



THE GLOBAL LINE

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

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LARS IN RAMADI



U.S. Army photo by Fanny Cuesta

TACOM logistics assistance representatives, supported by personnel from the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, work on the Common Remotely Operated Weapons System for the 2/5 Marine Expeditionary Force near Ramadi, Iraq, recently.

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By Paul Levesque ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- The U.S. Army Sustainment Command formally appointed another leader to the Senior Executive Service during a ceremony held May 7 at Rock Island Arsenal.

Lee Thompson works for ASC as the command's Logistics Civil Augmentation Program executive director. In that position, he has overall executive responsibility for LOGCAP, under which contractors from the private sector are used to provide

a broad range of logistical and life support services to U.S. and allied forces during combat and training operations. At the time Thompson took over as LOGCAP executive director, more than \$21 billion in payments had been issued under the LOGCAP III contract, which took effect in December 2001.

The Senior Executive Service is a corps of federal executives appointed to key leadership positions just below the level of Presidential appointees, and

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National cemeteries places of remembrance

MG Jerome Johnson
Commanding General

America is home to more than 120 national cemeteries, all of which serve as the final resting place for military veterans and their immediate family members.



In Europe and other overseas locations, military cemeteries serve as burial sites for Americans who fell in distant battles, fought in distant times, before it became routine to return all remains home for interment.

Visitors to national and military cemeteries find them to be quiet, dignified places ideal for prayer and contemplation. The rows and rows of headstones – all of which look the same except for their inscriptions – stand straight and silent in a field that may be covered in the green of summer or the white of winter. It is a beautiful scene, but one that tells a sad and sometimes terrible story.

Many who lie beneath the headstones lining these peaceful fields died amidst the noise and confusion of war. They fell on a bridge in Lexington, a field in Gettysburg, a forest in France, an island in the South Pacific, a hilltop in Korea, a river in Vietnam, a street in Baghdad. Their lives ended suddenly, brutally, and far too soon. Their names, inscribed upon the headstones, tell us who – but cannot tell us why.

Perhaps, in our own quiet reflection, we can find the reasons why so many were lost so young. In America, we are privileged to live in a free and

prosperous nation, where we can live and work and play and worship in peace. Look again at the headstones, and we see that the freedoms we enjoy came at a cost – a cost that was paid by others, and that is still being paid today.

Many of those who come to national and military cemeteries do so to honor family members and friends, perhaps to mourn someone who has been gone for many years but is still missed as much as the day they were taken. Their grief is deep and personal, and their pain cannot be eased by our words.

Yet they can take comfort in knowing that their loved ones will never be forgotten – not by them, nor by the grateful citizens of a grateful nation who understand and acknowledge the sacrifices made on their behalf. On Memorial Day, all Americans are asked to pause in honor of the brave men and women who answered the call of duty and died defending freedom.

Many Memorial Day observances are held in national and military ceremonies, where the silence is broken as we raise our voices to praise those who sacrificed for us and to pledge that they will not be forgotten.

The tribute we pay to the names upon the headstones is a tribute to freedom – a freedom we may lose if we lose sight of how it was earned.

So, this Memorial Day, please spend some time reflecting on the meaning of the holiday, and the reasons we remember.

NEVER FORGET

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Brown: Force protection top priority of Army; New types of armor don't meet standards

By Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - U.S. troops operating in Iraq and Afghanistan have the best body armor in the world, and the Army is constantly looking for ways to improve force protection, the general in charge of the program told reporters here May 22.

"Force protection is the No. 1 priority of the U.S. Army. We value our Soldiers very highly, and we do everything we can do to ensure that they have the finest in force protection as they go into the battle," Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown, Program Executive Officer Soldier, said at a Pentagon news conference.

In response to a May 17 NBC News report challenging the Army's use of Interceptor body armor vs. the newer "Dragon Skin" armor developed by Pinnacle Armor Inc., Brown today released information about the testing that ruled out Dragon Skin a year ago.

The tests were conducted May 16 to 19, 2006, at H.P. White labs near Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. The Pinnacle armor was subjected to the same tests Interceptor body armor goes through, first being X-rayed and analyzed and then undergoing a series of live-fire tests, Brown said. The live-fire tests included room-temperature tests, harsh environment tests, and durability and drop tests.

Of the eight Pinnacle vests tested, four of them failed the tests, with 13 rounds penetrating completely on the first or second shot, Brown said. After the first complete penetration, the vests



Department of Defense photo by R.D. Ward

Brig. Gen. R. Mark Brown, PEO-Soldier, briefs reporters on Army body armor.

technically failed the test, but the Army continued the testing to be fair, he said.

The Pinnacle vests also were subjected to extreme temperature variations, from minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, which would be a realistic cycle if the equipment was loaded onto a plane and flown to the Middle East, Brown said. These temperature tests caused the adhesive holding the Dragon Skin's protective discs together to fail, and the discs gathered at the bottom of the vest, leaving gaps in protection, he said.

Brown also noted that the Dragon Skin vests are significantly heavier and thicker than the Interceptor vests. Dragon Skin vests in size extra large are 47.5 pounds and 1.7 to 1.9 inches thick; the Interceptor vests in size large, which offer an equivalent coverage area to the extra large Dragon Skin vests, weigh 28 pounds and are 1.3 inches thick.

"Bottom line is it does not meet

Army standards," the general said of the Pinnacle body armor.

Right now, the Army's safety-of-use message mandates all Soldiers use Interceptor body armor, which has passed the same tests the Pinnacle armor failed, Brown said. The Army is interested in a more flexible armor, like the Pinnacle design, and if the company improves its product, it could be reconsidered, he said.

Brown stressed that the Army has more than one set of body armor for every Soldier in the combat theater, and that he has all the money and support he needs to make improvements to force protection. Also, the Army is constantly working to develop new technologies that will deliver better protection.

"This is not just a matter of debate for us; this is personal," he said, noting that many of his staff members have relatives or friends who have served or are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

405th preps Vicenza unit for deployment

By Jennifer King
405th AFSB Public Affairs

VICENZA, Italy -- As the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Vicenza, Italy, prepares to deploy, the 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade, is working to ensure that the equipment the team takes with them is in the best possible condition for deployment.

A U.S. Soldier and local national employees from the 3rd Battalion recently deployed from Livorno to Vicenza to support the preparation of radios for the team.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Alexander, the non-commissioned officer in charge for the radio and communications security shop at the 3rd Battalion, was on the ground at the Vicenza Installation Materiel Maintenance Activity (IMMA) to assist with the operation. He was accompanied by two local national employees of 3rd Battalion, Francesco Brizzi and Alessandro Scotti.

"Each radio transmitter must be connected to a GRM122 test set



U.S. Army photo by Mirko Guerra

Staff Sgt. Thomas Alexander prepares radios in support of the Vicenza-based 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's upcoming deployment.

to run a series of interactive tests," explained Sgt. First Class Bart Ranger, the 3rd Battalion NCOIC. "Each of the interactive tests takes approximately 90 minutes to complete. Once the analysis of the tests is finished, if the radio transmitter shows any fault, then the technician must follow a flow chart to determine which component in

the radio is faulty. Then the radio must be repaired."

Given the importance of reliable communications to the successful completion of missions in theater, the work that the 3rd Battalion does in this arena is imperative to properly preparing deploying units for their upcoming challenges.

ASC, JMC welcome new top legal counselor

By Paul Levesque
ASCPublic Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- The U.S. Army Sustainment Command welcomed a new chief legal counsel May 7 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

As chief counsel, Szymanski serves as the primary legal advisor to the ASC commanding general and for all staff and field elements.

Szymanski came to ASC from Department of the Army headquarters in Washington, D.C., where she served as deputy

assistant secretary of the Army for infrastructure analysis.

Szymanski's previous assignments include the U.S. Army Materiel Command headquarters, where she served as the acting executive deputy to the commanding general and as AMC's command counsel. She has also held senior counsel positions at CECOM and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service.

She was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1995.



Kathryn Szymanski

AMC civilians get credit for combat deployments

By Diana Dawa
AMCPublic Affairs

FORT BELVOIR, Va. -- Army Materiel Command civilians who have deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are awarded an AMC civilian campaign pin upon the completion of their tour.

In September 2005, Gen. Benjamin Griffin, commanding general, AMC, signed the policy of awarding the pin into effect.

James DeLoach, human resource specialist, AMC Office of Personnel G1 was responsible for making the pin a reality.

Upon hearing from civilians about their perception of a lackluster procedure for recognition of their time in the desert, DeLoach felt he had to do something to let those civilians know their support is appreciated. In January 2005, he submitted the concept, design, policy and plan of implementation of the pin to Griffin for approval.

Designed with the Army campaign medal in mind, DeLoach explained the pin's purpose is to help foster Esprit de Corps.

Thomas Mossey, Systems of Systems Integration, Research, Development and Engineering Command, was one of the first Army civilians at Fort Belvoir to be awarded the pin. Mossey was a

member of an eight-person team selected to deploy and work with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense.

Receiving the pin from Griffin during a ceremony held at the AMC headquarters building was an honor said Mossey.

Reflecting on his deployment, Mossey said it was very challenging and rewarding.

"It was a good opportunity for me to do something where the Army seemed to think that I was the guy to go over and play a part and just

do my role, complete the mission and then come back. It was probably the most rewarding thing I've ever done professionally," said Mossey.

"It is imperative our civilian counterparts feel they are part of this team," said

Maureen O. Viall, director, deputy chief of staff for personnel and logistics G-1/G-4. "The awarding of the AMC Civilian Campaign Pin upon completion of a deployment assures our civilian workforce the AMC leadership recognizes their hard work and sacrifices."

The campaign pin may be awarded to AMC civilians who deployed for more than 90 days. For civilians who deployed, served honorably, but came back early due to injury, the pin is automatically awarded. The pin may also be awarded posthumously, said DeLoach.



An Al Qaeda training manual: "It is possible to get up to 80% of our intelligence on the enemy from open sources."

Someone is always watching.



OPSEC
ON
THE
INTERNET

TRAINING MANUAL SOURCE:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SES *Continued from page 1*

in the executive branch of the federal government classified above General Schedule grade 15 or its equivalent. SES members within the Department of Defense are considered the equivalent of general officers.



Lee Thompson

Thompson's appointment brought the total number of SES members at ASC headquarters up to five, and the total at Rock Island Arsenal up to six.

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commanding general of ASC, presided at the ceremony.

Johnson presented Mr. Thompson with his SES flag and joined his wife, Alba, in placing the SES pin on his lapel.

During his remarks, Maj. Gen. Johnson stated that having Mr. Thompson on board "will allow ASC to focus more directly on the logistics support piece of LOGCAP – the key and essential support it provides to troops on the ground." Until now, he noted, the command's focus has primarily been on the contracting aspects of the program.

"We need to put a whole new perspective on LOGCAP," Johnson said. "To do that, we needed a person who could understand logistics and understand contracting. And we could not have found a better person to take this job than Lee."

During his remarks, Thompson highlighted the importance of ASC's mission, and contrasted it with the basic job description of every member of the Senior Executive Service.

"SES members are supposed to be responsive to the needs, policies and goals of our national government," Thompson said. "By carrying out our assigned missions, everyone in ASC is responsive to the needs, policies and goals of our national military and defense strategy.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am a member of the Army Sustainment Command, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you," he concluded. "I am Army strong."

A native of the New York City borough of Brooklyn, Thompson has extensive military, civilian, and private sector experience in the acquisition, logistics and supply fields, and has held a number of key leadership and management positions. He came to ASC from Department of the Army Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he had served since 2005 as Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Procurement (Iraq / Afghanistan). In that position, he developed contracting policies and procedures in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and provided advice and guidance to subordinate contracting activities operating in the theater of operations.

Thompson enlisted in the Army in 1961 and was commissioned as an officer through the Quartermaster Officer Candidate School in 1967. His military career included a combat tour in Vietnam. He retired from the Army in 1996 at the rank of colonel.

Following his retirement, Thompson worked in the private sector as a senior consultant and program manager, with responsibilities related to the management and oversight of defense contracts.

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