



401st Army Field Support Brigade

Forward Deployed

“Strength and Honor”



M-ATV upgrades begin at 401st AFSB

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan—Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected All-Terrain Vehicles engineered to obtain effective force protection and mobility performance in off-road conditions began receiving new force protection kits in early June. The new kits will provide greater survivability and protection for the Soldiers using the vehicles in their missions.

As units turn in their MATVs for new kit installation under

the supervision of Joint Program Office – MRAP, other MRAP vehicles are being issued by the battalions of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade. The first group of temporary replacements MRAPs is being processed for issue by AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB. Plans are in place to expand the entire process to AFSBn-Kandahar and forward operating bases across the 401st AFSB footprint.

Bush assumes command of AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st AFSB

By Summer Barkley
401st Army Field support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan— Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush assumed command of AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade in a ceremony held at battalion headquarters June 27.

The ceremony, presided over by Col. Richard B. O’Connor II, 401st AFSB commander, saw outgoing commander Lt. Col. Lee G. Lienemann relinquish command to the incoming commander.

In remarks, O’Connor said the day was one of transition, but also a time to recognize what the battalion accomplished under Lienemann’s leadership.

“Lt. Col. Lienemann’s battalion executed the force package fieldings of over 4,500 pieces of rolling stock and government furnished equipment supporting the Presidential-directed surge,” O’Connor said. “A tremendous accomplishment!”

The battalion, consisting of two Logistics Support Elements, two Logistics Task Forces, and 12 contracted Maintenance Support Teams, is charged with synchronizing the acquisition, logistics, and technology sustainment efforts in direct support to over 11 Brigade Combat Teams or equivalent over approximately 155,000 square miles in southern and southwestern Afghanistan.

The battalion, under Lienemann’s leadership, managed a \$220 million budget and a theater property book valued at nearly \$3 billion; established construction projects; fielded new equipment and improved property accountability by bring property found on the installation to record. The Maintenance Support Teams completed more than 9,800 work orders that directly helped supported units to maintain a 96 percent readiness rate.

Lienemann’s battalion also set conditions for future successful retrograde and reset of equipment by establishing three Redistribution Property Assistance Team sites.

“Lt. Col. Lienemann has helped this Battalion evolve into what it is today - committed to sustaining the operational momentum for the CJOA’s main effort in Regional Command South, Southwest, and West,” said O’Connor. “Lee, you have pushed the 4-401st to become an agile and adaptive organiza-



Left top: (from left) Lt. Col. Lee G. Lienemann, outgoing commander AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Col. Richard B. O’Connor II, 401st AFSB commander, and Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush, incoming commander AFSBn-Kandahar, salute during the change of command ceremony held May 27 at battalion headquarters.



Left bottom: Lt. Col. Lee G. Lienemann, outgoing AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st AFSB commander (center) looks on as Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush accepts the brigade colors from Col. Richard B. O’Connor II, 401st AFSB commander, signifying his assumption of command of the more than 3,000 Soldiers, Army Civilians and contractors who make up the battalion.

tion comprised of skilled and disciplined Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians and contractors who will succeed in any type of mission for our Nation.”

In recognizing the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Bush, O’Connor noted that this is the second time Bush has commanded an AFSB battalion in a combat environment. Bush commanded the 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, Balad, Iraq from July 2009 to July 2010.

“Your reputation and solid leadership skills precede you,” O’Connor said. “I know you will be a tremendous leader for this Battalion and my Brigade. Welcome to the 401st and welcome to a very challenging, dynamic command.”

Editor’s note: Battalions falling under Army Field Support Brigades were recently renamed to reflect a geographic location instead of the previous numerical designation.



Task Force Sabre Command Group

"Strength and Honor"



Sabre Six Overview



As I approach the end of my 12 month in Command, I reflect back to the first day in July when I reported into the 401st. I quickly realized that this Brigade had two themes that still hold true today... A great team with an awesome mission. This team of over 40,000 people is uniquely staffed with military, DA Civilians and Contractors. We all come as one to accomplish one mission, sup-

port our maneuver units.

It's been an honor and a privilege to command this great brigade in combat. I cannot be more proud of the honor and sacrifice that all these great professionals do every day. You have made this a great year for me, for our Army, the Nation and our coalition partners.

What have we accomplished over the last year? The short answer is "a lot." The longer answer is we aggressively supported the President's 30,000-man surge/Force Package equipment build-up; we planned, resourced and put into place 10 Redistribution Property Assistance Teams; we supported more than 30 new system fielding's, while sustaining 70 other systems through a network of 4000 field service representatives; we provided multiple maintenance and supply activities in direct support of 11 Brigade Combat Teams; we assumed control of the largest property book and theater-provided equipment account in the history of the United States Army; we are over 41,000 strong providing an unparalleled level of support to those on the frontline. We are the 401st, and we live our command philosophy of Competence, Confidence and Compassion in addition to our motto of 'Strength and Honor' every day.

Thank you for everything you do every day to support our maneuver units. I know you will provide the same level of support and dedication to Col. Russell and I know you will continue to make history for our Army.

Strength and honor – Sabre 6 out.



Command Sergeant Major's View



Hello, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little something about myself as I begin to serve as your Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

I entered active duty in 1981 as a 63F Recovery Specialist. During my 12 weeks of AIT training at Fort Jackson, S.C., the Army decided to save some money by rolling the 63F MOS under the 63B MOS which back then was known as a Light Wheel Vehicle and Power Generation Mechanic. Under the new MOS, I was assigned to the 1st Armored Division in Germany, where I worked as a Recovery Specialist and Tracked Vehicle Mechanic for three and half years.

As soon as I left Germany I decided that busting tracks in the dead of winter or heat of summer was not for me, so I decided to attend airborne school, and spent the next 14 years in one airborne unit or another.

After a particularly bad jump one night, I was told I would never be able to jump, let alone run again. I then spent six months in physical therapy for a bad back and dislocated knees, at which time my career as a Paratrooper pretty much came to an end.

Soon afterwards I was selected for Drill Sergeant Duties, and from there it has continued to be a fun ride. As someone who has deployed to numerous theaters of operation, I know that we as Soldiers, civilians, contractors and our families who continue to support us will be faced with hardships and disappointments. I ask that we continue to be supportive of one another and know that not only will we have training and great leadership on our side, but the support of our families, friends and loved ones to help sustain us in a harsh and unforgiving environment.

It is my hope that this newsletter will continue to be a source of information, inspiration, and humor to our AFSB family through our time here in Afghanistan. I am deeply honored and privileged to work with such dedicated men and women who place the needs of the Nation above all else. I appreciate and value the sacrifices, time and commitment you and your family continue to make to our nation and our Army.

Strength and Honor!

Farewell Marty Utzig

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan— The 401st Army Field Support Brigade bid farewell to Martin T. (Marty) Utzig on May 1.

Utzig served as the deputy to the commander for more than a year. During that time, he was involved with equipping the three force packages that increased the number of troops supporting Operation Enduring Freedom; establishing a dedicated operations center; and, the initial concept and beginning stages of building a Redistribution Property Assistance Team program that will eventually facilitate moving more than 25,000 vehicles and 1.9 million pieces of non-rolling stock from the theater.

He was awarded an Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award signed by Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Army Materiel Command, commanding general, in recognition of his work at the 401st.

Utzig has served in six of the seven Army Field Support Brigades including having been the deputy to the commander for the 402nd AFSB at Balad, Iraq. His next position is with Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island Arsenal where he will manage the Logistics Assistance Program.

Right: Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade presents a Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award signed by Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander, Army Materiel Command, to Martin T. Utzig, deputy to the commanding officer, 401st AFAB on May 1 during a farewell luncheon for Utzig. The award is the second highest civilian award and is equivalent to the military Legion of Merit award. It may be awarded by the Secretary of the Army or a major Army commander. Recipients must have established a pattern of excellence; accomplished assigned duties in an exemplary manner; setting a record of achievement; inspiring others to improve the quantity and quality of their work; demonstrated unusual initiative and skill in devising new and improved equipment, work methods, and procedures; inventions resulting in substantial savings in expenses such as manpower, time, space, and materials, or improved safety or health of the workforce.



Matt Hawver—Materiel Enterpriser for April

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—The 401st Army Field Support Brigade Materiel Enterpriser for April was introduced by Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, brigade commander, during a weekly update to Army Materiel Command on May 3.

Matthew Hawver, quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance), was recognized for having completed over 3,000 ammunition surveillance inspections at Bagram Air Field since Sept. 4, 2010. More significant than the number is the fact that only 643 inspections had been completed during the previous five years.

"I had to establish a surveillance program here," Hawver said. He noted that prior to his arrival personnel strength was limited and they lacked the expertise and training to manage the surveillance program.

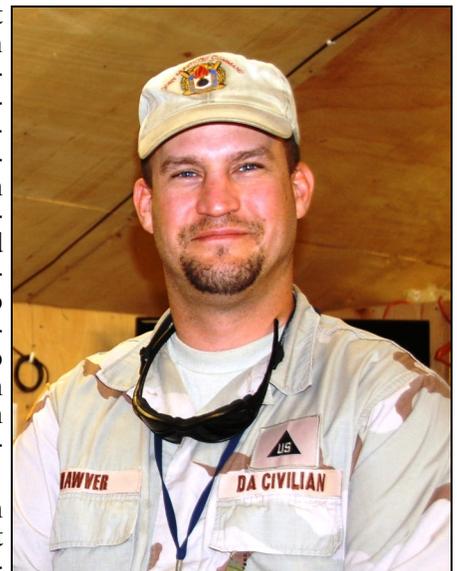
"They didn't know what right looked like," he said. "They were not QASAS trained."

"Matt has deployed as a QASAS multiple times before and called upon those experiences to bring a wealth of knowledge and mission awareness to his assignment as the Surveillance Chief at the Bagram Ammunition Supply Point," said Kyle Voelcker, Joint Munitions Command senior command representative. "Matt's technical expertise, leadership ability and management skills served the ASP mission well through teamwork and positive attitude."

Voelcker also said Hawver extended his tour in order to meet the need to assess how the Ammunition Surveillance mission

was being met at various location throughout Afghanistan. The observations and recommendations he provided have proven invaluable in determining where and how to direct available resources to bring the Surveillance mission to acceptable levels in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations.

"During his time in Afghanistan, Matt demonstrated a performance level and work ethic which has proven to be a true credit to the QASAS program, the 401st AFSB mission and the United States Army," Voelcker added. "Congratulations Matt on a job well done!"



Matthew Hawver, quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance), 401st Materiel Enterpriser for April 2011.

ANA maintenance mentorship expands skill areas

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan— A group of 10 Afghan National Army Soldiers arrived at Bagram Air Field June 6 to begin a 45-day maintenance mentorship program designed to enhance their vehicle maintenance skills.

The program is a joint effort of 401st Army Field Support Brigade, AFSBn-Afghanistan 401st AFSB, 101st Sustainment Brigade and the Afghan National Army, 201st Corps Logistic Kandak, and supports the counterinsurgency strategy outlined by Gen. David H. Petraeus, NATO International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan commander, in Field Manual 3-24, “Counterinsurgency.”

The first group to complete the maintenance mentorship program focused solely on mechanical maintenance for M1114 vehicles. The second group has expanded to have three of the Afghan Soldiers working on increasing their skills in Allied Trades.

“We are interested to learn mechanical training to learn skills to maintain our own vehicles,” said Staff Sgt. Faroz Popal. “This is good for our future and the people of my country.”

“We are eager to learn and share our skills and help our country,” said Soldier Sahib Nazar.

“I think it’s great,” said Sgt. Don A. McDonald, Special Troops Battalion, 101st SBDE, mission maintenance mentor. McDonald is one of two Soldiers from 101st SBDE who will accompany the Afghan Soldiers every step of the way during the mentorship program. Their job is to take care of everything they need to so they can focus on increasing their maintenance skills.

“I love this assignment,” Spc. Roderick E. Herbert, STB, 101st SBDE, said. “Being with a different culture, being with Soldiers, learning their language and customs.”

Herbert added that he thinks the Afghan Soldiers are getting a different view of the U.S. Soldiers.

“These guys are just like me,” he said. “They’re doing it for their country.”

Both McDonald and Herbert praised the support provided by the AFSBn-Bagram. Herbert said the Afghan welders working in the Allied Trades shop are a great help because they can accurately translate technical terms. He also said the staff at the Yelner dining facility was able to serve Afghan bread at one meal.

The three Afghan Soldiers at Allied Trades were working on basic shop safety and MIG welding on their first day.

“They’re improving their fundamental welding skills,” said Chris Parr, senior welder.

They will be working on fabrication, stick (TIG) welding, MIG welding, and in the paint shop said Chris Jones, shop lead.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jon P. Leland, AFSBn-Afghanistan Support Operations Officer said they will also be working on fiberglass repairs.

David Delage, Allied Trades supervisor, predicts that most of their time will be spent on stick welding – what he called the oldest and most common type of welding.

“It’s more of an art than a trade,” Delage said.

By day six of the maintenance mentorship program the welders had already designed and fabricated a sign, made a chair and had a design for lockers for their tent that will be their next project. Parr said they will soon be able to fabricate anything they can think of provided they have the raw materials.

“This is a great program for these guys,” said ‘Zack’ one of the two linguists accompanying the group. He added that he has been involved with several other programs to increase ANA skills in various areas. He hopes these Soldiers will be “fully mission capable” and ready and able to “take charge” after completing the program.

“This is a very good program,” said Staff Sgt. Taj Mohammad. “We want to be able to repair all the vehicles our Army will use.”



Left top: Rishor Naik works with Sgt. Masood Gul, 201st Corps Logistic Kandak, in the M1114 production shop on the first day of hands-on work in the maintenance mentorship program June 7.

Left bottom: Soldier Sayed Mohammad, 201st CLS Kandak, works on the engine of a M1114 vehicle in the M1114 production shop on the first day of hands-on work in the maintenance mentorship program June 7.



Right top: Afghan Soldiers, 201st CLS Kandak, practice MIG welding in the Allied Trades shop on their first day of hands-on work in the maintenance mentorship program June 7.

Right bottom: Staff Sgt. Dahdi Khuda, 201st CLS Kandak, stands by a sign fabricated by Afghan Soldiers participating in a maintenance mentorship program in the Allied Trades shop less than a week after they began hands-on work. The sign will be painted once the Soldiers begin work in the paint shop.



Clear the Yards – battle damaged/battle loss vehicles moving out

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan –Mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles have dramatically increased Soldier survivability but the vehicles themselves often sustain extensive damage due to ambush and improvised explosive devices.

Referred to as BD/BL, these battle damaged and ‘battle loss’ vehicles have been accumulating in yards and repair facilities across the Afghanistan theater. While BD/BL vehicles are quickly exchanged for serviceable vehicles, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command personnel at the 401st Army Field Support Brigade were faced with tons of unserviceable vehicles taking up precious storage space.

The answer was found in the Clear the Yards initiative. Triage teams composed of TACOM logistics assistance representatives, MRAP field support representatives and AC First contractors began inspecting 137 MRAPs and 131 other vehicles to assess the condition code of the vehicles.

“Each triage team represents more than 100 years of automotive experience,” said Gustavo A. Caruso, TACOM Senior Command Representative. “Clear the Yards is an accelerated process to remove the damaged vehicles the yards.”

Phase I of Clear the Yards began in late March according to Caruso and focused on identifying the condition code for each vehicle. Condition codes are shorthand for where and how or even if vehicles will be repaired. Of the 137 BD/BL MRAPs, 70 were found to be Code F meaning it is economically feasible to repair them locally. Code F-NRTS (not repairable at this station) accounted for 40 vehicles and the remaining 27 were

were found to be Code H or beyond repair.

Phase II began when the condition codes were determined and Caruso met with the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Support Operation Officer to advise the brigade of the number and condition codes for the BD/BL fleet.

“Their charge (Brigade SPO) was to locally open work orders for Code F and coordinate the turn-in of Code H vehicles to DRMO where they will be destroyed and cut into small pieces,” Caruso added. “Most of the Code F and H vehicles were completed by May 8.”

The hardest part of Phase II according to Caruso is dealing with the Code F-NRTS vehicles. Caruso said the vehicles have to be prepared for shipment to the maintenance support facility in Kuwait.

Caruso said the primary reason vehicles are assessed as NRTS is the length of time it will take to repair them.

“The criteria for the condition code F-NRTS vehicles is if these vehicles cannot be repaired locally within 60 days due to the extensive repairs needed then these vehicles will shipped to the Kuwait Maintenance Support Facility for repairs,” he said.

The NRTS vehicles are often so badly damaged that they have to be palletized in order to be loaded onto aircraft. Once palletized and inspected by Air Force personnel, the vehicles wait for ‘opportune air’ availability.

“The biggest challenge is getting the vehicles to Kuwait,” Caruso said. “They’re competing for air space with M1117s, M1151s and FMTVs that are being shipped back to CONUS.”

LARs key to Clearing the Yards

Two TACOM Logistics Assistance Representatives are key players in the 401st Army Field Support Brigade initiative to Clear the Yards by teaming with contractors from Joint Program Office-MRAP and AC First. They inspect battle damage/battle loss vehicles to determine how, where and if the vehicles will be repaired and returned to the fight.

Damon Jordan assigned to AFSBn-Bagram and Donald Kelly, Jr. assigned to AFSBn-Kandahar, inspected more than 130 MRAPs to assess condition codes. The codes determine where or if the vehicles will be repaired.

Jordan is in his first deployment as a TACOM LAR, but has deployed four times before becoming a LAR. Kelly has been a LAR for six years and is currently in his fifth deployment.

“My role in Operation Clear the Yards is to Work with a JPO (MRAP) Inspector and an AC First Inspector and physically look through all the battle damage equipment that is in the battle damage yard,” Jordan said. “Once an agreement is met between all parties on the condition code, I will tag the vehicle with a TACOM Placard listing the condition code, serial number, model number.”

Kelly explained that the condition code “would determine where the equipment will be sent for repairs or disposition.”

Kelly added that routing the equipment correctly cuts “down on the time it takes to get the equipment back into the fight.”

Jordan said that information on each vehicle is entered into spreadsheets that allow the brigade and TACOM facilities to maintain visibility of the equipment and plan work flow.

“Bottom line is LARS are here to support the Warfighter,” Kelly concluded.



Left top: Damon Jordan, TACOM LAR, places a placard on a battle loss/battle damage vehicle at AFSBn-Bagram. The placard lists the condition code, serial number, model number of the vehicle and allows for a quick visual determination of the vehicle’s routing for repair or disposition.

Left bottom: Donald Kelly, Jr., TACOM LAR, places a placard on a vehicle at AFSBn-Kandahar. The LARs are participating in a Clear the Yards initiative to expedite repair or disposition of Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles that are classified battle damage or battle loss. The Clear the Yards effort results in rapid and accurate disposition of unserviceable vehicles.

Mobile Parts Hospitals fabricate solutions for Soldiers

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan— Deployed Soldiers who need vehicle replacement parts to conduct their mission can't just drive to the local auto parts store, but they do have an option that provides custom parts sometimes in a matter of minutes.

Mobile Parts Hospitals, a TACOM Life Cycle Management Command managed program, have been supporting operations in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan since fiscal year 2004 and have produced 204,718 parts through fiscal year 2010. The two mobile parts hospitals operating from the 401st Army Field Support Brigade battalions account for nearly 28 percent of the total production. Significantly, MPH began operations at AFSBn-Afghanistan located at Bagram Air Field in fiscal year 2005 and AFSBn-Kandahar in fiscal year 2009. They fabricate vehicle parts, weapons mounting systems parts and special tooling in support of Operation Enduring Freedom U.S., coalition and allied forces. They have reach-back capability to leverage an 'overflow' MPH located in Kuwait.

"The Mobile Parts Hospital is a valuable tool that helps ensure mission success by producing the right part, at the point of need," said Deborah Solomon, TACOM Mobile Parts Hospital program manager. "We currently have six systems strategically located in Southwest Asia and since the deployment of our first MPH in 2003, have produced over 200,000 critical parts for the Warfighter."

Mobile Parts Hospitals provide manufacturing solutions where Soldiers need them and help assure Soldier readiness by fabricating parts in-theater that have a long lead-time or unattainable through the military supply system. Some of these parts are actually parts of other parts such as quick-release door pin assemblies for mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles. Some are completely new items that Soldiers designed or described.

"Having an MPH in theater helps prevent long waits for critical repair parts thus increasing readiness rates and reducing vehicle downtime," Solomon said.

"There are three ways work comes in," said Kevin Green, MAZAK operator at the AFSBn-Afghanistan MPH. "Somebody comes in with a part and we reverse engineer it; somebody comes in with a need and there's no part that can be ordered; or somebody comes in with a specification – often just a drawing on a napkin of what they need.

"Bring it on – come see us," Green said. "The idea behind MPH is rapid manufacture and turn around in minutes to hours to days depending on the complexity and quantity required."

The database for the parts ordering process is managed by Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center. TARDEC's program called Windchill sends automated email notifications to keep the process moving.

"When notified [by Windchill], our stateside engineer reviews and approves designs and modifications for parts requests and the accompanying AutoCAD drawing prior to production," said Solomon. "This whole process can be accomplished within hours."

Success stories for MPH abound starting with the recognition of a squad automatic weapon pintle mount assembly as one of the Army's Greatest Inventions for 2003. The design was developed by Alion Science and Technology who had previously partnered with TACOM in staffing mobile parts hospitals.

More recent successes at AFSBn-Afghanistan MPH include a water digger system designed to work in conjunction with the air digger apparatus on some route clearance vehicles. Using water causes improvised explosive devices to float to the surface so the interrogator arm can grasp the IED. The air/water digger is designed to function as air only, water only or air and water.

A written statement provided by Albert Ebner, Mobile Parts Hospital Field Service Representative for Afghanistan stated, "Water as an IED excavation tool is not the answer to the IED problem. It is merely another tool or system the operator can bring to bear to defeat the threat."

The MPH team at Bagram also recently designed and manufactured a prototype tool to remove a plastic bushing without damaging the impeller inside the bushing for a CH-47F Chinook helicopter part. The tool, which uses a slide hammer to tap the bushing out of the hole, is currently being evaluated by the customer.

The Bagram team has also fabricated parts for coalition partners by designing and supplying weapons mounts for Polish troops to use with their vehicles and working with the U.S. Air Force on projects to support Afghan Air Force equipment.

"We bring U.S. compressors and ground equipment but have to have parts manufactured to make the equipment compatible with the Russian helicopters the Afghan Air Force uses," said Air Force Staff Sgt. John Kneen, 440th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron helicopter crew chief. "The Mobile Parts Hospital saves time and money."

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Yohanna N. McPherson, 440th AEAS nondestructive inspections technician said members of the unit come to Bagram about once a month to drop off a work order and pick up parts placed on order the previous month.

"We work with NATO Air Training command and train Afghan helicopter maintainers," McPherson said. "We brought our tools, but they use Russian helicopters and MPH adapts tools for us."

"The last time we came here, we left with 160 pounds of parts," she said. "Information on MPH was passed down from the previous unit."

See MPH page 9



Above left: Kevin Green, MAZAK operator at Mobile Parts Hospital located at AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Bagram Air Field, checks the computer assisted lathe as it manufactures a special tool that will be used on Apache aircraft. **Above center:** Air Force Staff Sgt. John Kneen, 440th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron looks at a part fabricated by the Bagram Mobile Parts Hospital. His unit works with NATO Air Training Command to train Afghan helicopter maintainers. They use MPH to fabricate parts to adapt their U.S. equipment to work on the Russian helicopters the Afghan Air Force uses. **Above Right:** Tim Gelios and Kevin Lewis, Kandahar Mobile Parts Hospital, with a drag hook fabricated by the Kandahar MPH team for use by Explosive Ordnance Disposal and other specialized units in dealing with unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices.

LCMCs cost avoidance – AMCOM LARs save \$41 million

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan— Army Materiel Command's four Life Cycle Management Commands are saving some big bucks in the Afghan theater of operations.



Rick A. Ehrhardt, Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command logistics assistance representative, and Sgt. Matthew R. Vandecar, machinist for Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, Bagram, look at a repair being made to a CH-47F landing gear.

The commands, Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command, Communications and Electronics LCMC, Joint Munitions Command and Tank-automotive and Armaments LCMC, have senior command representatives and logistics assistance representatives at locations across the 401st Army Field Support Brigade footprint who are using a variety of methods to reclaim, repair and reuse valuable pieces of equipment necessary to support the maneuver units.

AMCOM provides technical experts who have the skills and experience to provide on-site repairs and fabricate parts for fixed, rotary and unmanned aircraft systems and missile systems. By completing repairs in theater, huge savings in both money and time are realized on a daily basis.

“What we do is a combat multiplier,” said David Field, AMCOM senior command representative. “We keep aircraft in the fight.”

Field said aircraft come in for phase inspections at regular intervals and Soldiers assigned to Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group and contractors will complete an in-depth inspection of the aircraft. Problems or discrepancies outside the scope of the technical manuals are noted on maintenance engineering call forms. The MECs are initiated by LARs who determine how the repairs will be completed in conjunction with the Aviation Engineering Directorate liaison engineer.

The options include on-site repair, having the aircraft sent to a repair facility in southwest Asia, having the aircraft make an 8,000 mile trip to a source of repair in the U.S. or having a repair team fly to the aircraft.

“LARs are the backbone of the MECs,” said Field. “They can offer alternatives and bring the expertise of a depot team on site.”

Recently Rick A Ehrhardt, AMCOM LAR, was working with TASM-G Soldiers and contractors on three repairs. They included replacing a floor beam in a CH-47 D, replacing an overhead T-cap for an aft pylon on another air frame and completing a ‘depot level repair’ consisting of fabricating oversized bushings and reaming out lugs to repair an upper drag link for landing gear.

“These guys are metal artists,” Ehrhardt said, referring to the TASM-G contractors who fabricate 90 percent of the replacement parts on site. He was particularly proud of the parts manufactured for the overhead beam because they required numerous compound bends.

Field is able to track cost savings through reviewing the 575 MECs calendar year to date for the Afghan theater and reports cost avoidance of \$41.2 million from Jan. 1 to May 9, 2011. He said the AMCOM LARs, AED liaison engineers, TASM-G Soldiers and contractors all contribute. He added that there are only about 35 LARs for the entire Afghanistan theater engaged in these efforts.

“This small group saves a lot of money,” he said. He also said the aircraft are part of an aging fleet that is flown for many hours at high altitudes and under conditions that put a lot of stress on the airframes.

Ehrhardt called them ‘old horses’ but added that thanks to teamwork, the “aircraft get out in a timely fashion and FMC [fully mission capable] to remain in the fight in a safe way.”



Above: Justin Doyle, sheet metal mechanic, Sgt. Matthew R. Vandecar, machinist and Rick A. Ehrhardt, Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command logistics assistance representative, look at a floor beam for a CH-47F aircraft that will be replaced in theater instead of the aircraft having to be flown over 8,000 miles for repairs at a depot.



Left: David M. Field, Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command senior command representative and Rick A. Ehrhardt, AMCOM LCMC logistics assistance representative, look at a part fabricated at Bagram Air Field that will enable workers to

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Six Armored Security Vehicles were driven from an AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade holding area June 10 by Bulgarian troops en route to Pol-e Charki Afghan National Army Military Garrison.

The vehicles were signed for by Maj. Robert L. Hill, CSTC-A Security Assistance Officer, and will be used for training at the ANA Armor School. A one year loan of the vehicles was approved by U.S. Army Central Command.

New Medium ASVs will be fielded to the ANA beginning in November under a U.S. Army Foreign Military Sales process. The new vehicles will share 70 percent commonality with the current ASV according to a written press release from Program Executive Office for Combat Support and Combat Service Support.

“The Bulgarians who are already using the ASVs will be able to assist in training the ANA Soldiers until they get their ASVs in November” Hill said. “Then they will be ready to go.”

“One of the reasons the Army selected the ASV for the ANA mission was based on its proven logistics,” said Lt. Col. Mark Morano, the Army’s product manager for the ASV. “The ASV’s ease of maintenance and repair will allow for the eventual mission transition from the U.S. to the ANA, giving the ANA the capability to accomplish these tasks and provide for its own internal security.”

Hill said the Bulgarian Soldiers driving the vehicles to the Pol-e Charki is an example of our coalition partners’ support. He said they were able to get the vehicles to their destination quickly instead of having to wait for the ASVs to be loaded onto trucks for transport.



Above: Bulgarian Soldiers perform checks before driving M-1117 Armored Security Vehicles from an AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade holding area June 10.
Right: Maj. Robert L. Hill, CSTC-A Security Assistance Officer, inspects M-1117 Armored Security Vehicles before he signs for them June 10. The vehicles are being loaned to the Af-



Above: Bulgarian Soldiers deliver six M-1117 Armored Security Vehicles to Pol-e Charki Afghan National Army Military Garrison June 10. The vehicles will be loaned to the Afghan National Army for training purposes with the Bulgarian Soldiers who are already using the M1117s assisting in training the Afghan Soldiers.

401st AFSB Commander addresses AUSA symposium

Col. Richard B. O’Connor, (center left) 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, speaks during the Association of the United States Army’s Institute of Land Warfare Army Sustainment Symposium and Exposition May 11 in Richmond, Va. O’Connor’s topic ‘Sustaining the Force in Operation Enduring Freedom’ allowed him to discuss how the brigade leverages the Materiel Enterprise to provide a full range of support for maneuver units.

“Our ‘Team of Teams,’ the 401st AFSB organization, is meeting current support requirements and posturing itself to meet future challenges,” O’Connor said to symposium attendees. “From providing Army Materiel Enterprise CJOA-wide coverage, mentoring ANA mechanics, to running critical redistribution hubs, our goal remains to be the Single Entry Point for Integration and Synchronization for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology between tactical level and the Materiel Enterprise while enhancing unit readiness and improving combat capability,”



Force Protection calls in the dogs



Physical Security and Force Protection concerns are always a concern for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade S2 shop. Whether it's increasing the t-wall barriers around the brigade footprint to offer improved IDF mitigation, meeting with local contractors on the 401st perimeter to build relationships of trust and

address concerns or performing Random Anti-Terrorism Measures (RAMs), the S2 is always looking for ways to improve protection.

Recently S2 invited Combined Joint Task Force 101 Military Working Dogs (MWD) to the 401st headquarters to complete a sweep for drugs and bombs. This small but highly specialized unit is comprised of 10 U.S. Soldiers and 20 working dogs; the dogs are in a variety of working stages. The dogs and handlers cleared each office and structure in the brigade footprint.

The unit serves Bagram Air Field and other areas in the Afghanistan theater of operations. They assist many government entities with a variety of tasks. Soldier deployments are short but the dogs remain for several years. Many dogs return to the

but the dogs remain for several years. Many dogs return to the U.S. for either additional service with law enforcement agencies or are adopted through companies such as the Military Working Dog Foundation, Inc. www.militaryworkingdogs.com.



Far left: Petty Officer 3rd Class Cameron Frost and Rokio, Joint Task Force 101 Military Working Dogs search an office area during a sweep of 401st Army Field Support Brigade headquarters footprint May 5. **Left:** Senior Airman, Robert Aikins and Frodo search the Sabre Operations Center as part of S2 Force Protection measures throughout the 401st AFSB footprint.

MPH *continued from page 6*



Above left: Close up of a prototype puller tool to be used in special applications on Apache aircraft. **Above right:** A water digger apparatus provides expanded capability for Soldiers to locate and disable improvised explosive devices by causing the IED to rise to the surface.

Timothy Gelios, Kandahar MPH site lead and Kevin S. Lewis have been busy supporting units in the southern and western areas of Afghanistan by fabricating a prototype mini mine roller and by supplying Explosive Ordnance Disposal

and other specialized units with a 'grappling hook' device used to pull IEDs out of the ground from a safe distance. Additionally the hooks can be used to roll bodies over to ensure there are no hidden explosives on the bodies.

"In the past, Soldiers were bending re-bar and hanging it off of their bags [to pull IEDs and roll bodies]," said Gelios. "Not only is it heavy but, it gets in the way. Our grappling hook is light weight and can be stored in a pocket of back pack."

They have fabricated approximately 600 the hooks so far and continue to get orders of about 20 to 30 at a time from units. Gelios was careful to point out that while commonly called 'grappling hooks' they are really drag hooks and should not

be used for climbing applications.

"We have been told on many occasions that these hooks are saving our Soldiers' lives every day," Gelios said. "It is truly a proud moment to hear a Soldier thank us for our services and to know that we are a major factor in saving their lives. We truly love our Soldiers and want nothing but safety for them. Mobile Parts Hospital is a contract that was made to make the Soldiers' jobs and missions easier. I am proud to be a part of the team."

Reese Walker, Bagram MPH site lead, said he would like to see the mobile parts hospitals move forward and be located at Forward Operating Bases that do not have the machine shop capabilities that more mature installations like Bagram and Kandahar Air Bases offer.

"I know there are Soldiers out there that need something we can make here," Walker said.

Mobile parts hospitals are customized self-contained portable machine shops consisting of a 7-ton MAZAK lathe, advanced computer work stations and communications. The units fielded to support OEF also include a manual mill and lathe module. They maintain stocks of alloy steel, carbon steel, stainless steel, high-grade aluminum and high-grade brass in sizes up to six inches in diameter but can work with larger sized material when required and available.

Contact the Bagram MPH at mini03bagrammobilepartshospital@mmcs.army.mil; and the Kandahar MPH at mphkaf@mmcs.army.mil. The staff at both mobile parts hospitals are ready and waiting to assist Soldiers and units in any way they can to make the missions safer and easier for the Soldier.

Serving Together

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Deployments often mean family separation but some members of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade manage to hold family reunions in theater.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnny D. Allen, 401st Maintenance Officer deployed in October 2010 and his son Spc. Johnny Devin Allen, 900th Maintenance Company, Alabama National Guard, deployed in August 2010.

Allen volunteered for his deployment when his son's unit was notified they would be mobilized last year.

"I wanted to come with him," Chief Warrant Officer 4 Allen said. He added that he has the full support of his family during this joint deployment.

Johnny Devin Allen, from Brundidge, Ala., turned 22-years old and celebrated the birth of his first child during his deployment.

Sgt. Nora L. Burden, AFSBn-Bagram, served part of her deployment while her sister, Sgt. 1st Class Gloria A. Wilson was deployed with her unit in eastern Afghanistan.

In an unusual twist, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Allen is Sgt. Burden's supervisor in the civilian sector. Allen and Burden are military technicians with Equipment Concentration Site 151, Fort Rucker, Ala. Allen is the ESC manager and Burden is a supply technician.

A second unusual twist is that Chief Warrant Officer 4 Allen and Sgt. 1st Class Wilson drilled together with the 377th Theater Support Command in New Orleans, La.

A third twist is that Allen, Wilson and Burden grew up within a few miles of each other.

Deployed Spouses

Kim Morton, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB executive assistant, and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Scott A. Morton served together for several months.

Sgt. 1st Class Morton deployed with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, last year and Kim decided to accept a position with the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st in order to be with him.

"That's why I did it," she said referring to her deployment. "I know what it's like to be a spouse and I know what it's like to be deployed. If he ever deploys again I can help the families [of other deployed Soldiers]."

In their own unusual twist, the Morton's had another family member deployed during the same timeframe.

Spc. Rusty Morton, was deployed to Afghanistan during part of his father's deployment. Kim said she got to see each other when Spc. Morton came through Bagram Air Field for his rest and recuperation leave.



Far left: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnny D. Allen, 401st Army Field Support Brigade and his son Spc. Johnny Devin Allen, 900th Maintenance Company, Alabama National Guard, enjoy some time together during their deployments.
Center left: Sgt. Nora L. Burden, AFSBn-Bagram, and her sister Sgt. 1st Class Gloria A. Wilson, served parts of their deployments at the same time.
Right: Sgt. 1st Class Scott A. Morton, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and his wife, Kimberly Morton, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB executive assistant, at the AFSBn-Bagram Hail and Farewell May 7



Editor's note: Anyone who wants to be featured in "Serving Together" should contact Summer Barkley by emailing Mary.s.barkley@afghan.swa.army.mil.



Beauty can be found in many places as shown in the photos taken by Patricia J. West, Logistics Task Force FOB Sharana. West handles S1,S3/S4-Housing, S5 and is the executive assistant to the LTF commander and she took time to recognize the beauty around her and share it with the rest of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade. Thanks



Theater provided construction equipment refurbished to like new

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Scrapers, motor graders, compactors, rollers and DEUCE earth movers are some of the pieces of construction equipment brought back to almost new condition by CAT TPE-R.

The vehicles were all manufactured by Caterpillar and receive regular refurbishment at CAT TPE-R shops at the 401st Army Field Support Brigade's battalions located at Bagram Air Field and Kandahar Air Field. The acronym TPE-R stands for theater provided equipment -refurbishment.

At two year intervals, the equipment is brought to the shop where it will undergo a cycled maintenance complete refurbishment lasting 60 days. The contract requires completion of the refurbishment work within 60 days of submission of the estimate.

"We field to depot-level repair status," said Mark Kovach, site manager and contracting officer's representative for the CAT TPE-R program. "We tear engines and transmissions to nothing and build them back up. We have the manufacturer's technical expertise here on the ground. The only thing we don't have is machining capability"

Units bring in their equipment and receive a one-for-one direct exchange so the Soldiers have equipment that is vital to their missions. The equipment is used for building Forward Operating Bases, runways and other infrastructure projects.

The CAT TPE-R program was stood up at the request of Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin when he commanded Army Materiel Command in order to have forward repair capability for construction and material handling equipment Kovach said.

Mike J. Hynes, Site Manager, Cat RESET Facility, Bagram, said approximately 90 percent of his workforce has been working at the Bagram facility since the beginning.



Above: Workers at the Bagram CAT TPE-R shop work on a 621B scraper. Caterpillar construction equipment is refurbished to Condition Code B—used equipment in like new condition. Engines and transmissions are completely rebuilt and the equipment is thoroughly tested before being passed by Quality Assurance inspectors. The AFSBn-Bagram CAT TPE-R shop has completed refurbishment of more than 115 vehicles over the last three years.

Right: A worker at the AFSBn-Bagram CAT TPE-R shop works on a D7G medium bulldozer.



The Bagram facility has refurbished more than 115 vehicles over the last three years bringing the vehicles to condition code B – used equipment in like new condition. They use the same processes of initial inspection and testing that can be found in any Caterpillar repair facility in the world. They use all Caterpillar parts except hoses they fabricate on-site and tires they buy through the supply system.

The shop tests and inspects throughout the process and maintains records to show the AFSBn quality assurance inspectors when they come for the final inspections.

"We have a very good record of delivering high quality work, we have a very good reputation with the QA inspection team" said Hynes. "The technicians here are very proud of their quality accomplishments. You can feel the mood in the shop change as they prepare for an inspection; they get quiet, and go about their business with very deliberate precision. Their hearts are in their throats during the inspection, and they are jubilant when the inspector gives his approval. We have completed well over 110 machines during the time we have been here and they are always genuinely excited every time a machine passes QA inspection."

This dedication to quality work was recognized when Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, 401st AFSB commander, presented the shop with a certificate in recognition of 40 consecutive first-time passes by QA.



Above: A D7G medium bulldozer is in the midst of a complete refurbishment at the CAT TPE-R shop at the AFSBn-Bagram CAT TPE-R shop. The shop is able to provide the manufacturer's technical experience in theater and return a like new piece of equipment to units tasked with various types of heavy construction projects.

Town hall meetings provide chance for questions and answers

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Military, civilians and contractors who work for 401st Army Field Support Brigade and AFSBn-Bagram gathered during a series of town hall meetings held by the command group and open to all employees.

Hosted by Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, 401st AFSB commander, the meetings gave employees an opportunity to hear O'Connor discuss current and future issues and a chance to address questions directly to the commander.

Sessions were divided into two groups – sessions for military and Department of Army civilians and separate sessions for contractors because benefits and policies for contractors are spelled out in their contracts and may differ from military and civilian benefits and policies.

“We’re here to determine the

health of the brigade through discussion and feedback with the 401st AFSB community,” O'Connor said at the start of each meeting. He added that he had a command climate survey completed in March with over 500 responses followed by Inspector General sensing sessions.

“The sensing sessions revealed “some things I didn’t know and some things I did know,” O'Connor said.

The town hall sessions for military and civilians focused heavily on housing issues while those for contractors focused on a broader range of quality of life issues.

Two brigade staff members were recording the questions and issues raised during the sessions so the concerns could be accurately captured for follow-up and future action as necessary.



Military and civilian members of 401st Army Field Support Brigade gather for a town hall meeting with the brigade commander May 2. The meeting provided information and an opportunity to ask questions of the brigade leadership.

Photo by Alice Grimaldi

Rec Center opens for 401st community at Bagram

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — A ribbon cutting was held May 3 to mark the grand opening of an expanded recreation center built by AC First for their contractor personnel but open to all 401st Army Field Support Brigade and AFSBn-Bagram personnel.

Open 24 hours a day and housing a ‘movie theater’, computer room, game room and fitness room the 7000 square foot facility is more than three times the size of the previous 2000 square foot facility.

“During the force package surge, the plan for the rec center surfaced,” Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, 401st AFSB commander said to a crowd of about 150 waiting for the ribbon cutting. He added that the idea had been presented before but failed to gain approval.

O'Connor said his reply consisted of two words, “Hell yeah.”

Todd Starin, program manager for AC First-Afghanistan, said he decided to approach O'Connor after hearing the commander talk about the importance of balance.

Starin said the recreation center is ‘like a ministry to the whole AMC complex,’ but the computer room is a huge benefit for the Indian workforce. He added that the 40-foot container that previously housed the computer room was sent to AFSBn-Kandahar to benefit the workforce there.

“This is one of the most significant events of my three years on the compound,” Starin said.

Calling the new facility “spot on,” Command Sgt. Maj.



Above: The newly expanded recreation center includes a computer lab, fitness center, movie room and game room. Open to all 401st personnel, the computer lab and fitness centers are the most popular with

Rex A. Ray, 401st AFSB command sergeant major, noted that “everyone here is sacrificing and I believe this will be a great morale booster.”

“This is great teamwork between the brigade and AC First,” said Command Sgt. Maj. James Davis, AFSBn-Bagram command sergeant major. “This is a quality of life benefit for the contractors but open to all.”

Shelia James, recreation center lead coordinator, said computer lab is the most popular part of the center with the fitness center a close second.

James gave a tip on the best times to use the recreation center, “DFAC hours, we’re busy and from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. we’re extremely busy.”

401st Army Field Support Brigade

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Contributions to *Forward Deployed* are welcome. The PAO reserves the right to edit submissions for style, clarity or fit.

Strength and Honor

Combating stress

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan— A very special Sgt. 1st Class, known only by his first name, visited the 401st Army Field Support headquarters recently.

Sgt. 1st Class Timmy is a therapy dog working with the Combat Stress Center on Bagram. His mission is to get as many people as possible to pet him.

“My job is to be a therapy dog to help you manage some of your stress,” Sgt. 1st Class Timmy said in a written statement. “I am here for you to play with me and pet me.”

Capt. Theresa Schillreff is always at Sgt. 1st Class Timmy’s side. The two can be seen around the installation and are always willing to stop for a moment.

The therapy dog is one of the services offered by the Combat Stress Center. While all CSCs may not have a therapy dog, the centers are located across the Afghanistan theater and can be found by going to combatstresscenter.com. The Bagram CRC can be reached at 431-4639.

The first Freedom Restoration Center opened at Bagram in January and is a voluntary combat stress program for U.S. and coalition forces designed to maximize Restoration and Return –To-Duty for those with temporary combat stress reactions. The center can be reached at 481-6882.



Left: Carolyn Rice and Spc. Ashleigh Titre pet Sgt. 1st Class Timmy, a therapy dog from Combat Stress Center.

Above: Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, spends a moment with Sgt. 1st Class Timmy.