

E-Board: Changing the way we do business



By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

If you journey up to the Army Sustainment Command Headquarters' Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement office, you will find a wall that is reminiscent of elementary school, but the content is 21st century management. It is changing the way the ASC is doing business.

The Enterprise Board or E-Board is a

high-level picture of the information that is tracked by the CACIO. Information that is gathered by the Enterprise Catalog and Assessment Tool is recorded and is displayed and scrutinized on the board.

"The ECAT is a spreadsheet that categorizes any opportunity or finding in a number of ways across the command," said program analyst Kari Gallagher. "The spreadsheet then allows us to analyze, track trends, look for patterns, and gain

an overall picture of the command."

The E-board is nothing more than an enlarged spreadsheet. It provides a friendlier format for looking at information. It presents data in an easy-to-understand table by location and functional area, called "buckets."

"Right now you can find many opportunities for improvement on this board. There are a wide variety of sources of

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LSE finds success at Fort Benning

By James Harris
406th AFSB

Logistics Support Element - Benning Georgia Team continued its focus and kept up its zeal toward mission, as was done at the beginning of the year. Training, deployments, Reset and supporting the Left-Behind Equipment Program were our biggest challenges and with the unification of the team, we were successful. As for the Reset Program, all of the systems enrolled were accomplished with the support of all the team members, regardless of whether it was at the field or national level.

Our Logistics Assistance Representatives are the service providers, as well as support members at the distance locations - and were inspirational in making this program work.

Our team has made the local Reset Program for the M88 Recovery Vehicle our flagship operation, as this program has continued to improve since it began. The Directorate of Logistics maintainers operate the program with one of their contract teams and the team is meeting and/or exceeding their monthly production goal.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO
A 1st Cav M88 recovery vehicle.

Quarters One finds its place in history

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

For the past eight months, my wife, Sara, and I have had the distinct privilege of living in Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal. That privilege came to an end in late February, when we packed our belongings and moved down the road to Quarters Six, another of the Arsenal's historic residences.

Since its construction in 1871, Quarters One has served as the residence of the ranking officer on the Arsenal and his family. I was the 38th officer to call Quarters One home – and now, presumably, the last.



home. Nearly every day, I saw something unique or beautiful or interesting about Quarters One that I hadn't noticed before, and I'm sure I'd have made even more discoveries if I'd lived there longer.

Despite its size, Quarters One has many spots that are very cozy, and where you can really make yourself feel at home. I spent many relaxing moments watching the Mississippi River flow by, and observing the bald eagles that visit the Quad Cities every winter and often perch in tall trees on the Arsenal.

Quarters One has 51 rooms, 10 fireplaces and more than 22,000 square feet of floor space, which makes it the second-largest federal residence in the United States behind the White House. As impressive as those numbers are, they do not begin to capture the scale and the grandeur of Quarters One, nor the quality and care of workmanship that went into constructing and maintaining this magnificent



US ARMY PHOTO

Quarters One was the second largest government-owned residence, next to the White House.

Although Quarters One became my home, I never felt a sense of ownership about the place. I knew that this residence was constructed and paid for by the American people, and that it truly belonged to the people.

Considering the sweeping scale and rich history of Quarters One, and its place in the annals of the Arsenal and the community, no one person could ever truly claim to own this place. It has left its mark on everyone who has lived here, worked here and visited here, and stands alone as a wonder of the Victorian Era that can never be duplicated and will always be appreciated.

While it may be priceless, Quarters One is also very costly, and needs an estimated \$3 million in repairs and upgrades to bring it up to modern standards. As a result, it's no longer practical to maintain Quarters One as a military residence. This is a decision which I understand and support, but also regret.

At this point, it's unknown what will happen to Quarters One, nor what its ultimate use will become. I personally hope that it is preserved in all its splendor for decades to come, and that it will be accessible to the public and enjoyed by as many people as possible.

Quarters One is certainly worth saving, and is a part of our history that should be safeguarded for future generations. May it stand forever as a symbol of strength and beauty and as a tribute to the many lives which it impacted. (See related story on page 8)

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Contributions to The Global Line are welcome.

E-mail address: ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil

Phone: (309) 782-5421, DSN 793-5421.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
 Commanding General

Daniel M. Carlson
 Public Affairs Officer

Charles W. Fick Jr.
 Managing Editor

Rhys E. Fullerlove
 Editor



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information for the board: inspection teams, evaluation teams, staff assistance visits, internal review findings, Lean Six Sigma workshops and ASC Logistics Support and Evaluation team evaluations,” Gallagher said.

It allows the commanding general to see an enterprise-wide picture of continuous improvement, scan to see where risks exist, and direct effort to those areas.

“Continuous improvement is the engine that drives this command,” said Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command. “We can make strides in continuous improvement by helping each other.”

The E-board can help people at all levels in the command. It helps evaluation and inspection teams by portraying a sense of problems and successes discovered at a location or in a particular functional area during other teams’ trips, prior to conducting site visits.

The board also supports ASC staff by identifying trends, improvement opportunities, and continuous improvement events in their functional areas, then comparing them to other functional areas throughout ASC. It almost forces a look outside the “stovepipe”, promoting cross functional cooperation and collaboration.

It allows brigade commanders to look at the “state of the command” for their area of operation relative to various assessments and continuous improvement initiatives. They can learn about and replicate best practices from other brigades.

An example of how the E-board can help the command and



US ARMY PHOTO BY GALEN PUTNAM

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin explains the benefits of the E-Board.

and make it better across the command, is a way that we are helping the Soldier in the field.

“This board allows us to focus on improving processes that are in direct support of Soldiers and units,” said Director, Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement Office, Jerry DeLaCruz. “That enables us to provide them with the best equipment on time.”

Currently, the E-board is in its first stages of development.

“Right now it is just a visual prototype of how we envision the future ECAT,” said DeLaCruz. “In the future, the ECAT will reside in software, but we want the ability to visualize a whole board.”

The board is not only changing the way ASC is doing business but is also standardizing it as well.

“The board facilitates standardization of best practices across the command,” said DeLaCruz. “When we figure out what the new and improved processes are at one location, we then can standardize that as the way of doing business across the command.”

the Soldier would be if two brigades are having problems with a type of vehicle. The trend can be tracked on the board and a team and be dispatched to look into the problem. The solutions then can be shared with other brigades and cut down time to return the vehicle to a ready status.

“We can identify issues that could be a problem before they become big problems for the Soldier and cut it off,” Gallagher said. “Any time we can make a process better,

406th, AFSBn-A play key roles in MRAP mission

**By Joe Kirby
406th AFSB**

Requirements for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles in the Global War on Terrorism increased dramatically in 2007, and Charleston plays a prominent role in filling these requirements. Charleston has been designated the joint transportation Aerial Port of Embarkation for MRAP vehicles going to Southwest Asia. Movement of Marine Corps MRAPs by Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Charleston began April 2007. US Army new production MRAP transportation requirements began mid-September 2007.

The Army Sustainment Command tasked the 406th Army Field Support Brigade and the Army Field Support Battalion-

ion-Afloat to establish a cargo expeditor team at Charleston to handle the mission. AFSBn-A’s operating contractor, DynCorp, provides needed personnel for the team. The AFSBn-A team also coordinates with DynCorp to provide required security teams to accompany any non-U.S. flag airlift.

The process involves receipt of new factory-built MRAPs at the SPAWAR Integration Facility. This facility is run by SPAWAR’s contractor, Eagan-McAllister, at the old Naval Shipyard. There, MRAPs for Army, Navy and Marine Corps receive add-on communications/electronics systems, and are configured for transport. One of the actions of DynCorp, the AFSBn-A contractor, is to assemble and install Objective Gunner’s Protective Kits.

The AFSBn-A team receives vehicles from the Integration Facility, adds them to the Army property accountability system, and processes them for overseas transport to Southwest Asia. Initially, all vehicles were sent via air transport through the Charleston Air Force Base.

Manufacturers have now increased production, and movement now includes sea transport to SWA and Charleston Naval Weapons Station has become the Sea Port of Embarkation.

Thousands of MRAP vehicles will be shipped from Charleston, S.C. to SWA in support of our nation’s Global War on Terrorism. AFSBn-A coordinates with many units in this high profile joint effort to provide the most advanced equipment to the warfighter

Motorcycle safety gets Army Strong

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

As the warm weather slowly returns, motorcycle enthusiasts - including those affiliated with the Army - start hitting the road again.

Motorcycling has become increasingly popular in the Army with 33, 425 motorcycles currently registered on U.S. Army installations. At Rock Island Arsenal there are over 215 registered riders.

To promote safe operations, the Army Chief of Staff now requires a Six Point Program developed by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center to be used by all Army units.

While its accident rates are substantially lower than those of the general public, the Army is experiencing an increase in motorcycle-related fatalities, according to a CRC report.

A June 2006 National Highway Traffic and Safety report said, "In 2005, motorcycles made up nearly 2.4 percent of all registered vehicles in the United States and accounted for only 0.3 percent of all vehicle miles traveled. In comparison, motorcycle riders accounted for 5.3 percent of all traffic fatalities in 1995 and have increased to 9.4 percent of the total traffic fatalities in 2004."

According to Army safety experts, accidents can be

prevented by choosing the correct motorcycle, and having the proper equipment and training. The first step is attending a Motorcycle Safety Foundation-approved course. Motorcycle safety courses are required and provided at U.S. Army installations. All riders must meet the requirements of the MSF course, which is provided to Soldiers and DoD civilians free of charge.

Every year the Rock Island Arsenal offers the Experienced Rider Course which is a MSF-approved course. No firm dates have been set yet for the course, but Mike Chaplin, a safety and occupational health specialist for the Rock Island Arsenal Garrison, said plans call for classes in April, June and September. But is not required if rider has already passed a MSF-approved course.

The on-island course is taught on weekends, with classroom training usually on Friday evening and riding instruction on Saturday and Sunday.

Like any activity, motorcycling can be very dangerous, Chaplin said. Although eliminating motorcycle accidents is unlikely, thorough training and preparation can reduce them, he noted. The goal is to make riding motorcycles fun rather than fatal.

For more information about motorcycle safety, visit the CRC website or go to this link, <https://crc.army.mil/mmp/safety.asp>.

Another Lean Six Sigma success story

Rapid Improvement Event saves time and money



Kuwait - Enabling Up-Armored HMMWV (UAH) Kaizen (RIE)



The way we used to do it...

- Poor process flow resulted in excessive transportation steps adding days to cycle time and decreasing production.
- Preparation for communication systems occurs in same building as radio installs; however, at a later time.
- Tasker over-processing and redundant paperwork from multiple contractors and Army functions (no central point of information), and early tie-in of UAH serial number to tasker prevents flexibility when priorities change resulting in excessive rework or excess inventory.
- Supplies not on hand or they had to be re-shipped for installation.

The changes we made...

- Instituted one-piece process flow eliminating wasteful transportation steps.
- Preparation and radio install occur at same time eliminating transportation step.
- Use of new central spreadsheet contains all information and location of vehicle in process. Subsequent tie-in of serial number after enabling begins allows flexibility when priorities change.
- One enabler install shifted closer to user and supply reception point. Use of vehicle "punch card" provides easy to read vehicle configuration requirement.



	Current State	Future State	Percent Improvement
Transportation Process Steps (Number)	16 Moves	5 Moves	69%
Communication Prep and Radio Installation	2 days	0.5 day	75%
Tasker Paperwork	Disjointed/Excessive/Rigid	Central/Lean/Flexible	Reduces delays
Cycle Time (Days / Component)	17Days / Component	3 Days / Component	82%

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PETE GAA (MBB), 713-416-1272 OR TOM FERGUSON (BB), 309-782-1211

AFSBn-NEA dedicates new Korea facility

By Galen Putnam
ASC Public Affairs

Camp Carroll, known as the “Crown Jewel” of Area IV, or Korea’s Southern Region, added a new gem to its collection Feb. 26, as a new maintenance facility was dedicated in honor of a Korean War Medal of Honor recipient.

The U.S. Army Field Support Battalion – North East Asia conducted a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for its new \$15 million, 51,000 square-foot maintenance facility named for Pfc. Melvin L. Brown, who was killed in hand-to-hand combat near Daegu in the early weeks of the conflict.

The facility boasts 16 maintenance bays, four 30-ton overhead cranes, eight 50-ton floor lifts, centralized lubrication and compressed air.

“Opening this maintenance facility is a proud moment in the history of this battalion,” Lt. Col. Karl Bopp, AFSBn-NEA battalion commander, said to the crowd of distinguished visitors, guests and employees gathered for the event. “This state-of-the-art facility provides capabilities that are commensurate with our world-class workforce. This facility will enable us to continue to maintain Army Prepositioned Stocks-4 at the highest level of readiness and ensure our equipment is ready to fight tonight.”

Namesake of the facility, Pfc. Melvin L. Brown, Company D, 8th Engineer Combat Battalion, was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism and gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against enemy forces near Kasan (just north of Daegu), Korea Sept. 4, 1950.

“Pfc. Brown was in Korea for only about a month, but while here, he gave his all – literally. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his friends and fellow Soldiers, for his country, for the Republic of Korea and for freedom,” Bopp said. “While his heroics are, indeed, the stuff of legend, Pfc. Brown was selected from among many very fitting candidates – in part because he is one of us – he was a combat engineer and diesel mechanic. How fitting is that? In addition, he died just a few miles away from here near Daegu. It is truly fitting that Pfc. Brown be memorialized, as we dedicate this facility in his honor.”

Brown’s sister, Sylvia Rich of Moline, Ill., was guest of honor at the ceremony.

“Yesterday, we visited the battle site where Melvin was killed. The area is now a park – a quiet, peaceful park. I can hardly imagine what it was like so many years ago when Melvin and his friends were fighting for their lives,” she said. “Over the years I have often thought about the sacrifice that so many young Soldiers like my brother made in the name of freedom. It is still painful to think about it after all of these years, but it helps to know that what they did helped lead to such a prosperous nation and freedom for millions of Koreans.”

Rich was particularly pleased the building bearing her brother’s name is a maintenance facility.

“Who would imagine such a beautiful maintenance facility being named after my brother?,” she said. “It is fitting though, if you think about it because he really was quite the mechanic. If he had a place like this to tinker as a boy, I’ll bet he never would have come back out!”

“It was a complete coincidence that Sylvia Rich happened to live in Moline,” said Robert Foster, logistics management specialist, APS-4 Team - Far East, Headquarters, U.S. Army Sustainment Command. “When we selected Pfc. Brown, all we knew was that he was originally from Mahaffey, Penn.

We were surprised to learn there was next of kin living in the local area. We were pleased that she was able to attend the ceremony. That really added an extra element to the event.”

“I’m not much of a traveler, but I’m so glad I went. Everybody made me feel right at home.” she said after returning to the Quad Cities. “I wondered for years what the people at the Arsenal did and now I’ve met some of them and met Soldiers in Korea too. It feels like I’ve been welcomed into a new family. Who would have thought that we could live side-by-side like this for so long only to have my brother who died so long ago bring us all together?”

AFSBn-NEA’s mission is to receive, maintain accountability, perform care of supplies in storage and maintenance for APS-4 stored throughout Korea, Japan and Hawaii and, on order, to issue APS-4 equipment and supplies.



US ARMY PHOTO

Moline, Ill., resident Sylvia Rich, flanked by (left to right) Col. Richard G. Hatch, 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) deputy commanding officer, Lt. Col. Karl Bopp, commander, U.S. Army Field Support Battalion - North East Asia, and other dignitaries cut the ribbon dedicating the AFSBn-NEA's new \$15 million, 51,000 square-foot maintenance facility named for Rich's brother Pfc. Melvin L. Brown at Camp Carroll, Korea Feb. 26

Opportunity leading to success

By **Sasha Ballard**
ASC Public Affairs

Not being from the Midwest, when I heard the names Iowa and Rock Island, I imagined an abundance of farm fields. I never envisioned the possibility of building a family while having a prosperous career. Participating in the Minority College Relations Program changed all that for me and many other students.

The Minority College Relations Team was formed in response to executive orders to increase participation in federal programs by minority educational institutions and their students. As OSC became Army Sustainment Command, the program continued.

Rock Island Arsenal has been successful in using the Minority College Relations Team to its advantage in providing diversity and creativity to the job force. Over 120 students have passed through the enriched program, learning about the Federal Government. During a 10-week period, students spend time completing projects designed to give hands-on learning experience in many different fields that will provide lasting benefits. Many have been offered permanent jobs.

At the beginning of this year, four new students joined the program, including me. We are all recent December graduates from Historically Black Colleges. Calvin Brownlow and Brian Ponder are both from Tennessee State

University and Shadei Jones and I are from Virginia State University. All of us came a distance, hopeful for a job opportunity and grateful to gain the experience.

Brian, who majored in Agriculture Business, was assigned to work in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, which is associated with and mainly responsible for the Minority College Relations Program. Shadei majored in Manufacturing Engineering and works in the Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement Office. Calvin majored in Aeronautical and Industrial Technology was assigned to work in the Radiological Waste Planning Division in the Joint Munitions Command, and last, but not least, I majored in Mass Communications and work in the ASC Public Affairs Office.

A number of projects have been completed thus far, including an Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority College Relations Program web page developed by Brian. He also compiled many spreadsheets to compare employment data of various fiscal years. Shadei developed many briefings and conducted research for Lean Six Sigma black belt projects and took a trip to Fort Hood in Texas. Calvin has constructed a sequential detailed process map and uploaded a variety of documents with accurate data computation. I have helped to conduct interviews for AMC headquarters, wrote speech notes for the

general, and processed documents from the ASC Historical Department.

Patricia Vyncke, the coordinator of the MCRP, has tons of enthusiasm for the program and the future. "I get great satisfaction from the significant achievements that are fostered through teamwork in the MCRP. The ASC/JMC MCRP has been a DA model program for a long time thanks to the support of our leadership. We plan to reach out to additional organizations and schools to expand our program. Everyone benefits from diversity in the workplace," she said.

An alumnus of the program, Dirrick Sterdivant, stated "I believe the program hits the mark with exposing students to career opportunities with the government. I had no idea I would be working for the government last year. I gave the program a shot, liked it and decided it was worth my time."

It was not always possible for minorities to have the chance to excel in the workforce, or receive a good job opportunity. Programs such as ASC's have paved the way for many other agencies to emulate. Current MCRP student Shadei stated, "This has been one of the most beneficial and rewarding experiences. Not only am I more prepared, but I am grateful for this opportunity." Brian and Calvin want to build promising careers, while I want to use this wonderful experience as a stepping stone and gain stability from this experience.



NCO tests culinary skills

ASC's Sgt. Alicia Hight, (right), places dough while her apprentice, Pfc. Gregory Smith of Fort Bragg, looks on. Hight was competing in the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team tryouts held March 5. The event was held in conjunction with the 33rd U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va. March 1-15 (photo by T. Anthony Bell).

ASC, locals train for disaster

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

For the first time, Army Sustainment Command hosted Defense Support of Civil Authorities Phase II training, bringing together ASC employees and local community leaders. The training was conducted at the Stoney Creek Inn in Moline, Ill., March 17-21.

The DoD Defense Support of Civil Authorities Course focuses on training senior military officers, Department of Defense civilians, and staff to ensure the DoD's readiness to support its Homeland Defense and Civil Support missions. U.S. Army North facilitated the training.

More than 60 persons participated in the training, including mayors from Rock Island and Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa, along with city staff members. In addition, there were over 15 federal, state, and local agencies represented.

ASC plays a critical role in support for natural disasters in the United States.

"U.S. Army North and their responsibility, and Army Sustainment Command and our responsibility overlap for support for any operations that are required in the continental United States," said Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command.

The course introduced participants to national, state, local, and DoD statutes, directives, plans, command and control relationships, and capabilities with regard to disaster and emergency response.

ASC has already had an active role in homeland defense and disaster response missions. The Logistics Civil Augmentation Program provided support for Defense agencies in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. ASC also had personnel ready to provide contracting support for last summer's California wildfires.

"Our goal is to make sure we're clear on our ASC roles and missions and also our links with our community and other agencies – so in the event something happens, we're all focused on solutions," said Radin.

Intending to raise awareness and improve responsiveness, US Army North offers the course throughout the country. According to retired Maj. Gen. Michael Taylor, senior course mentor, the ASC-Quad Cities response was exceptional.

"It's been a great turnout in the Quad Cities," he said. "This is a very unique case – the highest number of local participants we've ever had," he noted.

Both ASC personnel and local authorities commented on how the interaction between agencies was critical in providing support in event of a disaster.

"It's been a great experience to meet a lot of the first responders from Moline, Davenport and Rock Island," said Lt. Col Jayne Jansen, ASC G7. "You don't want to meet somebody for the first time in a tragic situation."



US ARMY PHOTO BY GALEN PUTNAM

Participants discuss a training scenario during phase II training.

Soldiers trying new protective vests

By Spc. Aaron Rosencrans
27th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD — After stomping around for a few days with the new Improved Outer Tactical Vest, 4th Infantry Division Soldiers came back with mixed reviews for the new tactical gear.

The new vest has several design differences and some added features, which keep the Soldiers in mind when they're in times of trouble.

The first noticeable difference in the vest design is the way Soldiers don the IOTV. Rather than slipping into it like a jacket, as with the Interceptor Body Armor, they lift it over

their head and pull down, which sometimes requires another person to help get the vest on properly.

Soldiers can also detach the fasteners on the wearer's left shoulder, and slip into the vest from the side.

Another key design change is the addition of a quick release lanyard that reduces the vest to its component pieces, which allows the wearer to get out of the vest easily in case of an emergency situation.

Though the troops had mixed feelings about the new vest, they ultimately said the IOTV is a new piece of equipment they will work with the best they can.

"I noticed right away how the weight is more evenly distributed with the new vest," said Pfc. Joe Piotrowski, a native of Chicago, who serves as an infantryman with the 4th Inf. Div., Military Transition Team, Multi-National Division - Baghdad. "However, there's more Kevlar on the inside of the vest, so it got twisted easily and made it uncomfortable."

Soldiers also commented on the increased risk of heat rashes that develop from wearing a large, hot piece of equipment.

"The new vests are more ergonomically correct, but they don't breathe very well," said Sgt. Jayme

See VESTS on page 9

Quarters One looking for new lease on life

By Paul Levesque
ASC Public Affairs

Charles Lindbergh slept there, hundreds of dignitaries visited there, and 38 high-ranking Army officers and their families lived there. Now, Quarters One is about to get a new lease on life.

For more than 136 years, Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal served as the family residence of the highest-ranking officer serving on the Arsenal. The Victorian Era mansion was known as the second-largest single-family dwelling owned by the federal government, ranking behind only the White House; in later years, however, the upper floors and basement of the home were sealed off, which made the actual living area of Quarters One not much larger than residences at other installations occupied by general officers.

Now that it's been removed from the Army's family housing inventory, though, Quarters One can no longer be ranked among government-owned residences. The building, which has been an icon of the Arsenal and the surrounding Quad Cities community from the day it was completed, stands empty, and future uses for it are being considered.

In the spring of 1872, Lt. Col. Daniel W. Flagler became the first full-time resident of Quarters One. Earlier this year, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, who serves as commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, and his wife, Sara, moved out of Quarters One and into Quarters Six, another historic residence on Rock Island Arsenal.

In the intervening years, Quarters One served as the Arsenal's social hub and hosted a number of individuals whose names can be found in history books. But the ravages of time and the realities of the federal budget caught up to Quarters One, which needs an estimated \$3 million in repairs and upgrades to bring it back to top condition.

While the interior of the residence is in fairly good condition, the limestone exterior walls need extensive repair, as do many of the ornamental features on the exterior. Repairs need to be performed on the roof as well. To meet modern standards, work would need to be done to make Quarters One accessible to the physically disabled. Compounding the expense

of having to hire highly skilled and specialized professionals to work on such a building, any repairs and upgrades, especially those made to the exterior, would have to preserve the historic appearance of Quarters One and meet standards set by the State of Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

A new lease on life for Quarters One may come through the Enhanced Use Lease program, which has been in place since 2001 and which makes property on Army installations available for commercial uses that preserve or enhance the property while maintaining compliance with Army regulations. Leases granted under the program extend for 50 years, and lease payments go directly to the installation, rather than into the federal treasury. This revenue can then be used to make capital improvements or infrastructure repairs in other areas of the installation.

Quarters One is currently being offered under an Enhanced Use Lease in a package with two other properties on Rock Island Arsenal: The RIA Golf Club, which maintains a clubhouse next door to Quarters One and an 18-hole golf course, and a modern golf driving range located near the east entrance to the Arsenal.

At a news conference held on March 25, Joel Himsl, who serves as garrison manager for Rock Island Arsenal, said that the Arsenal hoped to find a partner to enter into a leasing agreement soon, and also hoped to establish a new use for Quarters One by the end of this year.

"We have several proposals that we're considering," Mr. Himsl said, "and we may be close to having a deal."

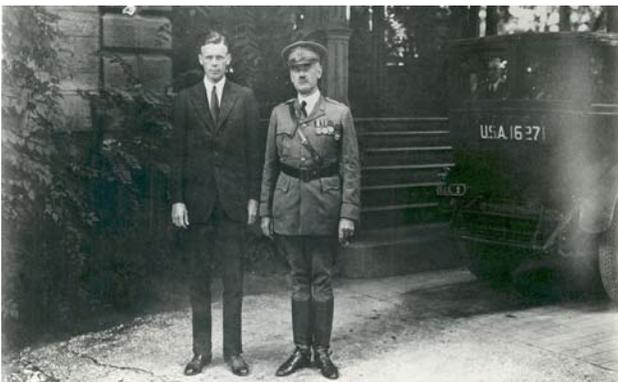
Mr. Himsl told reporters that the entity leasing Quarters One would be responsible for paying the cost of upgrades, upkeep and repairs. A portion of the proceeds realized through commercial use would be returned to the Arsenal in lease payments, he said, adding that Quarters One and other leased properties could be sub-leased.

"Quarters One could become a 'bed and breakfast' of some sort, or be turned into VIP quarters for visiting dignitaries," Mr. Himsl said. Another potential use of the building, he said, would be to serve as an adjunct to the Rock Island Arsenal Museum, which is located in a separate building and holds a number of artifacts that it does not currently have room to display.

A growing demand for military housing on the Arsenal could impact the future of Quarters One, Mr. Himsl said. The demand is being created by a BRAC 2005 decision that will relocate 1st U.S. Army to Rock Island Arsenal, and by an increase in the number of military personnel assigned to the Army Sustainment Command and other organizations stationed on the Arsenal.

Free public tours of Quarters One are currently being offered. Mr. Himsl said the tours were intended to help spark interest in the historic residence, and solicit new ideas for its future use.

"We want the community to come see what we have to offer at Quarters One and at the Arsenal," Mr. Himsl said. "We're really excited about this opportunity, and about what the coming years might hold for Quarters One."



US ARMY PHOTO

Charles Lindbergh with Col. David King, then Arsenal commander, during August 1927 visit.

AMC stands up provisional contracting command

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. - The U.S. Army Materiel Command has activated the Army Contracting Command (Provisional), which will oversee more than \$85 billion in contracts annually and focus on maintaining and improving the Army's ability to respond globally in support of warfighters' needs.

AMC Commander Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin introduced Jeffrey Parsons as the new executive director of ACC, telling the audience the 5,800-strong command would allow AMC to better support the Army in sustaining, preparing, resetting and transforming.

"Our goal is to focus on customers," Griffin said. "Structured to better serve the warfighter and to look for ways to improve our support, we will provide a single face to the customer for contracting support, working hand in hand with our Army field support brigades. We recognize that still much more must be done to reach where we want to be."

Griffin said the stand-up was a historic event, not because it was a new command but because the Army was demonstrating to Defense leadership, Congress, and the American taxpayer



US ARMY PHOTO

Jeffrey P. Parsons prepares to accept a flag during the activation of Army Contracting Command (provisional) March 13 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

that Army leadership was serious in taking steps to restore confidence in Army contracting and ensuring that it becomes one of the Army's core competencies.

Parsons told the audience that his new command would be world-class providers of contracting support to warfighters whenever, wherever to meet their needs.

"At the same time we must balance those needs with being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars," Parsons said. "Even one instance of procurement fraud, waste or abuse is unacceptable no matter how small the infraction may

be. The American taxpayer puts their trust in us and we should not and will not tolerate any violations of this trust."

Parsons also said it was imperative the Army train and develop contracting personnel to execute its contracts responsibly and that the Army "must be more pure than Ivory soap as even a 1-percent error equates to \$850 million."

Additionally, the Army will grow its contracting officer and non-commissioned officer corps by more than 900 Soldiers in the active and reserve components and will establish a warrant officer contracting branch that will add an additional 120 military personnel to the deployable force. Parsons said the warrant officers will maintain the contracting technical expertise to support expeditionary operations, and they will play a key role in training officers and NCOs as they begin their contracting careers.

ACC will provide oversight to Installation Contracting Command under Bryon J. Young, who will oversee contracting support to Army and federal agencies at continental U.S. installations and provide contracting support for all common IT hardware, software and services on behalf of Army and Defense Department organizations.

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Turner, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, who serves as a combat medic with the 4th Inf. Div. MiTT. "With the old system, when it's hot out, you get a little rash in the summer; however, with this system you get a much bigger rash all over."

One of the perks of the new design was a flush front, where Soldiers have more room to attach accessories to carry weapon magazines and other necessary equipment.

"Tactically, it's better because I have more places to put my magazine pouches to make them more accessible," said Piotrowski. "Also, you don't have two sides to worry about; you get to work with the whole front flap, which is nice. I like the built-in side plates as well. They're a lot better

than the other ones."

Turner and Piotrowski both said the quick release system was a good feature to have in case of an emergency; however, it needed to be reworked to prevent it from pulling the vest apart when it wasn't intended.

"The quick-release feature was a good idea to help Soldiers get out of their vest in an emergency situation, but I hear it's a pain to put back together," said Piotrowski. "If something does happen where you're submerged under water or something like that, it'll be a lot better to take this vest off rather than the other one where you have to take it off like a jacket."



US ARMY PHOTO BY SPC. AARON ROSENCRANS

A Soldier wears his Improved Outer Tactical Vest.