support for the Integrated Field of Test Equipment VS. Agée said he is proud to assist service men and women “if given the chance, I would tell the Soldiers, if there is anything that you need, please know that I will assist you in every way possible,” he said.

Dana Benson plays a big part at the AMCOM Logistics Center. Her three-year service to AMCOM has been filled with the full spectrum of duties and responsibilities for her depot-level support. For this year, she said, “AMCOM to me means being able to support the warfighters who put their lives on the line for each and every one of us.”

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

Phylip-Michael Agee

Scott Newman, chief of the Systems Engineering and Integration Branch within the Space and Terrestrial Communication Directorate at Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC), proactively and strategically built new laboratory capabilities, including a fully functioning command post, while also supporting the Network Integration Evaluation (NIE). Newman and his team supported two NIEs providing lab-based risk reduction and field support to the 2/1 Armored Division at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Just this year, Newman and his team integrated 204 products, including program of record systems, industry products and new government technologies.

The CERDEC Army-wide Cryptographic Network Standardization (ACNS) Team was awarded the 2014 Dr. William A. Novick Award for excellence for efforts in upgrading aging cryptographic devices and standardizing the security capabilities for the Army’s tactical network. The CERDEC Cryptographic Modernization Branch (CMB) ACNS Team traveled to U.S. military installations worldwide, accounting for each encryptor listed in the Army’s inventory, then returning to remove inactive devices and upgrade the outdated ones with modern counterparts. The CMB ACNS Team is on track to streamline the entire Army inventory of encryption devices by 2016, converging 77 different types of outdated devices into 48 modern types.

WWW.ARMY.MIL/AMC
TRAINING TEAMs bolster U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY, SUPPORT PARTNER NATION NEEDS

By Adriane Foss, USASAC Public Affairs

The last of the two longest serving U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Teams concluded its mission when the team departed from Egypt June 1.

The AH-64D Apache Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) was established in February 1993. The nine-man Army aviation team had the mission priority to advise and assist the Egyptian Air Force (EAF) to train and field operating conditions. In order for the wing to achieve the capability to sustain its own operations, said Walton “Buck” Walker, Security Assistance Training Management Organization (SATMO) Security Assistance Training (SAT) manager for Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. “The TAFT has assisted in developing pilot training procedures, pilot-in-command and instructor pilot training, along with wing-level maintenance to ensure the wing could begin to execute independently.”

While the recently redeployed TAFT was historically long, it is far from the only one of its kind.

ABOUT SATMO

SATMO, a subordinate organization of the U.S. Army Materiel Command’s U.S. Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC), deploys Army Security Assistance Training Teams to partner nations in support of Security Assistance Organization training objectives. SATMO is a crucial component of USASAC’s “total package approach,” which not only provides materiel for partner nations in the form of Foreign Military Sales (FMS), but also provides training, support, and technical expertise, to meet the requirement, like helicopter mission training. Satmo.org has a unique knowledge of foreign military needs. He said that SATMO's “total package approach” which not only provides materiel for partner nations but also provides training, support, and technical expertise to meet a nation’s needs.

SATMO was organized in the early 1970s to manage the deployment of Security Assistance Training Teams. Today, it is known as the Army’s one-stop shop for all Army security assistance training overseas. Moen said it earned its status as a customer-oriented unit that gives the security assistance enterprise a wide range of options in achieving each partner nation’s training goals and U.S. foreign policy objectives.

THE BENEFITS

“TAFTs can save time by providing a team over a longer, singular period of time versus episodic, periodic events that only last from a few days to a couple of months,” said Moen. “Episodic events don’t accomplish everything the partner nation needs.” Episodic events are also more expensive, he said, as they require teams to deploy under temporary duty, instead of permanent change-of-station conditions.

Everything sent out by SATMO is unique and tailored, both in size and technical expertise, to meet the requested mission, said Moen. “This makes SATMO a cost-effective provider of training to our partner nations. There is no excess on our TAFTs,” Moen said.

MULTI-FACETED MISSIONS

The scope of TAFT missions is broad, as USASAC currently oversees more than 5,000 Foreign Military Sales cases with a combined program value of more than $160 billion.

SATMO’s brigade-equivalent command is headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where it employs more than 260 soldiers, Department of Army Civilian and contractors who deploy to more than 20 countries throughout the year to meet training assistance requirements of America’s foreign partners.

SATMO has a long history of providing a wide variety of security assistance teams which can do anything from basic Soldier skills training to highly technical, very advanced military education and senior-level development, said Moen.

SATMO’s “total package approach” offers life cycle management of a team over a longer, singular period of time versus episodic, periodic events that only last from a few days to a couple of months, said Moen. “Episodic events don’t accomplish everything the partner nation needs.” Episodic events are also more expensive, he said, as they require teams to deploy under temporary duty, instead of permanent change-of-station conditions.

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FAST FACT: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAM (TAF) AND EXTENDED TRAINING SERVICE SPECIALIST (ETSS)?

Technically, a TAFT is more focused on technical assistance and less on training. An ETSS is more focused on training with limited technical assistance. From the SATMO perspective, the terms are interchangeable; the term TAFT is more universally recognized.

“There are many lessons that we as an Army have learned over decades that can be provided to our partner nations,” said Moen. Relationships between members of the TAFTs and partner nations often stretch far beyond the tenure of the team members’ time in country. He said long-term teams have the opportunity to instill and solidify cultural change to the way the partner nations do business.

“For example, in Colombia, there has always been a strong tendency for the Colombians to follow the U.S. Army when establishing their aviation training, techniques and procedures. The TAFT that is currently in Columbia has come a long way in solidifying those into the Colombian aviation culture,” Moen said.

SUCCESSFUL SIDE EFFECTS: TAFTs can also serve as a bridge for diplomacy. Moen said in Sweden, the SwAF team proved to be a stepping stone for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) at Fort Bragg. The three-person team that went to Sweden focused on a single mission, and ultimately helped the Swedes provide a very successful medevac capability for coalition forces in Afghanistan. The relationship building that took place during the process also laid the foundation for a USASOC team to continue improving their aviation capabilities.

“All-in-all, our TAFTs are providing a crucial service to our nation and our partners around the globe,” Moen said. “Effectively training our partners at the end of the day means we are strengthening U.S. global relations, ensuring interoperability between U.S. and friendly foreign forces during combat operations, and supporting Combattant Command engagement strategies. It’s a win-win – for our partners and for the United States.”

PROVIDING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT TO THE WARFIGHTER 24|7|365

By SDDC Public Affairs

For more than 50 years, the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) has provided global deployment and distribution capabilities to meet the nation’s objectives. Although SDDC’s mission has adapted, the command has always played a major role in the transportation of Department of Defense cargo in support of the U.S. warfighter.

“Trained and ready warfighters, plus logistics excellence, equals success,” said Maj. Gen. Susan A. Davidson, SDDC commanding general. “No other country can do what we do, and SDDC plays a huge role in the logistics part of that equation.”

As a major subordinate command of U.S. Army Materiel Command, and the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Transportation Command, SDDC is responsible for planning, booking, shipping and tracking cargo; conducting terminal operations at ports around the globe; and managing personal property moves for America’s warfighters, federal employees and their families.

“There are literally tons of equipment and supplies needed to keep our warfighters supplied,” said Davidson. “All of that cargo isn’t being transported from point to point exclusively by military assets. It would take thousands more troops, trucks, vessels and aircraft, and a lot more of the taxpayers’ money, to move everything by military transport.”

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Lawson, port operation supervisor with the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command’s B39th Transportation Battalion, directs vehicle drivers as they load equipment onto the ship Cape Race at the Liberian National Port Authority’s Port of Buchanan. The ship berthed so Soldiers could load and redeploy military equipment used in support of Operation United Assistance, a Department of Defense operation in Liberia to provide logistics, medical training and engineering support to efforts combating the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Rose Mittiesteadt)
Instead, SDDC contracts those transportation requirements to existing commercial companies already moving other cargo around the world. “It’s a far more efficient and cost-effective way to do business,” said Davidson.

**SDDC’s Global Posture**

SDDC, which includes about 2,400 military and civilian transportation experts, accomplishes this global mission by partnering with the best of U.S. commercial shipping, port, trucking, barge and rail services to deliver cargo to every corner of the globe in support of Department of Defense operations.

The command is involved in worldwide port operations around the clock, 365 days-a-year. Nearly all DOD cargo for unit deployments, redeployments, training rotations, exercises, humanitarian assistance missions and other contingencies goes through one or more ports before reaching its destination.

Military port operations, as well as the execution of SDDC’s other deployment and distribution functions, are carried out by the command’s five brigades and their subordinate battalions, all of which are strategically located throughout the world. Taking advantage of their geographic locations, each of the brigades is regionally aligned to provide deployment and distribution support to DOD’s geographic Combatant Commands.

SDDC’s 595th Transportation Brigade, located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, conducts surface deployment and distribution operations within the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility. The brigade has two transportation battalions with locations in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Dubai and Oman. Through a cohesive team of experts, the brigade links strategic surface movement requirements with commercial capability by combining organic, commercial and host-nation capabilities.

SDDC’s 596th Transportation Brigade conducts operations in support of U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command. Headquartered at Sunny Point, North Carolina, the 596th’s mission includes the operation and management of two ammunition terminals, located on both U.S. coasts. West Coast ammunition operations are conducted at Military Ocean Terminal Concord, California, while the East Coast is serviced by Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point. The brigade also includes two battalions with detachments in Florida, Puerto Rico and California.

The 597th has the largest geographical area of responsibility in the world, covering about 105 million square miles. To enable this reach, the brigade includes three subordinate battalions, with elements located in Japan, Singapore, Guam, Alaska and South Korea.

SDDC also has a valued asset in its 598th Transportation Brigade, which is headquartered at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, and supports operations in the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) area of responsibility. The brigade is co-located with all PACOM service component commands on the island, making the location ideal for brigade planners to effectively coordinate with the brigade’s leading supported units. The brigade’s location also provides easy access to Navy and commercial ports at Pearl Harbor, Barbers Point Harbor and Honolulu.

The 599th has the largest geographical area of responsibility in the world, covering 52 percent of the Earth’s surface, equal to about 105 million square miles. To enable this reach, the brigade includes three subordinate battalions, with elements located in Japan, Singapore, Guam, Alaska and South Korea.

SDDC also has a valued asset in its reserve component, the Deployment Support Command (DSC). Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, and composed of five reserve brigades, DSC’s trained and ready surface transportation experts provide the critical support augmentation needed to keep the cargo flowing for the nation’s warfighters during wartime operations and other contingencies.

**FULL-SPECTRUM SURFACE TRANSPORTATION**

The amount of equipment and supplies that SDDC transports is immense. According to SDDC’s Command Operations Center, during calendar year 2014 alone, SDDC was responsible for the movement of more than 5.6 million measurement tons – or 3.2 billion pounds – of cargo in support of U.S. forces and their missions worldwide.

Prior to 9/11, SDDC’s primary focus was on providing terminal operations at ports around the country and throughout the world. SDDC’s role in the management of port operations has since evolved, focusing more heavily on planning and coordinating with its customers, the military services, federal agencies and commercial partners. While SDDC still conducts terminal operations and actively participates in cargo movement operations, much of the physical staging of cargo and loading of vessels, trucks, trains or planes is completed by contracted labor.

When working with customers to get their cargo moved, SDDC uses its logistics expertise and information technology systems in the planning, preparation, execution and follow-up phases. There is so much data and such a variety of players involved in the process, that what our surface transportation experts are doing every day takes proficiency and requires an integrated, full-spectrum approach to conducting operations,” said Davidson.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), a subordinate organization of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and Army Service Component Command of the U.S. Transportation Command, delivers world-class, 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.
RFEC Americas

Founded in 2004, RFEC Americas is the newest and smallest of the three organizations with ITCs positioned in Canada and Argentina. RFEC Americas has access to senior leadership in most of the armies in the Americas, and their science, technology and engineering leaders through the Conference of American Armies. This voluntary organization, which includes 22 member armies and other observers, has a goal of improving interoperability in peacekeeping, disaster relief and humanitarian operations.

“We are part of the U.S. mission and execute our program to meet Army goals in the context of broader U.S. government goals as articulated in the U.S. Embassy strategy,” said Lt. Col. Hector Gonzalez, RFEC Americas commander.

Gonzalez said the relationship is strong and makes for better programs.

“We are scientists and engineers working in subject areas of universal importance such as alternative power and energy, disaster relief technologies, water purification, and mitigating environmental impact of operations and manufacturing,” he said. “For a Combatant Command or Army component command, we are a smart, soft power tool that can be used to meet their goals.”

RFEC Pacific

RFEC Pacific facilitates S&T collaboration throughout a region spanning 36 countries.

“RFEC Pacific has established an exceptional working relationship with Japan, Korea, Australia and Singapore,” said RFEC Pacific Commander Col. Ernest “Lee” Dunlap. “We seek opportunities to expand engagements in India as well as countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, such as Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines.”

RFEC Atlantic

RFEC Atlantic oversees a diverse cultural and political landscape that spans Europe, Africa and Western Asia (Russia and the former Soviet Union) from ITCs in the United Kingdom, France and Germany, according to Col. Keith Hirschman, RFEC Atlantic commander.

RFEC Atlantic supports two Combatant Commands – U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) – maintaining relationships in an S&T community spread across 110 nations.

“From the leading edge of international research, collaborative projects not only build lasting relationships, they allow the ITCs to leverage a small amount of research money to gain a huge return against the cost of the research effort,” Hirschman said.

FAST members at EUCOM have a strategic focus and represent the command in Joint Concept Technology Demonstration and Coalition Warfare Program initiatives.

The Joint Multinational Readiness Command FAST advisor and Joint Multinational Readiness Center noncommissioned officer provide S&T support to U.S. and multinational training and exercises at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels, Germany, working directly with Soldiers to improve training, interoperability and equipment.

FAST members assigned to AFRICOM have helped solve capability gaps ranging from man-portable water solutions to providing solar power for remote outposts. Their efforts aim to solve long-range, long-endurance intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance challenges inherent in a vast area of operation.
RFEC Pacific works with the broader Department of Defense S&T community, including the Office of Naval Research Global, the Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

FAST advisors participate in about 10 coalition exercises each year to identify and address critical capability gaps and help build partner capacity with allies. Their contributions in the Pacific support a wide range of technology needs, including Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, counter-improved explosive devices, counter-weapons of mass destruction, dynamic precision fires, operational power and energy, language translation and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief.

“Exercises such as Ulchi Freedom Guardian (in Korea) provide ideal opportunities for us to operationalize our S&T support to the warfighter and build strong relationships with other AMC equities, as well as allied countries,” Dunlap said.

Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs)

The Aviation and Missile Command’s (AMCOM) presence is known wherever Soldiers are charged with around-the-clock maintenance of aviation and missile systems, at stateside Army installations and around the world. That AMCOM presence comes in the form of civilian employees who have a vast amount of both on-the-job and formal training. They have the ability to provide the guidance, advice and resources needed to keep helicopters and unmanned aircraft flying and missile systems ready to fire. They are Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) – better known as LARs – and about 250 of them are stationed around the world. They are critical, mobile, technical experts who fulfill their mission working side-by-side with maintenance Soldiers.

“The intent of a LAR is to aid in early detection and resolution of logistics issues that might affect unit readiness,” said Christopher Oleyte, director of the AMCOM LARs program. “They are experts in their field. They are AMCOM to aviation and missile Soldiers, and we have them all over the world from Korea to Turkey to Grenada to South America.”

LARs have the capability to mobilize total AMCOM support, including engineers, logistics personnel and program managers, to address issues in the field. LARs ensure unit readiness and implement AMCOM’s overall mission.

“LARs are in an incredible position to identify and act on readiness problems. They are a link with AMCOM to provide feedback,” said Jose Escolero, a LAR stationed in Afghanistan. “We conduct studies and provide data requested for internal elements and advise AMCOM of weapon system issues that cannot be resolved in the field.”

Often, AMCOM recruits its LARs from those leaving the military who have been trained in a maintenance military occupational specialty.

“They have 10 years or more of aviation and missile experience,” Oleyte said. “And mobility is a condition of their employment.” It could be said that LARs are the human manifestation of cutting-edge technology. They know how to take the knowledge gained from years of working in Army maintenance and sustainment, and apply it in any situation. Often, those situations come fast and furious, with only minutes to spare in making adjustments or correcting a maintenance issue.

“We hire subject matter experts in their fields, particularly in weapon systems,” said Curt Gross, Logistics Assistance division chief. “Then, we teach them about the resources available to LARs. They need to understand logistics, the different databases we use for locating equipment...
and spare parts, how to contact the right manager to assist them and how to do business with AMCOM. We have standardized expectations where our LARs know how to expedite parts, how to search in various databases, who to call, how to track progress and what needs to be reported to a commander. We hire a technician and teach them the logistics side of the business.”

Ask any LAR and they’ll tell you there is another condition of employment – a deep-rooted commitment to the nation and a dedication to ensuring Soldiers have the best technological support to complete their missions.

“I spent 26 years as a Soldier, associated with the CH-47 helicopter as a private to first sergeant,” said Clarence Reynolds, who is an AMCOM LAR for cargo/utility helicopters in Iraq. “I felt being a LAR is the best way that I can show my respect to our aviation Soldiers and give back to our CH-47 Soldiers by offering them the training and guidance that I received from a group of special individuals who trained me over the years. I am proud to be a LAR, to share my knowledge.”

While LARs are often assigned to six-month deployments, they are not necessarily deployed to a war zone. They are also located with units serving in peacetime missions around the world. They serve wherever AMCOM’s aviation and missile systems are maintained.

“LARs assist Soldiers in motor pools, maintenance shops, aviation hangars, supply activities and electronic maintenance facilities,” said Frank Dudas, AMCOM senior command representative at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. “They serve as the subject matter experts for a particular commodity, whether it’s in peace time or conflict, including natural disasters. LARs provide assistance to commanders with logistics issues beyond their resources or capabilities to resolve.”

Each deployment for a LAR is unique in the unit they are assigned to support and where their deployment will take them.

“You’ve got to be able to adapt to different environments,” said Craig Speck, an AMCOM LAR in Iraq. “You have to have the ability to communicate, work under pressure and multi-task. You have to be able to listen to the customer’s issue and assist in resolving the problem.”

John Hinchman, who supports the 407th Army Field Support Brigade in the Midwest region of the U.S. and who has deployed as a LAR three times to Iraq, and once each to Afghanistan and Kuwait, said there are two things that make a good LAR: technical knowledge of supported systems and the ability to work with and train Soldiers. Proficiency in all aspects of logistics assistance mission activities make LARs invaluable to brigade units in the field.

John Salazar, a LAR in Kuwait who has deployed seven times in support of aviation brigades, added to the list of qualifications of a good LAR.

“Experience, commitment, patience, tolerance, obedience, flexibility, ability to work with people and ignore discomforts of different environments, stable marriage and family life, economic stability, health, willingness to travel, willingness to move frequently,” John Salazar, a LAR in Kuwait who has deployed seven times in support of aviation brigades, added to the list of qualifications of a good LAR.

YOU’VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO ADAPT TO DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS. YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE, WORK UNDER PRESSURE AND MULTI-TASK. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO LISTEN TO THE CUSTOMER’S ISSUE AND ASSIST IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM.

— CRAIG SPECK, AMCOM LAR IN IRAQ

Although the job is a challenge, being a LAR is rewarding for those who take on the responsibility.

“The things I really like about the job include the daily contact with Soldiers and the contractor workforce, and seeing the expression on a Soldier’s face – either young or old – as you help them understand or repair something on the helicopter,” said Reynolds, who has been on six deployments. “The teamwork is great, too. But the best result is always watching and seeing your aircraft and its crew return home safely after the mission is completed.”

— C. CLARENCE REYNOLDS

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.
The Big Five

THREE DECADES OF TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY

During the 1970s, the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) devoted much of its energy and expertise to the development of the Big Five – major projects that would provide technological superiority on the battlefields of the 1980s, 1990s and beyond. The intent was to develop an Advanced Attack Helicopter, a Utility Tactical Transport Aircraft System, the Main Battle Tank, a Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle, and a Surface-to-Air Missile.

The Big Five systems eventually transformed into the AH-64 Apache Helicopter, the UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter, the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, the M2/3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and the Patriot Air Defense System. All five systems underwent rigorous, and often challenging, development processes before being fielded. These systems have been linchpins in the U.S. Army’s fighting force over the past three decades.

1. APACHE HELICOPTER
   - The Advanced Attack Helicopter program, which began in 1972, eventually led to the development of the Apache Helicopter. A four-blade, twin-engine attack helicopter, the Apache was conceived as a replacement for the AH-1 Cobra.
   - The AH-64 Apache, which has seen a variety of upgrades over the past three decades, was initially designed and developed by Hughes Helicopters. It became the product of McDonnell Douglas from 1984 to 1997, and later transitioned to Boeing Defense.
   - The system took part in its first major operation in 1989 when units were deployed to Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama. With its world-class target acquisition and night vision systems, the helicopter was highly praised for its precision by Army senior leaders. Apaches fired the first shots in Operation Desert Storm, destroying Iraqi radar positions. It has since served in a variety of conflicts including those in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. AMC and its partners in industry continue to devote resources to upgrading and improving the Apache Helicopter so it can remain vital to missions across the globe.

2. BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER
   - In 1952, the U.S. Army identified a requirement for a medical evacuation and utility helicopter that led to the development of the UH-1 Huey. While used in Vietnam as part of medical evacuation units, the Huey faced serious operational shortcomings, and beginning in 1965, the Army worked to address those issues.
   - The program, known as the Utility Tactical Transport Aircraft System, was redesignated the UH-60A Black Hawk in 1977, with the helicopter finally entering service in 1979. The U.S. first used the Black Hawk in 1983 during the invasion of Grenada and again in 1989 during the invasion of Panama.
   - The Black Hawk continues to support the U.S. Army’s missions across the globe in a number of variants with special modifications, including improved target acquisition, medical evacuation and electronic warfare.
Across the Years


The XM1 Main Battle Tank entered U.S. service in 1980, replacing the M60 tank. That year it was announced that XM1 would be called the M1 Abrams in honor with improved mileage, sights and sensors.

The U.S. Army is still working with its industry partners to upgrade the Abrams to be as fast the M1 Abrams to more easily maintain formation while moving. About a dozen variants of the Bradley have been produced over the past 30 years, and more than 6,000 individual Bradleys have been built.

The Bradley, named after Gen. Omar Bradley, first saw combat in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm and has since been active in conflicts in the Middle East. The U.S. Army is currently working to develop a replacement for the Bradley through the Future Fighting Vehicle program.

Entering service in 1981, the Patriot became the Army’s primary surface-to-air missile system. During the 1980s, the Patriot was upgraded to handle the threat of missiles and rockets, and to engage and destroy aircraft at standoff range. The upgraded system reached Army units in 1990, just in time for deployment during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

More than 1,000 launchers are currently in U.S. service with more than 10,000 missiles.
MISSION SUPPORT: MUNITIONS

1920, making it the oldest federal civilian Career Program. QASAS professionals have deployed during four times, including stints in Iraq, Haiti and Afghanistan.

I enjoy my job because of the impact that it has on supporting the Soldiers,” Walsh said. “I do my best each day to continue the QASAS legacy for the Army. Soldiers should not have to wonder if their ammunition will function when they need it.”

Irene Young has been a QASAS expert for 18 of her 32 years of government service, deploying as the JMC Senior Theater QASAS to Kuwait in 2013.

“It’s one thing to have hands on the ammo and assure that it is serviceable and ready for the Soldier, but to have that one-on-one with the Soldier makes it more valuable,” Young said. “You see the work that you’ve done in the rear by inspecting the ammo that they are using, it gives you a feeling of pride, and you feel your job is significant because this Soldier is depending on you to give him quality ammunition.”

QASAS experts are a part of the broader mission of JMC, which serves as the logistics integrator for life cycle management of ammunition and provides a global presence of technical support to U.S. combat units wherever they are stationed or deployed.

The QASAS mission includes establishing a surveillance program to determine the condition of the ammunition stockpile; developing procedures that assure ammunition is safe for storage, handling and use; executing inspections on all Class V materials; performing explosives safety surveys, mishap and malfunction investigations and inspections on explosive operations and facilities; and maintaining a database on the serviceability/readiness and suspension/restriction status of the ammunition stockpile.

Tom Moore, Joint Munitions Command Quality Assurance Ammunition Surveillance Team leader, inspects 105 mm Stryker main gun ammo during a deployment to Iraq.
The U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), a global organization that focuses on Soldier and ground systems, plays a key role in theater exercises and operations around the world, providing technical assistance and support. Two of those theaters – Korea and Europe – saw extensive TACOM participation during exercises in Fiscal Year 2015.

**TACOM SUPPORT TO EUROPE EXERCISES**

In October 2014, TACOM Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) provided technical assistance and support to various units deploying to the European theater to conduct training exercises as part of Combined Resolve III. Prior to each unit’s arrival, the LAR Team assisted European Activity Set (EAS) maintenance personnel to ensure the readiness of equipment that Soldiers would soon draw. The newly established EAS included a battalion-sized set of equipment that Soldiers would fall-in on and use for training exercises throughout the region.

TACOM’s subject matter experts assisted EAS mechanics with troubleshooting, diagnosing and repairing equipment, as well as verifying that data cards for the combat vehicles were up-to-date.

Once the units arrived in Europe, TACOM LARs worked closely with maintenance personnel from the unit and EAS to assist with and resolve maintenance-related issues. They provided continued on-site support during the EAS equipment draw, which included more than 413 vehicles and pieces of equipment.

Once the equipment draw was complete, the units moved to the Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Training Areas in Germany to begin operations. In coordination with the units’ Brigade Logistics Support Team chiefs, LARs conducted site visits to the live-fire ranges, assisting units with performing immediate-action inspections and repair on cartridges, machine guns and grenade machine guns. LARs also visited maneuver ranges during mounted gunnery exercises to assist maintenance personnel with troubleshooting, diagnosing and repairing wheeled and tactical vehicles, and heavy expanded mobility tactical truck fleets. Finally, TACOM’s experts assisted with fire control issues on the big guns in the Abrams Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

TACOM’s ability to train and advise unit maintenance personnel on how to troubleshoot, diagnose, repair and maintain their equipment, returning non-mission capable equipment to fully-mission capable status in the most expeditious manner, ensured the success of training missions in Germany.

**TACOM SUPPORT TO KOREAN EXERCISES**

In July, TACOM supported Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (CJLOTS) 15, a large-scale exercise involving the U.S. Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, along with soldiers and sailors from the Republic of Korea. Logistics over-the-shore operations are military activities that include offshore loading and unloading of ships when fixed port facilities are unavailable. They are conducted over unimproved shorelines and through fixed ports not accessible to deep draft shipping. The mission is to be able to discharge cargo from vessels anchored off-shore, transport cargo to various shore-based off-load sites, and marshal cargo for movement inland. During CJLOTS 15, TACOM managed Rough Terrain Container Handlers (RTH) that were essential to operations. One of the involved units needed to move the RTHs from Camp Carroll, Waegwan, South Korea, to Anmyeon Beach, South Korea – a distance of about 140 miles. The unit requested assistance in removing the top handlers from the RTHs to prepare them for movement. TACOM LARs provided the expertise, training and assistance to the unit maintenance personnel.

At Anmyeon Beach, the TACOM experts provided support and assistance by ensuring the equipment remained operational throughout the exercise. The TACOM-managed equipment used in support of CJLOTS included tactical wheeled vehicles, construction equipment, recovery vehicles and numerous port operations items including the Trident Pier and port tugs.

During the exercise, Soldiers experienced unique challenges when operating vehicles in rising and receding water with the tides. TACOM professionals assisted unit personnel with operating equipment and troubleshooting equipment failures due to salt water operation. Their expertise allowed them to verify the effects caused by salt water to vehicle systems.

At the conclusion of CJLOTS, the TACOM LARs provided guidance to unit maintenance personnel to ensure that the equipment used during the exercise was properly restored and maintained. They worked with the units to inspect and clean vehicles to prevent excessive corrosion and other adverse effects from salt water.
The U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) ensures the global readiness of the complex, networked Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems and capabilities that provide joint forces with the advanced information and technology they need to communicate on today’s battlefield. The command adapts, strengthens and sustains the critical systems that joint warfighters rely on, allowing them to operate, fight and win anywhere, against any enemy, at any moment. CECOM provides global support such as training, reset, sustainment, maintenance, field support, logistical expertise, information and software assurance, and interoperability and certification activities around the globe.

As a worldwide command, CECOM’s workforce is comprised of more than 13,000 military, civilian and contract employees located in 23 states and seven countries. Team members are integrated into Army Sustainment Command’s Army Field Support Brigade structure, ensuring regional alignment with Combatant Commands (COCOMs).

“This alignment ensures responsive support to COCOMs with units located in the Pacific, Americas, Europe and forward deployed in the Middle East,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce T. Crawford, CECOM commanding general. “Regional CECOM offices and field support representatives provide well-positioned capabilities for responsive, agile support to deployed COCOMs and Army units.”

CECOM’s Software Engineering Center (SEC) is one of the most experienced and comprehensive software support systems within DOD. To ensure Soldiers are fed, housed, moved and supplied, the SEC provides life cycle software solutions for C4ISR software and hardware systems on the battlefield, and develops and maintains software business applications. The organization successfully supports more than 400 systems and programs for a wide variety of government customers with core capabilities that include Army business and logistics solutions and worldwide software field support. The SEC offers 24/7 worldwide field software support working to ensure the Army’s advanced computer systems are battle-ready.

SEC, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland, also manages the Global Support Center, a secure, web-based portal for warfighters that streamlines the field support process through the use of the Field Support Management Tools suite of applications. These applications assist in balancing requirements and sustainment support of software-intensive systems. Electronic access to this service provides higher readiness and shorter response times to the field support process.

LOGISTICS READINESS AROUND THE WORLD

CECOM’s Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC) provides global C4ISR logistics support, preparing, sustaining and resetting the warfighter and coalition forces. This is accomplished through rapid acquisition, maintenance, production, fielding, new equipment training and operation and sustainment of CECOM equipment. The LRC provides the Army with communications and electronic systems that enable tanks, planes, helicopters, ships, satellites and missiles to talk to each other and dominate the battlefield. Headquartered at APG, the LRC has activities at three other U.S. military bases.

RIGHT: U.S. Army Spcs. Luke Perkinson and Peter Meppen, both air traffic control specialists with 3rd Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Convall, check out the sensor pallet for the Forward Operating Base Shank airfield in Afghanistan as a UH-60 Black Hawk executes a low approach. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ken Scar)
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.

RAPID EQUIPPING FORCE

The U.S. Army engineering community continues to provide rapid technological solutions for a variety of challenges in Afghanistan. U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command’s Rapid Equipping Force (REF) has partnered to maintain support at Bagram Airfield. The REF’s Expeditionary Lab, also known as the Ex Lab, can provide engineering, prototyping and manufacturing support to meet urgent Soldier needs. “With the Ex Lab tool, we are collaborating as far forward as possible, resulting in more innovative solutions,” said Col. Steven Sliwa, REF director. Sgt. 1st Class Justin Fulk, the Ex Lab noncommissioned officer in charge, said bringing the experts directly to units is vital. “The ability to bring the engineer to the units on the ground is what sets the REF apart. We are able to witness capability gaps first-hand, solve problems where they exist, and put the Soldier back in the fight quickly by providing simple solutions on-site.” To learn more about the REF and its commitment to meeting urgent Soldier needs, visit www.ref.army.mil.

GAMING INNOVATION LAB

The Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center’s (ARDEC) Innovation Group at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, aims to help the ARDEC workforce find innovative ways to use and apply gaming technology to support the warfighter. Its Gaming Innovation Lab, one of the group’s five parts, is a virtual “sandbox” where employees are encouraged to be creative while also learning what it takes to develop serious training games. The lab focuses on three categories: video game programming, 3-D art development and new gaming technology research, and provides all the space, equipment, software and reference materials to work with new ideas. The Gaming Innovation Lab offers a variety of equipment, including motion capture, 3-D scanners, cameras, virtual reality headsets and commercial game systems, such as Xbox One and PlayStation 4. It also works with different gaming engines, such as Unreal Engine 4 and Unity 5, as well as art software, such as Adobe Production and Autodesk Entertainment Creation Suite. Learn more about ARDEC and their Gaming Innovation Lab at www.ardec.army.mil.

RECOVERY OF AIRBASE DENIED BY ORDNANCE

A Recovery of Airbase Denied by Ordnance (RADBO) prototype is shown during a testing phase in February 2015. The U.S. Army and Air Force are working together to integrate RADBO’s laser technology onto Army vehicles, providing the capability to negate the threat of improvised explosive devices from a safe distance. (U.S. Army photo)

LONG-RANGE ADVANCED SCOUT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TEST TOWER

The Long-Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3) Test Tower, high above Tobyhanna Army Depot’s Powder Smoke Ridge in Pennsylvania, provides testing capabilities to support a wide range of laser-based surveillance systems. The tower, which stands at 70 feet, makes it possible for operators to precisely survey targets at distances up to 11.5 miles away. The primary workload intended for the tower is the AN/TAS-8 LRAS3 overhaul program, a system that is expected to be fielded in 2025 or later. Although the LRAS3 is a standalone program, Tobyhanna supports other systems in the ground sensors family, including Driver’s Vision Enhancer, Boomerang and the Vehicle Optics Sensor System. For more information on the LRAS3 Test Tower, or other projects and programs at Tobyhanna Army Depot, visit www.tobyhanna.army.mil.

The U.S. Army and Air Force have joined forces to develop Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles that use laser technology to help with the negation of improvised explosive devices, makeshift bombs, mines and other unexploded ordnance from a safe distance. The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC), U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command and the Redstone Test Center are working together to develop and integrate the Recovery of Airbase Denied by Ordnance (RADBO) capability. The AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility is working to integrate the RADBO laser, Integriator Arm, console and other features onto the Category I Cougar MRAP. “We may see hundreds to thousands of small unexploded ordnance items on a runway or airfield, but the RADBO will allow us to reduce the time it takes to get an airfield operational,” said Marshall “Doc” Dutton, Air Force explosive ordinance disposal modernization program manager of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. To learn more about RADBO and other Army aviation and missile research projects and programs, visit www.amrdec.army.mil.
EAGLE: PROVIDING ARMY LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND COST SAVINGS AROUND THE GLOBE

By Matt December, AMC Today contributor.

The Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE) program provides logistics support to a wide range of U.S. Army missions, with visibility and a response time that keeps pace with evolving requirements— all while decreasing costs. Created in 2012, the program saves the government money through a unique contracting tool that allows private companies to support the Army with supply, maintenance and transportation functions.

EAGLE, operated under the leadership of U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC) and the U.S. Army Contracting Command-Rock Island (ACC-RI), uses a Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) process to generate increased task order competition by providing more opportunities for contractors of all sizes. This mechanism leads to efficiencies in contracting and business processes while at the same time expanding roles for small business within the U.S. military.

“EAGLE was established three years ago when Army Materiel Command (AMC) and ASC took over the Logistics Readiness Centers, formerly known as Directorates of Logistics, from the Installation Management Command,” said Maj. Gen. Kevin O’Connell, ASC commanding general. “As we analyzed how those supply, maintenance and transportation services were being provided, it was immediately evident we had significant duplication of effort, and 73 different sets of standards and business processes.”

To address those issues, the ASC and ACC-RI EAGLE team developed an acquisition strategy that eliminated redundancy and inefficiency across the global enterprise. Those efforts have paid significant dividends, achieving more than 20 percent cost avoidance and more than 50 percent reduction in the number of logistics contracts within the scope of EAGLE over the past three years.

EAGLE's impact to the Army has become global by directly, or indirectly, contributing to the mission success of AMC's materiel enterprise programs, U.S. Army Forces Command operations, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command institutional training and combat training, combat operations, and U.S. Central Command operations and joint programs.

“EAGLE is either present or in transition at every major Army installation, and at many joint bases, both stateside and overseas,” said Melanie Johnson, executive director of ACC-RI. "At each location, the EAGLE task order provides a contractor workforce that has consistently contributed to mission success by ensuring quality equipment and supplies are available when needed — for both forecasted and unforeseen requirements.”

EAGLE has played an integral role in supporting Army Force Generation, providing a quicker response to requirements that arise on Army deployment and realignment.

Despite continued success, program leaders recognize that continued dialogue with industry and regular stakeholder meetings are vital to providing avenues for program improvement.

“(Contractor) feedback is very important as we continue to modify and try to find ways to improve,” said O’Connell. Johnson said that ACC-RI is working on a communications plan that aims to enhance response time to industry by laying out points of contact for specific contracts.

“It might alleviate instances in which industry members go straight from the Procuring Contracting Officers to me as the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting,” she explained. “There are several people in between the PCO and myself who are a lot closer to the action than I am, and can probably answer questions more quickly.”

The EAGLE approach to services contracting is projected to avoid $190 million in costs over the next five years. ASC leadership predicts that EAGLE’s recent success can be translated to the Army’s acquisition of all service contracts. This eliminates the need for multiple organizations to oversee multiple acquisition disciplines by implementing the best practices from EAGLE.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Committees, titled “Strategic Source: Improved and Expanded User Could Save Billions in Annual Procurement Costs,” suggests the Army could save 10 percent annually — around $50 billion — by adopting a cross-discipline program similar to EAGLE for all service contracts.
“From aviation to ground combat vehicles, from communications to contracting, from munitions to research and development, and installation logistics support to the destruction of chemical weapons, AMC develops and delivers global readiness solutions every day and in every theater.”

– Gen. Dennis L. Via,
AMC Commanding General