THE
GLOBAL LINE
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Radin returns to Arsenal, takes over ASC; Johnson moves on to FORSCOM posting

By Linda Theis
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Illinois — Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin took command of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command July 25 at a change of command ceremony held on Memorial Field, Arsenal Island, Ill.

Maj. Gen. Radin succeeds Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson as the ASC commanding general. Maj. Gen. Johnson, who has served at Rock Island since June 2004, is headed to Fort McPherson, Ga., to become the senior logistician in Forces Command, officially known as the G4, Deputy Chief of Staff-

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U.S. Army photo by Maxine Bowen

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin salutes the colors as he takes command of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command from Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson in a ceremony July 25. Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command presided over the ceremony.

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Lead the way!

U.S. Army photo by Diana Dawa

Staff Sgt. Jorge Toro, assigned to Army Sustainment Command headquarters, was selected as the Army Materiel Command NCO of the Year and lauded at a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Vir., July 20. Toro will go on to compete in the Army's 6th Annual "Best Warrior" competition, which starts Oct. 1 at Fort Lee, Vir.

Taking the mission to the next level

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

Thanks to you, the Army Sustainment Command has gone from concept, to provisional, to a fully operational command in a short 22 months. Now, it is time to move to the next level. We're going to align doctrine and mission execution while polishing the institutional and administrative support of the command.

It is my tremendous fortune to lead an organization with a history of steadfast support to Soldiers – one that, no matter what name it has had, embraces change and faces challenges with courage, determination and a warrior's will to win.

I've seen this organization evolve from concept to full-fledged operations and the Army Sustainment Command has taken support to our Soldiers to a new level. Our mission to provide warfighters with battlefield logistics solutions and continuous technical support in theaters the world 'round is one of the most critical needs in our Army. Sustained combat requires continued support and we must vigilantly document our missions to ensure adequate funding and continued seamless support to Soldiers.

As we adapt our procedures and build and strengthen our relationships within AMC in order to meet the demands of war, we must stay focused on consistent, reliable field support in ASC's role as the face to the field. We must remain flexible and proactive in developing solutions and strategies to integrate LCMC resources into dedicated forward support elements that are can-do oriented.

Our brigades are working 24/7 to meet the needs of Soldiers, America's sons and daughters. There is no room for failure. Our diligence and commitment to quality ensure these brave warriors are ready for the GWOT. We are an integral part of their ability to shoot, move and communicate. Thanks to the quick, responsive force of technical experts on the battlefield, our Soldiers can engage and destroy terrorist forces and work to protect the Iraqi and Afghan people.

It is critical we maintain our focus on our mission. Field support is combat support. Combat means lives are on the line. Our forward-deployed personnel work in a dangerous environment. Not only do they take their own lives in their hands, but the lives of the Soldiers they support. I need your laser focus on completing missions the first time, to continue our collective successes. That's the standard across the board.

Accomplishing the mission safely is the top priority. In all that we do, we must assess and manage risk. We will plan, maintain situational awareness and make thought-through changes to ongoing missions to protect our personnel. Our most valuable assets are people. Protect them, because losing them means mission failure.

I ask a lot, but only because I've seen this unit in action and know it can meet the challenge. Together, let's roll our sleeves up and work the way ahead. It's an honor to serve beside you and take part in the coming of age of the Army's premier warfighter support organization.

THE GLOBAL LINE

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'The vehicle was destroyed, but no one got hurt...'

Up-armor mission continues in Afghanistan

By Navy Chief Eric Harrison
43rd JLC Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Members of the Army Materiel Command contingent here work hard each day here to ensure that servicemembers who go outside the wire in up- armored light vehicles are as safe as possible.

Army Maj. Dennis Dockery, executive officer of the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, emphasized the importance of up-armored light vehicles in Afghanistan.

"It's an added force protection to the Soldier when they are traveling in their vehicle to their objective," he said.

Contractors, third-country nationals and Afghans all work together at AECOM Global Services to properly outfit each light-wheeled vehicle in Afghanistan with armor protection.

Robert Reay, a civilian contractor mechanic with AECOM, replaces body mounts in HMMWVs because of the added weight of the armor and the arduous terrain in Afghanistan.

"The frame tended to crack with the extra weight on the old frame," Reay said. "The new frames are stronger and more stable."

Reay added this is important because the new mounts can withstand the shock better.

"It's safer and they're not going to have a crash," he said.

Reay said he's glad to be part of the team because it's helping to keep Soldiers safe.

"All I'm doing is changing bits of metal so that when they're out there I know it's going to be alright."

There are dozens of people here working through the up-armor process on the vehicles, ensuring each one is ready to go when it leaves their shop.

"We don't let it go out until it is mission-capable," said Reay, "which means there is no deadline on the vehicles."

One of the major factors in turning the vehicles back over to the Soldiers is the mission requirements.

"If they've got a mission on, everything's got to drop so you can get theirs in priority."

Dockery said that the light-wheeled vehicle shop is especially important in the mission.

"It supports the war fighter directly," he said. "When we want to modify and enhance a vehicle, we bring them here or we can have a team to support out in the field."

Reay said he came to work at Bagram to be part of a challenging and different team and to make a difference.

"That's part of being here; that's why you want to get it right for them going out. So you know they're going to go out ... and come back."

Heyward McLendon, the deputy project manager of AECOM, said up-armoring vehicles helps save Soldiers' lives during improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire attacks.

"No vehicles go outside the secure [bases] unless they are [properly] armored," said McClendon. "Our job is to ensure we apply those enhancements properly so it can protect the war fighter from IEDs."

McLendon also has seen first-hand the results of his team's work.

"It makes us feel good inside, because we've seen vehicles that we have up-armored and maintained go out and hit IEDs and come back and the vehicle was destroyed, but no one got hurt."

Below: An up-armored Humvee waits to go out on patrol at Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan.

U.S. Army photo by Nikki St. Amant

U.S. Army photo by Jennifer King

Massive construction projects near completion at the 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade in Italy.

Italy battalion accelerates into 21st century

By Jennifer King
405th AFSBPublic Affairs

LEGHORN ARMY DEPOT, Italy - The future has a sound. It's the roar of a bulldozer, the clang of steel on steel, the barking command of a foreman.

The future has a sight. It's the sparking of welding projects, the gaping frame of new buildings, the dangling web of electrical wires.

The future of the 3rd Battalion of the 405th Army Field Support Brigade at Leghorn Army Depot on Camp Darby, Italy, has arrived. It's being built from 5,565 tons of steel, 35,000 cubic meters of concrete, 10 kilometers of electrical conduits, more than 16 kilometers of piping, and involves the movement of 220,000 cubic meters of earth. This construction project, worth more than 39 million euros is on schedule and will have a tremendous positive impact on 3rd Battalion operations.

"The new facility will accelerate the battalion into the 21st century with state-of-the-art maintenance and storage capability in support of the Department of the Army's vision of Army Prepositioned Stocks," said Lt. Col. Harvey Robinson, commander of the 3rd Battalion. "As the Army transforms, the capability and capacity of this battalion is transforming as well, thanks in large part to the military construction authority facility, which will make the 3/405th a major player with huge maintenance and power projection capabilities."

The construction project includes a vast array of buildings, each supporting a unique mission. Included in the project are a new headquarters building, a maintenance operations facility and warehouses. Combined with other buildings, the project encompasses more than 6,700 square meters of enclosed space.

Additionally, seven controlled humidity warehouses are being built, each with 5,000 square meters of space to store military equipment.

"One warehouse has been constructed with a strengthened concrete floor for heavy track vehicle storage, and one has been designed with taller dimensions allowing for the storage of containers stacked three high," said Linda Eckley, project engineer for the 3rd Battalion. "Supporting facilities include underground electrical service, underground communications service,….(and) concrete surfaced roads to provide access for heavy tracked vehicles…."

The new warehouses will be free from supporting columns in the center of the facilities, allowing for the center of the facility to remain open and free of obstructions, a huge asset when moving large pieces of military equipment, including massive tracked vehicles.

"Our existing facilities, originally constructed in the 1950s, have never had a major renovation," Robinson stated. "Temporary clamshell shelters have been used to support vehicle maintenance and preservation due to the current limitations of permanent existing facilities. Administrative and technical support facilities are seriously inadequate or non-existent, and existing inhabited facilities do not meet current minimum seismic standards, leaving them susceptible to damage."

This construction project will propel the unit into an even stronger position to support the Soldier.

"With the completion of the project, our storage capabilities and supporting storage facilities have improved greatly, which, in turn, protects and sustains military assets at a more acceptable level," said Robinson.

4th ID officer tells the tale of Saddam's capture

Courtesy photo

By Nikki St. Amant
ASC Public Affairs

"I never imagined my unit would play a central role in a historical event."

But Lt. Col. Steve Russell soon found himself and his unit, the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, an element of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, immersed in a months-long hunt for ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003. The hunt would ultimately culminate with Operation Red Dawn, a nighttime raid on a small farm in the Iraqi city of ad-Dawr, near Tikrit. The former president would be found groveling in a hole there, filthy and unkempt after months as a fugitive.

Now retired, Russell spent about an hour sharing his story with senior Army Sustainment Command leaders gathered for the annual ASC commander's conference July 24 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. "I feel like I'm very much among friends," he said. "Logisticians are always thinking on their feet..."

The combat-decorated veteran said the quick-thinking responsiveness of logistics specialists was reminiscent of his successes as an up-and-coming leader in his younger days.

He acknowledged how good it was to be back in a room full of "green-sutiers" before launching into a presentation detailing the long months of intelligence gathering, relationship building and consistent pressure it took to crack Hussein's coveted "inner circle". A series of raids led to the capture of several senior bodyguards and members of the five core families that protected Hussein in the Tikrit area. The real key to tightening the noose around Hussein's whereabouts came with the capture of Mohammed Ibrahim Omar al-Musslit.

"We were absolutely elated," said Russell. "Because we felt that if this man were ever captured, he would know the exact location of Saddam. And he did."

Al-Musslit cracked under interrogation within hours of capture and on Dec. 13 aided a force of 4th Infantry Division Soldiers, including Russell's unit, and a small band of Special Forces troops in locating Hussein's spider hole hiding place.

Sworn to secrecy about the capture of the number one target in Iraq, Russell lamented how difficult it was to not tell his Soldiers when word came over the radio from the brigade commander, Col. James Hickey. The Soldiers who weren't standing there when the deposed dictator was pulled out of the hole would be kept in the dark about the success of their raid until Hussein was transported, secured and senior American leaders, on up to the president, were briefed on the capture.

"It was the hardest thing I ever had to do," said Russell. "I pulled myself away to be alone for a few moments, tried to compose myself and come out with a straight face."

He also talked about his experiences with the media and tactics he used to leverage them as a combat multiplier, answering questions from the crowd of ASC leaders about how he managed the risk of engaging civilian media entities.

"Don't take counsel of your fears," he said. "Is there risk? Sure there's risk. The best way to handle it is to use word pictures, create a visual quote they can use to describe what's going on, to get your message out."

Radin

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Logistics.

As commanding general of ASC, Maj. Gen. Radin leads a global organization responsible for providing front-line logistics support to Army combatant commands and joint forces around the world. The command manages Army pre-positioned stocks located in strategic locations around the world; maintains weapons and equipment at bases in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; and oversees the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, which provides contractor support in theaters of operation. It also manages equipment left behind by deploying units and pre-deployment training equipment sets around the continental United States, and holds a critical role in the Army's equipment reset programs.

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, presided at the ceremony. In his remarks, Gen. Griffin said, "ASC is 'On the Point' around the world serving Soldiers.

"Jerry Johnson has done a great job putting together the Army Sustainment Command that is focused on supporting the forces in the fight as well as resetting the force as it goes back to the fight," Radin said. "He passes this legacy to Bob Radin, a great leader who's also focused on Soldiers and making things happen.

"We say farewell to a great team, Maj. Gen. Johnson and Doris Johnson, while we welcome a great team, Maj. Gen. Radin and Sara Radin — two of the best general officers the Army has to offer!"

In his parting remarks, Maj. Gen. Johnson emphasized, "The ASC could not have become a reality anywhere else in the world. You've got the kind of folks in this area who have the heart and drive to make ASC work. This couldn't have been done without the support staff and local community. Thanks for letting me do the things I did as we formed the ASC."

Addressing the command for the first time, Maj. Gen. Radin said, "It's great to be back in the Quad Cities, because Sara and I feel it's like coming home. It is also great to be back working with Soldiers supporting the joint forces. I'm looking forward to the challenges.

"May God Bless America and our Soldiers keeping people safe around the world."

Maj. Gen. Radin previously served at Rock Island from September 2003 to September 2005 as the commander of the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command. He was then assigned to ASC's higher headquarters, the U.S. Army Materiel Command, where he served as G3, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, the post he held when he was selected as ASC's commanding general.

A native of North Plainfield, N.J., Maj. Gen. Radin was commissioned as an officer in 1976, following his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

U.S. Army photo by Maxine Bowen

Army Sustainment Command brigades stand in formation during the ceremony

The courage and composure of Soldiers faced with crisis as told by a civilian onboard...

BLACKHAWK DOWN

BY MELISSA SHARP

Editor's Note: Melissa Sharp is a civilian assigned to the Joint Munitions Life Cycle and Lethality Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. She is currently deployed in Iraq with the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

There is nothing scarier than knowing some thing bad is about to occur and all you can do is helplessly watch it take place. That happened to me, a DA Civilian, when the helicopter I was riding in, returning from Baghdad to Balad was shot down somewhere in the middle of the night.

I was experiencing the awe of flying through the warm night. I was staring out the window, admiring the glow of the full moon on the countryside, dotted with lights from the small scattered dwellings. The sister ship was bringing up the rear and I could see it silhouetted darkly against the moonlit night sky. In my mind I was framing it like a photographer would set up a photo shoot.

While I was mentally lining up the shot, the pilot gradually changed his heading to the right and I lost the view of the moon and the partner chopper. The other pilot shifted from the left and took over the lead position on the other side of the aircraft. Within a minute or two, I saw a red glow and tracers, which I mistook for the warning flares that the chopper would release for missile deflection, but they were going in the wrong direction. Through the gap between the door and the floor of the chopper and through the window, I saw more lights on the ground, redder than any normal flame. I felt a small jolt which felt like it was right beneath my feet, and saw something fly by the window. I smelled a strong odor of gunpowder, reminiscent of the smell of 4th of July fireworks.

"The gunners started firing - short, sharp pops that seemed to last forever..."

The gunners started firing, short sharp pops that seemed to last forever, bursts punctuated by short

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Blackhawk

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pauses. After a while, I could not tell if it was coming from our gunners or we were being hit. Time was misbehaving, becoming unpredictable, moving slowly, quickly and stopping altogether. It was my impression that most of the action happened on the other side of the chopper. I did lean over to look, and saw tracers firing in rapid succession from that side.

Despite damage, the pilot kept the helicopter headed away from the ground fire to get as much distance between us and the insurgents. He handled the aircraft so skillfully that there was no swaying from side to side. The vibration that started after the first direct hit became more noticeable and was followed by the downward tilt of the chopper tail. Since I was in a rear facing seat, I was pushed away from the back of the seat. I looked out the window and saw the ground getting closer. "Why are we landing? Are we stopping to engage with the enemy?" Not being at all versed in military maneuvers and helicopters in general, I was unaware that we were landing because the chopper had been severely damaged.

As we lost altitude, I could tell from those around me that we were in serious trouble. The pilot brought his bird down as gently as if he was landing on the tarmac. When we touched down everyone worked to remove their restraints. I took off my belt and gave the thumbs up when the crew member asked me if I was ok. We were then commanded to produce our weapons. Everyone was asked, "Do you have your weapon?" "NO", I said multiple times, I'm a civilian and I don't have a weapon. At that point, someone shoved a rifle at me, asking me, "Can you fire this?" Me? A rifle? I can't, I'm not trained, I am a just a civilian.

I did my very best to stay out of the way of the crew and the other soldiers on the mission. I watched as they all set up a perimeter around our helicopter. I thought, "This is just like watching a movie." Everything was choreographed by someone above us. When were we

Melissa Sharp

The helicopter sitting in the center of the moonlit field surrounded by soldiers on guard was surreal. I huddled on the floor of the helicopter, barricaded my position with duffle bags, kept my head down and said my prayers.

I was aware of our mission partner circling us, protecting us from further assault. Soon there were other sounds of faster birds, Apaches coming to draw off and return fire. After a while, a Blackhawk landed across the field. I can't tell how long this all took because time felt like it was speeding and crawling at the same time.

We were told to head over to the other aircraft. We piled in as best we could. I tried to get situated, giving one of the gunners room to sit. All the while I was thinking, "We're so heavy we'll never get off the ground!" I had an image of us flying back to base, just high enough to miss the tree tops. As quickly as the time passed during the first part of the mission and the time on the ground, the last leg to Balad lasted an eternity. I realized I was holding my breath so I could get through it. Finally, we touched down in Balad - thankful to stand on safe soil and breathe easily.

After landing, we stood around in a mild daze, and started talking to our fellow passengers. One of the passengers was arriving in Balad to temporarily assume command of a battalion so this was his first flight here. There was a Chaplain, whom we all thanked for being on board, his assistant, and then there was me, the only civilian. It was truly a miraculous flight. I got to witness firsthand, the result of hours, months and years of training. The crew knew exactly what to do, how to do it and when to do it. We have all heard the term, "well oiled machine". This crew handled themselves flawlessly from the initial hit and evasive maneuver to the debriefing back in Balad.

They were professional, efficient and did an exceptional job. They met the enemy with the knowledge that they were a team that would go beyond their best to survive and succeed in the mission. I feel honored to have had a chance to fly with the Army helicopter crew that flew the mission that could have made us all another statistic. The families of all involved owe a debt of gratitude to this crew and those that came to our aid.

AROUND THE COMMAND

Completed changes of command

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin replaced Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson as the commander of the Army Sustainment Command.

Lt. Col. Cheryl Brady replaced Lt. Col. Sue Cantu as the commander of the Fort Lewis Logisitics Support Element, 407th Army Field Support Brigade.

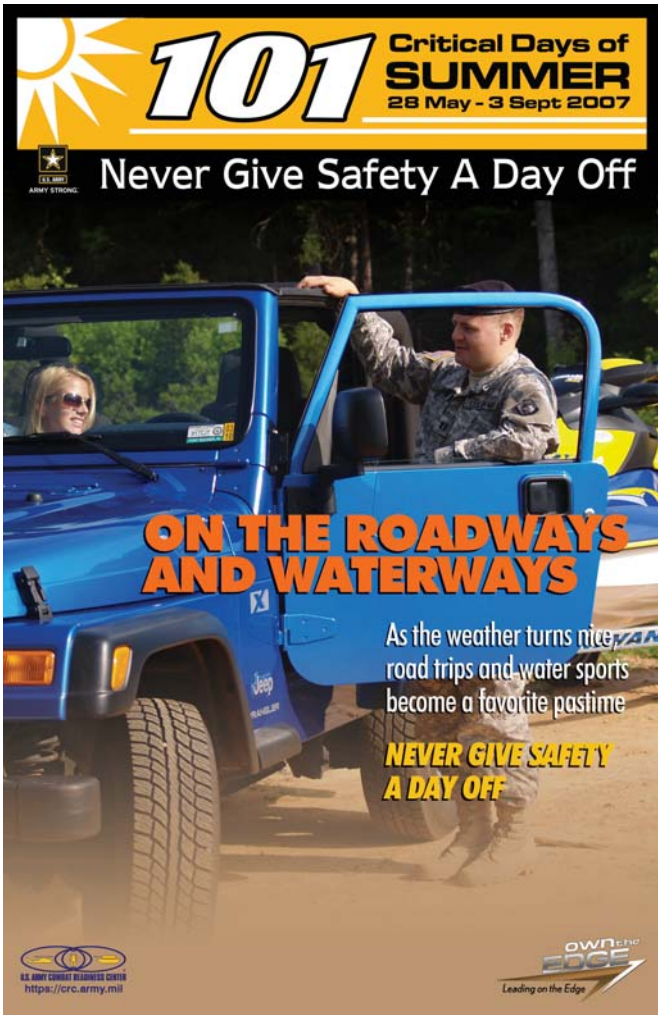
Col. Joseph Bass replaced Col. Robert Kendrick as the commander of the 408th Contracting Support Brigade.

Col. Theodore Harrison replaced Col. Anthony Bell as the commander of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade.

Coming up

Changes of command are scheduled in the month of August for the 406th Army Field Support Brigade's 18th Airborne Corps Logistics Support Element and the 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Kuwait Battalion.

Senior Service College applications are due by Aug. 24. Permanent GS-14s and GS-15s are eligible to apply. Packets must be received by the Army Sustainment Command G-1, Civilian Education and Leadership Development Division. Please call DSN 793-4310 for more information.



There's still plenty of time left this summer.

Be safe.
Be smart.
Stay alive.