

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Army Sustainment Command

New name brings new missions

By Beth Musselman
AMC Public Affairs

The Army Field Support Command will officially become the Army Sustainment Command Sept. 22 - and with it comes several new missions to support the warfighter.

One of the new missions, materiel management, is a phase of military logistics that includes managing, cataloging, disposal, procurement, distribution, overhaul and determining requirements of materiel. This mission is done at many different levels of AMC; however, under ASC, the efforts will be streamlined and focused on the warfighting units.

“Materiel management tasks that were previously conducted by materiel management centers under the former Army logistics structure will now be executed by ASC,” according to Lt. Col. Dennis M. Thompson, director of the Distribution Management Center at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

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U.S. Army photo

The Army Sustainment Command's new Distribution Management Center is still undergoing some final finishing touches even though it is officially open for business. The center is mission control for the command's new materiel management efforts.

AMC puts AFSB-Iraq techie in top ten

By Marilyn Thompson
AFSB-I Public Affairs

Michael S. Kelly is currently deployed and in charge of information technology for the Army Field Support Brigade-Iraq. The Army Materiel Command recently named him one of the command's top ten employees for 2005.

Each year, AMC selects ten employees, both military and civilian, who stand out as model employees. This year, the top ten beat out 53 other nominees to receive this honor.

Nominees are judged on how their initiatives measurably improve their work environment and AMC's mission, how they motivate and inspire fellow employees to improve or increase the quality of their own work and how well they are viewed by peers, subordinates and superiors.

Kelly said “It came as a total surprise, and I am deeply honored.”



U.S. Army photo by Marilyn Thompson

Michael Kelly sets up audio gear at an AFSB-I event.

AFSB-Iraq commander Col. Jack O'Connor said “Mike is a ‘pro’ at what he does and is extremely responsive in getting the brigade whatever it needs in terms of information technology. He has spent more time laying fiber all over LSA Anaconda than anyone else I know, and we are darn lucky he is on our team.”

Supporting Soldiers number one priority for ASC

Later this month, we'll hold a ceremony to celebrate the official establishment of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command. The ASC stand-up event will mark the beginning of a new organization with a challenging mission – an organization that will use some different and exciting ways of doing business to meet its challenges and accomplish its mission.



In a nutshell, ASC's mission will be to improve Army Materiel Command Soldier support at the tactical level. This means we'll be directly engaged with combat units fighting and training in the field, providing them with a single, synchronized point of entry into America's arsenal.

ASC will be the key link between the warfighter and the total logistics system, connecting front-line units to the resources that assure combat readiness and effectiveness. We'll be expected to deliver support wherever and whenever it is needed, on time and without fail. Anything less will simply be unacceptable, and possibly fatal for the Soldiers who will count on us to get them what they need to win on the battlefield.

This is a tremendous responsibility, and it's one we're taking on at a time when resources are limited. ASC will need to get the most out of everything we are provided and every asset at our disposal. That's where you can make a difference.

If you're part of the ASC team, you'll need to be innovative, creative, hard-working and dedicated.

You'll need to understand our mission, appreciate its importance, and recognize how it fits into the Army's overall warfighting mission. You'll need to adapt quickly and stay several steps ahead of change, and become a leader in your own area of expertise.

Because of our command's role as a key link in the logistics chain, ASC team members will also need to possess outstanding communication skills and a willingness to share ideas and information. We need to establish and maintain close connections with other AMC commands and components, and with organizations outside of AMC as needed. ASC cannot go it alone – we've received outstanding support from the rest of AMC as we've built our Command, and we'll rely on continued cooperation and mutual assistance as we perform our mission.

I see the Army Sustainment Command as the leader in logistics transformation, in partnership with our sister commands in AMC. As the Army transforms itself, so will we. ASC was specifically designed to support the Army's modular combat units, a new concept that is still evolving. This puts us on the leading edge of change, and places us in a position where we can influence the Army's future direction – but only if we're flexible and adaptable enough to take advantage of our opportunities.

ASC will be a great place to be for those who look for opportunities to improve and who aren't afraid of facing challenges. From its first day, our command will have a team of highly skilled, highly motivated professionals in place. This team is our greatest strength, and we hope to build on it in the future.

It's truly a privilege for me to be the first to lead the ASC team. We're going to do some great things together, and I'm looking forward to it!

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Europe stands up new battalion at Vilseck

By Jennifer King
405th AFSB PAO

VILSECK, Germany -- Lt. Col. Jordan Chroman accepted command of the 2nd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade during an activation ceremony at the battalion headquarters in Vilseck, Germany, on July 28. Col.(P) Xavier P. Lobeto, then 405th AFSB Commander, presided over the ceremony.



After Lobeto unfurled the new battalion colors and Sgt. First Class John Barbeau presented them for acceptance, Lobeto presented the colors to Chroman and named him battalion commander.

Lobeto, during his remarks, commented on what a monumental day the activation was for the Army. "The Army is implementing its European transformation, and we are leading that change," he said. "The European theater is undergoing vast changes, but this new battalion will be an integral part of the Army's future in Germany."

He also expressed great confidence in Chroman's leadership ability. "His unique and varied record instills confidence in his capabilities, and I am proud to name him commander of this battalion and to welcome him to the brigade," said Lobeto.

Chroman remarked on the large and diverse mission of the new battalion. "This battalion is a tremendously diverse organization, it is geographically separated by over 200 miles, it's made up of specialists of every kind, its nucleus includes newly formed sub-units as well as other components who have performed expertly both at home and in support of the Global War on Terror," he said.

The unit will have a unique mission to command and control of all U.S. Army Materiel Command logistical assets and capabilities in Vilseck and other area military communities. In addition to other functions, it will deploy to provide expeditionary logistics support for both the Army and joint forces engaged within the European Command's area of operations.

"The activation ceremony is an Army tradition," said narrator Capt. Angelque Mitchell during the ceremony. "It serves two purposes. First, it allows the commander



Lt. Col. Jordan Chroman, left, accepts the battalion colors from Col. (P) Xavier P. Lobeto in an activation ceremony for the 2nd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade at Vilseck, Germany, July 28.

"The Army is implementing its European transformation and we are leading that change. This new battalion will be an integral part of the Army's future in Germany. (Chroman's) unique and varied record instills confidence in his capabilities and I am proud to name him commander of this battalion and to welcome him to the brigade."

*Col. (P) Xavier P. Lobeto
Former Commander, 405th AFSB*

the opportunity to assess the readiness and discipline of the unit, and secondly, with the uncasing of the battalion colors, it marks a definite point in time to commemorate the beginning...of a unit's history and lineage by carrying on the finest tradition of the United States Army."

The activation ceremony was followed by a reception inside the newly remodeled battalion headquarters. The reception was coordinated by Rosalind Johnson, management assistant for the battalion, and Chroman's wife, Laura.

Crane gets credit for flare reuse

By Carolyn Baldwin
Crane AAA Public Affairs

Crane Army Ammunition Activity's efforts to reuse MJU decoy flares were awarded the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive 2006 White House Closing the Circle award in waste pollution prevention June 12. The CTC Awards recognize outstanding achievements of federal employees and their facilities for efforts that resulted in significant contributions to or have made a significant positive impact in regard to environmental stewardship.

With the successful implementation of this idea, the government now has a process to rework 200,000 MJU-32/B and MJU-38/B Decoy Flares, utilizing recycled magnesium, Teflon, and Viton grain.

The MTV grains that would have been incinerated have now been di-



U.S. Army photo

The Crane Army Ammunition Activity's MJU decoy flare team accepts a White House Closing the Circle award in Waste Pollution Prevention.

verted. The chemical costs of the grain, and the labor necessary to manufacture it, were eliminated.

The MJU Teams' efforts in developing a new demilitarization and manufacturing method for the decoy flare production has produced significant results including: reduced hazardous materials usage and procurement cost, reduced production costs, disposal cost savings, reduced haz-

ardous emissions and an improved waste diversion rate.

The new process was implemented with the aid of the existing standard operating procedures.

In late fiscal year 2005, rework of the 200,000 defective decoy flares began by private industry as a result of team Crane's successful effort. Lots were submitted for acceptance beginning in January.

2nd Inf. Div LSE remedies new Hawker battery problems, maximizes savings

By Perry Cushman
2nd Infantry Division LSE

In ten months, the 2nd Infantry Division has saved more than \$750,000 through its battery maintenance program after teaming with the Army Field Support Command's 2nd Infantry Division Logistical Support Element to overcome significant problems with a new battery type.

The unit formerly used an older, flooded-cell, lead-acid battery, but last year spent \$2.5 million on 8,000 new absorbed

glass mat batteries known as "Hawkers". The new Hawker batteries cost more than four times what the old batteries did, but last nearly five times as long, according to the 2nd Inf. Div. LSE Chief Warrant Officer 5 William Hovis. But there were problems.

The unit thought that by converting critical combat system fleets to the new "maintenance-free" Hawker battery, costs would drop and readiness rates would increase. Instead, they found themselves with dead batteries on their hands.

Hovis worked with a team of logistics assistance representatives to evaluate the situation and discovered more than 2,000 Hawker batteries were dead. Almost all were less than two years old and were dead when installed in the vehicles, even though the Hawker battery reportedly has a 30-month shelf life.

Hovis said the unit maintenance staff thought the 30-month shelf-life meant one could pull a battery off the shelf, install it in a vehicle,

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U.S. Army photo

A Soldier assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) prepares to fire a TOW missile at the building where Uday and Qusay Hussein barricaded themselves July 22, 2003.

Recycling hub taps TOW wealth, cuts costs, helps environment

By Margaret Browne
JMC Public Affairs

The heart of the South is home to one of the military's premier recycling ventures. Located on Anniston Army Depot, the Defense Munitions Center operates the Missile Recycling Center, where tube-fired, optical-sighted, wire-guided missiles, known as TOW missiles, are demilitarized and disassembled for recycling or disposal.

Designed by a team consisting of the Aviation and Missile Command, Huntsville, Ala.; the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester, Okla.; the DMC and ANAD, the facility is the first of its kind in the nation, according to Reginald Smith, munitions operator supervisor.

The MRC is a team effort, run by the U.S. Army in partnership

with the AMTEC Corporation, Huntsville.

"Traditional disposal methods pose additional environmental risks and recoverable assets are completely lost in open burn/open detonation disposal," he said. "That is why the MRC was established." Open burn and open detonation are the methods previously used to dispose of the materials in these missiles.

"It is a first-of-its-kind process that utilizes the R-3 approach," said Smith. "R3" is an Army environmental initiative that stands for resource, recovery and recycling. "It views the aging missile stockpile as a valuable asset. Missile recycling reduces the cost associated with environmental cleanup and provides, to the maximum extent possible,



U.S. Army photo

Anniston Army Depot is home to the Missile Recycling Center where TOW missiles like these are recycled.

recovered components that can be used in production of new missiles and to generate spare parts for sustaining the missile system late in its shelf life," he said.

See Recycling on page 7

New DAC graduates spread wings

MCALESTER, Okla. – Sixty-eight interns graduated Aug. 1 from the U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center's Quality Assurance Specialist and Ammunition Management career programs.

The students, who hail from locations throughout the country, completed 12 months of extensive technical training in ammunition logistics, safety and surveillance to get their diplomas, and recently were assigned to 14 different locations to complete one-year, on-the-job training assignments.

According to James Wheeler, DAC Director, "DAC graduates are serving throughout the world supporting the Global War on Terrorism. These

ammunition careerists work with munitions of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as other government agencies and our allied nations. We support their continuous improvement and are extremely proud of their service to our nation. The individuals graduating today will have an immediate impact on munitions readiness. We truly appreciate the great support we receive from MCAAP and the McAlester community."

Addressing the students at the graduation ceremony, Col. Jyuji D. Hewitt, Joint Munitions Command Chief of Staff, said, "You are the person who will make sure the Soldier is safe, Soldiers depend on you for their mission to succeed."

This is what it's all about...

CECOM logistics assistance representative Carrie Simpson, right, shows an Army specialist assigned to an aviation battalion how to use the URM-213 wattmeter to troubleshoot problems with a CH-47D helicopter's bottom VHF antennae. Simpson served on active duty and then as a civilian scrub nurse before finding her true calling: helping Soldiers as an AMC LAR.



U.S. Army photo by Marilyn Thompson

New Mission *Continued from page 1*

ASC, working in close coordination with AMC's Life Cycle Management Commands, will be the Army's single materiel manager for units stationed in the continental United States until they deploy. According to Thompson, ASC will conduct centralized materiel management through the Distribution Man-

agement Center, part of the upcoming ASC.

According to AMC officials, the transition of AFSC to ASC allows CONUS-based forces to be supported by a theater sustainment command - equivalent logistics command. One that can leverage a wide variety of organizations and services

across AMC, Army and DoD lines to provide custom support to units.

Through the operational lines of materiel readiness, integration, supply, and mobility we will reduce the workload from the field and provide the warfighter with near-real-time readiness posture, and anticipate and avoid problems," Thompson said.

Hawkers *Continued from page 4*

turn it on and go. The senior TACOM LAR, Perry Cushman, researched the Hawker technology and revealed the new batteries will gradually lose charge and, once below 12 volts, go into hibernation and can be assumed to be dead. However, he also discovered the unit did not have the training and necessary equipment to test and charge the Hawkets, which are deep-cycle batteries and actually have "remarkable" recovery capabilities that allow even a battery discharged to the point of a zero volt reading to be recovered to full charge.

The 2nd Inf. Div. Maintenance staff and Hovis worked together to determine how much equipment would be needed to get 122 maintenance activities up to speed with the testers and charging

equipment necessary to capitalize on the Hawker's capabilities. Some of that equipment was provided by the Communications-Electronics Research Development and Engineering Center's battery office, which offered to provide, free of charge, all the necessary chargers and 10 of the battery analyzers.

Hovis and the Army Field Support Brigade-Far East commander, Col. William Gibson, approached Army Materiel Commanding General Benjamin Griffin with the training requirements necessary to bring the 2nd Inf. Div. maintenance staff up to speed on the maintenance of the Hawker batteries and TACOM answered the call by sending a factory technician to train almost 100 personnel.

The payoff was immediate. Despite being short by nearly 90 of the battery analyzers the unit needs, within two months of implementating the training program, it had recovered more than 2,000 Hawker batteries originally deemed unserviceable - a huge portion of the \$750,000 the unit saved in avoided expenditures. According to Cushman, another large portion of the saved dollars is attributed to avoided maintenance costs.

AFSC's 2nd Inf. Div. LSE helped close the book on a major readiness issue affecting thousands of Soldiers. Now that the unit has the proper training and equipment, Hawker batteries will continue to provide power in Korea with significant long-term cost advantages over the previous battery.

Recycling *Continued from page 5*

The missiles that end up at the MRC are those which have outlived their shelf lives or are old technology no longer relevant in the field. The missiles, in their prime, were versatile, and could be fired from multiple platforms, like shoulder-mounted and tracked vehicles.

"When the missiles exceed their shelf life, they become part of an

obsolete inventory that is accompanied by both costs and risks," said Smith. "Aging missiles take up valuable space needed to store newer inventory and pre-positioned war reserves."

The MRC represents phase one of the recycling process. Phase two will consist of the Slurry Explosives Module and the Energetics Processing Module, both of

which should be operational in the fall.

The function of the SEM will be to take the various grades of propellants retrieved from the defunct missiles and mix them together for commercial purposes. The EPM involves the same process, but with the different types of explosives used in the missiles, said Smith.

Brigade treks north to DMZ, looks enemy in eye across the long line

By Sgt. 1st Class Renato Nieves & Tong Hyang James
AFSB-Korea

Watching old movies or hearing and reading stories about the Korean War is just not as realistic as actually standing in the Demilitarized Zone looking North Korean soldiers on endless guard duty in the eye as they stare back. About 45 members of the Army Field Support Brigade-Korea toured the DMZ July 28 during a cultural visit to the front line of a war spanning more than five decades.

The full day of events started in the early morning hours at Yongsan, where we boarded a Korean tour bus for the trip north.

After we turned north on the road along the Im Jin River, within a few miles we could see the high fence, topped with razor-sharp concertina wire, tracing its way along our side of the river. Every 50 meters, South Korean soldiers were seen in and around their small guard houses.

At the Im Jin River check-point, a South Korean Soldier boarded our bus to check identification and then we traveled several miles through rice fields, farm land and forests to the Joint Security Area where we were briefed by a U.S. Soldier.

We then switched to an official DMZ tour bus and traveled to Pan Mun Jom village where we visited the South Side Freedom meeting house. Inside, we found the small Military Armistice Commission Conference Room, where the armistice ending active fighting was signed on July 27, 1953.

From there, we journeyed to a high observation post overlooking several significant historical points which included: the only place where one is surrounded on three-sides by North Korea, and the “No-Return Bridge” where prisoners of war were exchanged in 1953.

We could also see the site where seven U.S. Soldiers were axed to death over the 1976 cutting of a tree, North Korean Dae Song village - with no inhabitants - and the North Korean flag pole, the tallest in the world, topped by the biggest flying flag in the world, which weighs in at 600 pounds.



U.S. Army photo

About 45 members of the Army Field Support Brigade-Korea visited the DMZ as part of unit cultural day activities. They visited the Panmunjom village and the South Side Freedom House where the 1953 Armistice was signed ending actual military combat, but leaving the two Koreas still technically at war for more than five decades.

Then we went on to tunnel Number 3, which is the most recent North Korean tunnel discovered by South Korean Soldiers. It was found in October 1978. The solid rock tunnel extends about four kilometers into South Korea and is about 5 feet, 10 inches high, 6 feet wide and several miles long.

After the exhausting hour-long walk down into and out of the tunnel, we boarded the official DMZ bus for the trip back to our tour bus.

Brigade Commander Col. William Gibson wanted members of his team to see and understand the reason American forces are serving on the Korean Peninsula, facing a million-man North Korean army less than 25 miles from downtown Seoul.

He stated, “Visiting the DMZ was a sobering reminder to us of the importance of the US-ROK alliance we have enjoyed for 50-plus years... the demarcation line symbolizes freedom on one side and oppression on the other, and allows us to truly reflect on the freedoms and liberty we unfortunately take for granted at times.”