

Beyer: There is still a lot of life to live

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Olympic Gold Medalist and cancer survivor Scott Hamilton once said “The only disability in life is a bad attitude.” Bruce E. Beyer is living proof and the recipient of the Army’s Outstanding Individual with Disability Award Dec. 4 at the Department of Defense Disability Awards Ceremony and Forum in Bethesda, Md.

Beyer, a quadriplegic, is a supply systems analyst in the Logistics Enterprise Integration Team at the U.S. Army Sustainment Command and one of 16 Department of Defense employees who were honored at the ceremony.

“My faith has allowed me not to look back but, to look forward, and to take each day as another blessing,” said Beyer.

Beyer’s attitude isn’t the only thing that has helped him in his career. He remarked working with understanding people that challenged him with a variety of projects from Day One has made working for the Army enjoyable.

His family and co-workers always encouraged Beyer to take the next steps with his career and to never accept the limitations of his physical challenges.

“The first thing I noticed when I started working for the Army was that I was surrounded by good people and supervisors who looked at my ability

See *AWARD* on page 7



Defense Dept. photo by Fred W. Baker III
David S.C. Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, congratulates Bruce E. Beyer after Beyer received the Army’s Outstanding Individual with Disability Award.

In this Issue



Radin speaks at annual concert

See page 2



Italy AFSBn gets new home

See page 2



Lean Six Sigma scores again

See page 4

Former OEF commander visits Island

By Nikki St. Amant
ASC Public Affairs

The former commander of the Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan discussed the challenges of the Global War on Terror with a crowd of Army Sustainment Command and Rock Island Arsenal employees here Nov. 29.

Retired Lt. Gen. David Barno served as the CFC-A commander from November 2003 until May 2005 and is now the director of the Near East South Asia Center at the National Defense University.

Barno gave a comprehensive presentation on American military strategy and some of the unique lines of operation and challenges faced by U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“It’s absolutely imperative that commanders and, I believe, the American public have a better understanding of the



US ARMY PHOTO BY TED CAVANAUGH
Retired Lt. Gen. David Barno speaks to employees about the Global War on Terrorism and his experiences in Afghanistan.

See *BARNO* on page 7

Not your ordinary Christmas Tree

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

Bright lights and colorful decorations are a sign that the holiday season is near, and that holiday celebrations have begun. Large and elaborate holiday displays can be found at private homes and in public parks, a dazzling counterpoint to the cold and dark that also moves in at this time of year.

Meanwhile, very far from home, the tradition of decorating for the holidays is also being carried out by Americans in uniform who are serving their nation overseas. In Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Korea and other distant outposts – on ships at sea or aboard submarines beneath the waves – servicemembers are putting up their own holiday displays, keeping the spirit of the season alive even as they go about the dangerous duty of defending us from the enemies of freedom.

Out there, you can't run to the store to replace the string of lights that just burned out, so holiday displays need to be created out the resources already at hand. As a result, the displays found in forward locations reflect both the ingenuity of our servicemembers, and the pride they take in their mission and service.

Here's an example from last year, taken from a letter written to his hometown newspaper in Grass Valley, Calif., by a Soldier stationed in Ramadi, Iraq:

"Here's a picture we took of our tree. We strung up razor wire and command wire from IEDs that we have found around it. We put bows around some old artillery shells that we painted and got a captured mortar tube and one of our sniper rifles in this picture, also. Kind of funny. Not your ordinary Christ-

mas tree."

While I never saw the picture of this tree, I'd have to agree with this young Soldier: This certainly isn't an ordinary Christmas tree. It is an extraordinary tree, put up by extraordinary people doing some extraordinary things on our behalf. It's a tree that captures the true holiday spirit of generosity and caring, because that's the spirit found in the hearts of warriors who give freely of themselves and risk their own lives for others while expecting and receiving little in return.



US ARMY PHOTO BY Spc. Nathan J. Hoskins, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. Della St. Louis, and Pfc. Alisha Downey with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division decorate a Christmas tree in Taji, Iraq.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, throughout Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, and on every other holiday, our Soldiers will be on patrol, performing their missions and engaging the enemy even as we go about our holiday business and enjoy our holiday celebrations. Let us remember them throughout the holidays, and let us pray for their safe return, so that they may enjoy many more holidays to come at home with their loved ones.

I wish all of you a very happy, and safe, holiday season. May you and yours experience all the joy and magic that this season has to offer, and may the New Year to come bring you health, happiness and prosperity!

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Maj. Gen. Radin speaks at annual Veteran's Day concert

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Speaking at the 39th annual St. Ambrose University Veteran's Day Concert, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., showcased the advances of military protective equipment.



US ARMY PHOTO BY RHYNS FULLERLOVE

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin holds a Kevlar helmet to St. Ambrose University audience.

During his remarks, Radin held up a

World War II helmet and a Kevlar helmet used in current combat operations.

"Today's Soldier wears a Kevlar helmet that comes in multiple sizes," Radin said. "Unlike the 'one-size-fits-all' steel helmet – the advanced combat helmet is much better at stopping bullets and shrapnel than the 'steel pot'."

In addition to the helmets, Radin displayed an armor vest that resonated throughout the auditorium when he slammed it on the stage.

"The Soldier of 2007 wears body armor, fireproof gloves, knee and elbow pads, protective eyewear, and a camouflage uniform made of modern fabric which is far more comfortable than the old wool uniform," Radin explained.

He went on to say that he was not there to give a briefing on advances in military equipment, but to highlight the differences between the Soldiers of different generations – to both illustrate some of the challenges faced by veterans and pay homage to them.

To call attention to those who served,

he invited veterans of each war and engagement and their spouses to stand and be recognized. His gesture mirrored a standing tradition at the concert with the band playing the Armed Forces Medley, with each servicemember standing when their branch's song is played.

"General Radin brought a realistic approach to the ceremony that really helped drive home the point that there is more than what we are seeing in the media," said Dr. Eugene Bechen, director of bands at St. Ambrose University. "His presentation had a profound effect on my students and was well-received by the audience."

The concert has been one of the longest running traditions at the university.

"As a music educator, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to use music to teach my students about the sacrifice made by veterans and today's men and women in the military," said Bechen. "Over the years I have tried to make my students think a great deal about the freedom they enjoy and cost of that freedom."

Italy AFSBn opens new multi-million dollar facility

By Jennifer King
405th AFSB PAO

SECKENHEIM, Germany—The U.S. Army Materiel Command's commitment to its operations in Italy was visible last week as the 3-405th Army Field Support Brigade held a formal ribbon cutting ceremony for a massive construction project worth more than \$56 million. The ceremony, attended by various U.S. and Italian military and civilian dignitaries, marked the end of a project that has been years in the making.

"This is a great day for AMC, and a great day for the Camp Darby community," said Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, AMC deputy commanding general and presiding officer of the ceremony. "This is the largest AMC facility in Europe and is a one-of-a-kind facility in the AMC family."

The project, located on the Leghorn Army Depot, consisted of an impressive 5,565 tons of steel, 114,500 cubic meters of concrete, six miles of electrical conduits and more than 10 miles of



US ARMY PHOTO

Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston, Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, and Lt. Col. (P) Harvey Robinson cut ribbon at new facility.

pipng. In addition to a new battalion headquarters building, there are state-of-the-art, environmentally sensitive maintenance bays, wash racks and paint shops, all designed to refurbish military equipment efficiently.

"With the completion of this 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 Lt. Col. (P) Harvey Robinson, commander of the 3-405th AFSB.

Mortensen was quick to point out that the success of both the project and the battalion relies heavily upon support from our

Italian allies.

"We are partners, and we can't operate without them," he said as he praised the battalion's host-nation workforce. "The opening of these facilities establishes credibility to our commitment to Italy and links our two countries together."

“Lean Sixing” completes massive project on time

By Chuck Sprague
401st AFSB PAO

The ITT Container Repair Team, part of the 1-401st Army Field Support Brigade, undertook a high volume, fast paced refurbishment and inspection operation in May, bringing 429 cargo containers up to standards, to meet the established deadline with 15 days to spare.

The containers are part of Army Prepositioned Stock and part of the Inland Petroleum Distribution System; a twin to the IDPS set that made history as the longest tactical fuel pipeline ever built by the Army to support combat operations during the Iraq invasion—from Kuwait to Camp Taji, Iraq.

The total set, including all generators, pumps, fittings, storage bladders and pipeline, is a massive- 1,050 containers, currently stored at Sierra Army Depot, California. They average 20,000 pounds and the material stored within them can be quickly coupled together by military personnel and put into service.

Fuel makes up 70 percent of the tonnage of supplies that moved forward to support Warfighters; personnel can rapidly deploy the IDPS system for immediate fuel support.

The battalion’s IDPS container refurbishment mission was the first time these critical equipment sets were inspected, serviced and returned to combat-ready reserves by the Qatar team.

“The operation was a great display of teamwork, Support like Champions,” said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Maxine Girard. “Working cohesively with our supply and transportation sections, the total team effort was superb,” she said.

The team effort involved three distinct section teams working together in concert, from the Maintenance and Supply Department. All work was captured in the Army War Reserve Deployment System, which logged more than 15,000 man-hours for the project.

“From the onset, we used the Lean Six Sigma approach as we planned the project and organized the



US ARMY PHOTO BY CHUCK SPRAGUE

Russell Perry of ITT inspects material stored in containers, working in extremely hot, humid conditions.

staff,” said Gary Marquez, APS supply operations manager and lead on the project. “We tracked maintenance and supply on a weekly basis and by August we realized that in order to meet the 30 November deadline, we needed a night shift giving us 24/7 operations.”

In August and September, another “Lean” analysis helped them develop more efficiency downloading and uploading the

containers so that there was a continuous stream of empty containers moving from the supply download team to the container repair shop, said Marquez.

“That reduced movement, and more important, reduced injury. There were no accidents and no injuries during the entire project, moving 444,364 joints of pipeline,” Marquez said.

The 22-member team was required move each container to the download area to empty it, using specialized handling devices and fork lifts. The containers were inspected inside and out, including 50 percent of the pipeline and other equipment stored in the container.

Once the containers were downloaded they were moved to the container repair area for inspection, where skilled welders and technicians repaired and serviced the containers to assure they met international transportation standards. The containers were then certified by the US Army Quality Control inspectors and moved back to the download area where the reverse process was completed. It took about three days to download, inspect, repair and upload each container, said Lewis Strickland, the container service and repair manager.

The battalion’s container team assures vital military equipment and supplies reach the Warfighter.

Reserve Soldiers home for the holidays

By Chuck Sprague
401st AFSB PAO

Two Multi-Functional Support Command detachments organized at Rock Island, Ill., directly supporting the 401st Army Field Support Brigade in Afghanistan and Kuwait, redeployed early this month having served in key support positions.

Detachment Five arrived at Bagram Air Field, in Afghanistan, last New Year's Eve and Detachment Seven touched down in Kuwait last Christmas Eve.

"They came in with a great, positive attitude and quickly established themselves as vital to our ability to support," said Brigade Commander Col. Dennis M. Thompson, 401st AFSB. "Their attitude, sense of teamwork and ability to get the job done to a standard of excellence has been their hallmark and they will be missed."

The 14 Soldiers of DET 5 spent their year supporting the explosive growth of the 3rd Battalion in Afghanistan. The small group contributed necessary military leadership for the unit's mission providing field maintenance service for all tactical vehicles, tire support, weapons repair and maintenance, up-armor efforts and repairs of the Humvee fleet, the retrograde mission and management of Army prepositioned stocks supporting combat operations in Afghanistan. Through the brigade, they provided life saving support and new combat equipment to warfighters deployed at the numerous forward operating bases throughout the country.

The young officers of DET 5, like 1st Lt. Jeffrey Lester, gained critical field experience and expertise over the course of the deployment. Lester provided oversight and leadership to more than 40 personnel at the Field Maintenance Shop. He conducted organizational and direct support maintenance for 17 units at Bagram Airbase and established a service schedule for Warfighter units that resulted in completing 100 percent of services on time to standard and also assisted in establishing the Bagram Airbase Fuel and Electric Shop. His F&E Section completed more than 900 repairs on starters and generators and returned them to the supply system, saving the Army thousands of dollars. Lester assisted in establishing the Bagram Airfield Material Handling Equipment and RTCH maintenance support operation site.

"I'm honored to have served with these great Soldiers," said 3rd Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Iraj Gharagouzloo. "They established and set great standards with their diverse professional skills. It is amazing to me that such a small group of individuals made such a profound influence on logistic support we provide to the theater. They were truly first to

make a difference at Bagram Air Field."

Detachment Seven, a group of 19 Soldiers, spent their year supporting the 401st Army Field Support Brigade at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Upon arrival, the unit quickly stepped in to support ongoing operations throughout the theater; many held key leadership and operational positions at the brigade and battalion level and had a tremendous positive impact on the brigade's mission.

"I think it's important that we acknowledge the technical and leadership skills, expertise and performance of the DET Seven Soldiers assigned at Camp Arifjan, who have contributed significantly to the 401st AFSB mission success this year," said brigade chief of staff, Bob Williams

"Lt. Col. Joe Caire and the Soldiers assigned to Support Operations and throughout the brigade have consistently exemplified the brigade motto, 'First to make a difference...Support like a Champion'."

Their skills supported add-on armor missions, vehicle enhancements, vehicle refurbishment, depot level supply and maintenance, equipment distribution, and transportation within the brigade and the 2nd Battalion. Members of the detachment provided the muscle at a time of great need as five "surge" operations were planned and executed in Iraq. The surge brigades arrived in Kuwait and received thousands of items ranging from large tactical vehicles to tiny

repair parts. The equipment issue was conducted almost flawlessly and on schedule.

During the surge, the world of add-on armor support to the theater was still in full swing and DET Seven Soldiers assigned to support operations played a major role ensuring that the thousands of sets of vehicle armor were transported by air and surface assets to many locations throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

While major projects were underway, the routine business of supporting deploying and redeploying units was a constant. Some units needed tremendous support, others were virtually self-sufficient. Some required the latest technological improvements and enhancements installed on their vehicles after arriving in Kuwait, before heading downrange. Installing some of these items in mass for the first time required superb teamwork and mechanical insight. Throughout these very intense and busy times, DET Seven possessed a "can-do" attitude that prevailed.



US ARMY PHOTO BY CHUCK SPRAGUE

1st Lt. Jeffrey Lester with a newly built power generation engine.



An Afghan contractor waits for his shift to begin at a U.S. military site near Sharan, Afghanistan, in the Paktika Province, last winter. Paktika is one of the most poverty-stricken areas of the country, but those who find work at coalition bases often earn many times what they would make off-base. (US ARMY PHOTO BY NIKKI ST. AMANT)

Editor bids a fond farewell to ASC

**By Nikki St. Amant
ASC Public Affairs**

Finding my way here to the logistics world in 2005 from the somewhat dirtier, but infinitely simpler Infantry Center at Fort Benning (Hooah!) was a magnificent opportunity – though I didn't see it at the time.

To be a part of this massive global machine that is the hub of all logistics, materiel and technical support for the fighting and training force has been eye-opening.

I've seen M1 Abrams, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and



Strykers being overhauled at Fort Carson. I've seen row after row of bombs being made in McAlester, Okla. I've seen trailers and trucks being restored in Europe. I've watched armor being added to Humvees in Afghanistan.

Behind it all are people. I've gotten to know some of America's unsung heroes - the everyday folks who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make things happen for the guys and gals in green and all our other joint customers. Your commitment to your customers is unbelievable.

Though my time here was short, it was well-spent. I'm leaving with a much greater sense of and appreciation for the tremendous impact you have on our warfighters and, through them, our fellow human beings on both sides of the line around the world.

Thank you all for all that you do.

Tis the season!



The Army Field Support Battalion-Northeast Asia hosted a Christmas party for a group of Korean orphans Dec. 16. About 45 children spent the evening enjoying Christmas dinner, time with Santa Claus, making crafts, train rides, games and opening donated presents. (Courtesy photo)

Award *Continued from page 1*

ties and not my disability,” he said. “This attitude with my colleagues has continued for the past 20 years and has made my job very rewarding.”

Beyer enjoyed bicycling as a hobby during and after his high school days. In 1982, he was in a bicycle accident that fractured his neck. He has used a wheelchair ever since.

Prior to the accident, Beyer graduated from the Davenport Vocational Training Center, a four-year trade school, with a degree in tool and die making. He worked for Douglas Machine Tool and Die Company in a job that he loved for five years before his accident. After the accident Beyer was unable to perform his job and left him with the problem of what to do next.

Beyer spent 18-months in rehabilitation following his accident. It was a long, grueling process, but it gave him lots of time to think. During rehab he worked through the five phases of grief and took it upon himself to do whatever he could to seize control of his life once again. This meant finding a new career.

Knowing that he would have to leave his career in machining behind, he focused on the future and that path led him to St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. Beyer had to decide what career would best suit him and his needs.

“I had to ask myself, ‘What could I do from a sitting position that still actively engaged my mind?’ ” Beyer said. “Computer science was the first thing that came to my mind. I took that path and it has been a blessing”

Beyer graduated with a bachelor of science degree with a major in computer science and minor in mathematics from St. Ambrose in 1988. After graduating, he was recruited by the Rock Island Arsenal and started his career with the Department of the Army as a Production Analyst in the Directorate of Information Management.

Twenty years later, Beyer is making sure warfighters get the support they need. He has played a key role in awarding contracts through which contractors from the private sector are used to provide a broad range of field services to U.S. and allied forces during combat and training operations. He

has been instrumental in coordinating nationwide video teleconferences for logistical support to the warfighter. Beyer also has led efforts to consolidate and integrate multiple critical equipment tracking databases.

Beyer is also very active in the community and at Heritage Wesleyan church in Rock Island, Ill. At his church, he uses his video-teleconferencing skills to link his congregation with their outreach mission sites around the world.

“Bruce has been on the leading edge of technology and has allowed our church to stay in contact with our members who are doing missionary work in the Middle East,” said Heritage Wesleyan member Verne Gray.

In the community, Beyer has represented the Rock Island Arsenal as a peer counselor to students in the Rock Island School District. He also chaired the Quint Cities Handicapped Awareness Group for six years. During this time, he was instrumental in fostering changes in the area including accessibility, parking and state-level policy.

Beyer’s attitude is what really makes him special. He can roll into any room and light up the whole room with his smile. His dedication and attitude toward his work, family, community, and church make people forget that he is disabled.

“When a fellow in our church heard that Bruce was getting the award for a handicapped person he said ‘Why would Bruce be getting the award, he isn’t handicapped?’ ” said Gray. “Bruce doesn’t act like he is handicapped at all.”

“I remember him giving his mother golf lessons from his wheelchair that helped improve her game. He’s offered to give me lessons as well,” Gray said.

Beyer says when challenges and obstacles come your way you have to re-engage in life because there is a lot of life to live.

“You can’t let those negative thoughts creep in that can pull you down, because you will find out there is a lot of life still to live,” he said. “You just have to get out there and go and most important... live life to the fullest. I truly enjoy meeting new people every day, and never take for granted how I have truly been blessed each and every day.”

Barno *Continued from page 1*

enemy,” he said. “This is an enemy who thinks completely differently and therefore approaches combat very differently. You have to expect highly unpredictable strategies and outcomes.”

The former general officer discussed in length how terrorist and insurgent forces focus their efforts primarily on the political and strategic fronts, avoiding almost hopeless force-on-force engagement with a superior American

combat unit. By avoiding widespread operational and tactical engagements they will lose and focusing efforts on targeted attacks with roadside bombs and ambushes of patrols, the enemy effectively wins the information battle, he said.

While American service members are busy trying to win the hearts and minds of Iraqis and Afghans, the enemy is gutting the hearts and minds, and subsequently, the will of the American public

by flooding the international media with disturbing images of blown-up Humvees. Barno said these images that seem to depict Americans losing in battle are the enemy’s primary weapons. “They know that to win, all they have to do is push the American public far enough until we feel like we are losing, and then we will quit. That’s the battle we are really fighting,” he said. “It’s a test of American will.”



US ARMY PHOTO

CG ASC signs Army Family Covenant

In recognition of the commitment and increasing sacrifices Army families are making every day, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command and Rock Island Arsenal's senior installation commander, recently signed the Army Family Covenant.

By pledging his support, Radin joins senior Army leadership and commanders around the world committed to ensuring Army families enjoy a quality of life commensurate with their sacrifice and service.

The covenant's aims are especially welcome at RIA, which has experienced an unprecedented growth in military population – with more on the way.

By entering into the covenant, Radin signified the strength of commitment by the Army to its families while acknowledging the crucial and enduring link between the home front and the front lines.

The Army Family Covenant

We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our families are making every day.

We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.

We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.

We are committed to building a partnership with Army families that enhances their strength and resilience.

We are committed to improving Family readiness by:

- Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services
- Increasing accessibility and quality of healthcare
- Improving Soldier and Family housing
- Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care
- Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members