



401st Army Field Support Brigade

Forward Deployed

“Trust and Loyalty”



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Russell assumes command of 401st AFSB

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. assumed command of 401st Army Field Support Brigade from outgoing commander, Col. Richard B. O'Connor, II in a ceremony held at brigade headquarters July 17.

The time-honored change of command ceremony is somewhat of a rarity for a unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Today's Army Force Generation model has units rotating in and out of the battle space for a set period of time with the commander usually remaining in command throughout the deployment. The 401st AFSB is unique in that it is headquartered in Afghanistan with commanders and personnel joining and leaving the unit as their individual assignments dictate.

“You fielded over 6,500 MRAPs and put plans in place for 10 RPAT yards; you streamlined battle loss/battle damage replacement; and you were a trusted advisor” said Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commander, in remarks addressed to O'Connor. “I could always rely on you during my command. Thank you for a job well done.”

In his remarks, O'Connor thanked the “officers, NCOs, Army civilians and contractors of the 401st who maintain and sustain the maneuver brigades” and who fielded and sustained hundreds of systems.

“We are the AMC's face to the field,” he added. “When Gen. Dunwoody [AMC commanding general and Dr. O'Neill, then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology] visited the 401st, they said ‘401st has gotten the vision of the Materiel Enterprise right’.”

In welcoming Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. to the command, Fisher told him the 401st mission reminded him of performers who could keep plates spinning on sticks. He said Russell's job is to “keep all these plates spinning.”

“It is a distinct honor and privilege to lead this brigade,” said Russell. “Team Sabre, all policies and procedures remain in place.”

O'Connor is scheduled to be the Defense Coordination Office, U.S. Army North, director.

The 401st AFSB's mission is to serve as the single entry point for integration and synchronization for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology between the tactical level and the Materiel Enterprise while enhancing unit readiness and improving combat capability; and provide field and sustainment level logistics for both U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan in accordance with Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan priorities and is accomplished by more than 41,000 Soldiers, Department of Army civilians and contractors at locations across the Afghanistan area of operations.



Above top: Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., accepts the 401st Army Field Support Brigade colors from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general symbolizing his assumption of command during a change of command ceremony held at 401st headquarters at Bagram Airfield July 17.

Above bottom: Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander (right) and Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, outgoing 401st AFSB commander listen to remarks by Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, following Russell's assumption of command during a change of command ceremony held at 401st headquarters at Bagram Airfield July 17.



Task Force Sabre Command Group

“Trust and Loyalty”



Team Sabre...Adaptive, Aggressive, Anticipates!



First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the great privilege it is to command this brigade of over 7,000 military, Department of the Army Civilians (DAC) and contractors during Operation Enduring Freedom 11-12. Every day I marvel at the dedication and selfless service I see in all your faces as you brave many dangers to bring the strategic logistics might of the Army Material Command into theater, all the way down to the foxhole, where it is needed most.

As an organization, our collective character is a vital part of making our team successful, so I expect all of us to always act in a legal, ethical and moral manner, which must always be the foundation of our actions and considerations. This includes having and exhibiting irreproachable integrity. Two values I most often practice are trust and loyalty. Trust is based on integrity and loyalty is based on personal commitment to our goals.

It is my intent to always move around the battle space to meet you at your location so that I can gain an appreciation for what you do and how you live. I place a high value on personal interface so that we can get to know each other and I can personally answer or address the happenings within the brigade.

Over the past few weeks, I have had an opportunity to travel and meet quite a number of you. After assessing where we are in terms of mission efficiency and what our higher headquarters expects from us, these are my top seven priorities:

- 1) CJOA-A Sustainment Operations
- 2) Redistribution and Property Accountability Team Operations
- 3) Property Accountability
- 4) PEO/PM Materiel Fielding
- 5) Support Capacity Development for the ANSF
- 6) Command Climate
- 7) Force Protection.

I have established these priorities so that you may weight your resources and efforts accordingly.

I consider myself a devoted family man with two cats and a bird...don't ask. This tells you that I appreciate the demands put on all of us in being here and on our loved ones at home. I implore you to find balance in your day which includes physical fitness, emotional fitness, spiritual fitness, sleep cycle, and your work ethic.

In closing, I always encourage free dialogue that has purpose and is related to a current event. I do not like to waste your time so I expect the same consideration in return. I have great aspirations for success in all we do, so I challenge you to continue this journey with me as we take this brigade to levels not yet thought attainable.

Remember who we are and what we stand for...we are value added and we are game changers.

COL Michel M. Russell, Sr.
SABRE 6

Sabres Up...Trust & Loyalty!

Command Sergeant Major's View



After nearly a decade of war, it's easy to become numb to it. You read the newspapers, you watch the television and it just keeps coming, one day after another until it all runs together. You mourn the dead and you celebrate the victories, but you can't allow yourself to feel too deeply or it becomes too much. For the 99 percent of Americans not actively involved in fighting the nation's battles, war is difficult to understand. For those of us who continue to serve it's not complicated. It's not about surges and drawdowns or Capitol Hill politicians bickering among themselves and putting the interests of their party ahead of the country. For the men and women who will lace up their boots in Afghanistan or Iraq today, their only goal is to complete the mission and lie down to sleep at night, bringing them one day closer to coming home. The 30 fellow Americans we lost on August 6 will not be coming home. They were far from home, but we know that they were where they wanted to be, doing what they wanted to do, alongside men who were perhaps closer to them than their own brothers. The willingness of these brave warriors to shoulder heavy burdens and to take on great risks, which we all know, often comes at a very high cost. We owe them our deepest gratitude for their willingness to put their lives on the line, for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. We will honor the fallen by showing our determination by pressing ahead, to move forward with the hard work that must be done to protect our country. From this tragedy, we draw even greater inspiration to carry on the fight. This is a reminder to the American people that we remain a nation still at war – one that has seen its share of triumph and tragedy. May God bless the men and women who have given their lives in defense of our nation, and may God bless those who serve in harm's way each and every day doing an ordinary mission that requires extraordinary heroism. They fight for the American dream, the dream that drove our forefathers and drove the pioneers. The same dream that brought my grandparents to our country. The dream each of us has to give our children a better life. That is what we fight for, and if need be, to die for.

Trust and Loyalty!

O'Connor awarded Legion of Merit

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— Col. Richard B. O'Connor, II, outgoing 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Afghanistan and NATO campaign medals by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, Deputy Commander – Support, United States Forces Afghanistan, during an awards ceremony July 17. The awards ceremony was prior to a change of command ceremony in which he relinquished command to Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. O'Connor is slated to be the director for the Defense Coordination Office, U.S. Army North.

The Legion of Merit is usually awarded to Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force general officers and colonels, and Navy and Coast Guard flag officers and captains occupying command or very senior staff positions in their respective services for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.



Right: Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, Deputy Commander – Support, United States Forces Afghanistan, shakes hands with Col. Richard B. O'Connor, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander after presenting O'Connor with a Legion of Merit and Afghanistan and NATO campaign medals prior to a change of command ceremony in which O'Connor relinquished command to Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. July 17. O'Connor is scheduled to be the Defense Coordination Office, U.S. Army North, director.

Battalion takes part in MASCAL exercise



BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Soldiers wearing full 'battle rattle' monitored casualties on stretchers from an explosion in the AFBSn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade's paint booth in Sprung 4 while they waited for ambulances to arrive.

The scene was tense as casualties moaned and called out for help but fortunately there were no real injuries, only moulage and practice bandages and tourniquets as part of a Bagram mass casualty exercise. The AFBSn-Bagram, 401st AFSB joined the training as a secondary site to exercise their procedures for caring for victims and accounting for personnel.

Left: Spc. Roy Watkins, AFBSn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, support operations movement specialist, looks on as Spc. Javier E. Zayas, AFBSn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, support operations movement specialist, checks Howard Cogswell's vital signs during a mass casualty exercise July 9. Cogswell, a budget analyst for the battalion, is covered in moulage to simulate a chest wound .



Left: Bagram Airfield firefighters and AFBSn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade personnel move a simulated casualty to a waiting ambulance during a mass casualty exercise July 9.

Right: Kimberly D. Morton, AFBSn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade executive assistant, a simulated casualty during a mass casualty exercise July 9, shows the moulage on her face simulating a facial wound.



Nine Afghan Soldiers complete maintenance mentorship program

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— A ceremony marking the completion of a maintenance mentorship program was held for nine Afghan Soldiers July 20 at AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

The Soldiers were the second group to complete a program that partnered 401st AFSB, 101st Sustainment Brigade and 201st Corps Logistics Kandak (CLK) in support of the counterinsurgency program laid out by Gen. David H. Petraeus. The program gave the Afghan Soldiers the opportunity to improve their vehicle maintenance or welding skills.

The previous group only worked on vehicle maintenance skills, but this group included Soldiers who worked in Allied Trades to increase their skills and knowledge of welding and paint booth operations.

“This hands-on program is like our AIT,” said Sgt. Maj. Katrina M. Najee, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade. “This partnership is important for the CLK to be able to stand on its own.”

“They will know what to do and be able to teach future

generations,” said Lt. Col. Robert J. Davis, 101st STB commander.

Davis said they hope to be able to expand the maintenance mentorship to the 203rd CLK soon.

“They [the 203rd CLK] are a brand new unit. They will be about two and a half months out of basic training and will get world class maintenance training.”

“We want to leverage what AMC has to offer and keep expanding skill areas,” he said.

The maintenance mentorship program leverages AC First contractors to work directly with the Afghan Soldiers. The vehicle maintainers worked on M1114 High-Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles that are being sold to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan under a Foreign Sales Case managed by Army Materiel Command’s Security Assistance Command. The welders practiced stick or TIG and MIG welding as they made signs, stools, lockers and tool boxes.



Above: Command Sgt. Maj. Ramon C. Caisido, 401st Army Field Support Brigade command sergeant major (center) stands with nine Afghan Soldiers from 201st Corps Logistics Kandak following a ceremony marking their completion of a 45-day maintenance mentorship program July 20. Three of the Soldiers worked to improve their skills in Allied Trades while the remaining Soldiers improved their vehicle maintenance skills. The program partners 401st AFSB, 101st Sustainment Brigade and 201st Corps Logistics Kandak to develop vehicle maintenance and welding skills among Afghan Soldiers.

4th ESC transfer of authority ceremony held at AFSBn-Kandahar

By J. Elise Van Pool
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Battalion hosted the transfer of authority ceremony for the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, here, July 25.

The ceremony marked the official transfer of command for the Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan from the 184th ESC, Mississippi National Guard, to the 4th ESC, U.S. Army Reserve, headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. JSC-A's mission is to provide logistics and sustainment capabilities for all of U.S and coalition forces in Afghanistan. The joint sustainment command consists of more than 43,000 soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and civilians who are responsible for delivering everything from beans, to bullets, to mail throughout Afghanistan.

The ceremony was the culmination of a two day commander's conference, also hosted by the battalion, where leaders from across the command came to discuss current and future logistical and sustainment needs.

"It's a great opportunity to have leadership in one place and to gather those lessons learn from across the CJOA [coalition joint operations area]." said 4th Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Garry Bush.

The 184th ESC is scheduled to return home to Mississippi after serving since October 2010.



Above: Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll and Command Sgt. Maj. Travis W. Williams uncase the colors of the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command during a transfer of authority ceremony that marked the transfer of authority for the Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan. The ceremony was hosted by AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan July 25.

Photo by Summer Barkley

JSC-A Commander's Conference and 4th ESC TOA photos



Left and bottom left: Photos from the 4th ESC transfer of authority ceremony held July 25 at AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. The 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command assumes the Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan mission from the 184th ESC.

Bottom right: Group photo of the Command Sergeants Major and Sergeants Major attending the JSC-A Commander's Conference held at AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade July 23 and 24.



401st helps keep IED detection dogs in the fight



Above from left: Sgt. Adelyn Perez and Capt. Bradley M. Fields, 358th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Services, brief Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, on their mission to keep IED detection dogs fit for duty during Russell's visit to the unit August 2. The 401st AFSB adopted the Veterinary Services unit assigned to Leatherneck and has installed a generator to heat and cool the kennel and provided two vehicles to transport injured dogs from the air terminal to their level 3 trauma surgical

Responding to O'Connor's initial concern of obtaining an ambulance, 401st AFSB personnel located an M997 HMMWV ambulance from a Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services yard and refurbished it. The 401st was also able to obtain a M1114 HMWV now dubbed 'AMC 6' for use as a secondary ambulance said Lt. Col. Robert Roy, 401st LTF Leatherneck commander.

"We had no way to receive a patient [military working dog] from the airfield," said Capt. Bradley M. Fields, veterinarian. "The ambulance lets us transport litter-bound patients."

Fields has completed more than 400 surgeries in what is now a level 3 trauma deployed hospital, but recalled using duct tape on the first dog he cared for. He said injuries to the dogs include shrapnel wounds, hernias, sucking chest wounds and post traumatic stress. The only injuries that cannot be cared for in theater are long-bone fractures due to the lengthy recovery time.

"Our job is to keep the dogs healthy and in the field," Fields added.

The dogs, all Labrador Retrievers, live adjacent to the clinic in a kennel that had no heat or air conditioning until the 401st worked with Army Sustainment Command's Logistics Civil Assistance Program to install a generator to heat and cool the kennel. Fields said the temperatures are controlled enough to keep the dogs comfortable, but still keep them acclimated to the conditions they work in every day.

Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st AFSB commander since July 17, visited the clinic and kennel August 2 and pledged to continue the relationship between 401st and the Army Veterinary Service units assigned to Leatherneck. His first concern is to provide a back-up generator so the staff will not have to rely on battery power during surgeries in the event of a generator failure.

"Keep up the good work," Russell said. "We will continue to support you."

Editor's note: The 463rd MED DET (VS) recently replaced the 358th. The relationship between the 401st and the veterinary services unit will continue with each new unit as long as there is a need.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan—Keeping Soldiers in the fight is always a priority and the 401st Army Field Support Brigade's adopted unit, The 358th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Services, does that in an extraordinary way.

The 358th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Services, is an Army Veterinary Services Reserve unit from Alabama whose mission includes keeping IED detection dogs healthy and in the fight.

After visiting the unit, at Forward Operating Base Leatherneck in January 2011, then 401st commander Col. Richard B. O'Connor wanted to assist the unit in accomplishing their important mission. He decided to 'adopt' the unit and linked them with the 401st AFSB's Logistics Task Force Leatherneck.



Above left: Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, meets one of the IED detection dogs cared for by Soldiers from 358th Medical Detachment, Veterinary Services at Forward Operating Base Leatherneck August 2. **Center:** AMC 6 is an M1114 HMWV used as a secondary ambulance to transport wounded dogs the surgical suite. **Right:** Russell pets one of the IED detection dogs in the kennel adjacent to the surgical suite as Capt. Bradley M. Fields and Sgt. Adelyn Perez, explain details of their mission. The 401st AFSB adopted the Veterinary Services unit assigned to Leatherneck and has installed a generator to heat and cool the kennel and provided two vehicles to transport injured dogs from the air terminal to their level 3 trauma surgical suite.

Materiel Enterprisers named for May and June

Juan M. Ortega was named 401st Army Field Support Brigade Materiel Enterpriser of the Month for June by Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, brigade commander recently.

Ortega arrived in Bagram on February 17 from his home station at Fort Bliss, Texas and took over duties as the TACOM Senior Systems Technical Representative to the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB supporting the TACOM Logistics Assistance Program mission in Afghanistan where he directs and manages 17 personnel in seven Forward Operating Bases across the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF). He supports over 15,000 thousand items of TACOM managed equipment and maintains better than 90 percent readiness on intensively managed items.

"Mr. Ortega was called at the last minute for this current deployment with only a five-month break since his last year-long deployment to Iraq," said Gustavo Caruso, TACOM SCR. "Juan is on his 20th deployment and is always willing and ready to support the command for deployments worldwide.

"This is the best program ever," Ortega said of his job. "It's challenging, satisfying and a good feeling to help Soldiers."

Ortega said the biggest reward is helping Soldiers get the equipment they need in spite of challenges such as he faced in a 1993 deployment to Somalia where they had to get equipment ready but there was no infrastructure in place. He also recalled cutting 55-gallon drums in half lengthwise and using tires for toilet seats for makeshift latrines and improvising field showers.

"Mr. Ortega's expertise, foresight and tenacious dedication in every instance were paramount to the extremely successful equipping activities provided to the War - Fighter tremendously impacting Operation Enduring Freedom's Mission," Caruso said in a written statement. "His expertise was influential in maintaining excellent equipment readiness rates and his actions are aligned with the highest traditions of the government service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, the United States Army Materiel Command and the United States Army."

In addition to visiting more than 125 company-size units training 801 Soldiers and providing 1,077 hours of troubleshooting training, Ortega vigorously supports the LAP cost savings/avoidance program with the TACOM LAP program under his supervision realizing \$3,451,945.12 in savings during his deployment.

"Throughout his tenure he received great accolades for his outstanding leading from the front attitude to resolve TACOM sustainment issues," Caruso said. "His insistent leadership style paid great dividends in ensuring the theater's operational momentum never faulted in meeting combat mission requirements."



Above: Juan Ortega is the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Materiel Enterpriser of the Month for June 2011. He is a veteran of 20 deployments including Haiti, Albania, Grenada, Panama, Bosnia, Somalia, Egypt, Macedonia, Kosovo and Southwest Asia.

Silvano "Van" Labrador was named 401st Army Field Support Brigade Materiel Enterpriser of the Month for May by Col. Richard B. O'Connor II, brigade commander recently.

Labrador arrived in Bagram January 16 and took over duties as the AMCOM LNO to the 401st AFSB. He performs a myriad of duties in support of the AMCOM Senior Command Representative Office, the AMCOM Logistics Assistance Program mission in Afghanistan, and the 401st AFSB. His duties include collecting and analyzing data which he then utilizes in preparing special and recurring personnel and technical reports for which the AMCOM SCR office is responsible for submitting. He is also a "one stop help desk" for all questions related to the AMCOM Mission in OEF. Van directs customers to the right AMCOM resource to get their questions answered with zero complaints to date.

He also performed a daily review of the AMCOM Weapon Systems Status Report (WSSR) for OEF equipment, which include over 400 aircraft and Missile Systems. Van communicates with all AMCOM LARs in this AOR on a daily basis to provide advice and corrections to their individual input to the WSSR. In support of each deployed AMCOM LAR, Van screens each requisition on the IMI twice a day, to ensure all requisitions are valid, status updated and all other information is within published requirements. When he identifies a problem, Van works with the individual LAR responsible for the aircraft, ground support equipments, or missile weapon systems to make corrections. Van also notifies the Regional SSTR and the SCR of the change of results.

He also updated and distributed the Special Interest Aircraft Report which is reported daily throughout the AMCOM Logistics Community as well as various OEF, and OIF, functional offices. These aircraft are those which have had some type of damage which will require extensive repairs beyond the normal corrective, or scheduled maintenance.

Although deployed, Labrador continued to perform his home station (Joint Base Lewis-McChord) duty as the AMCOM RESET LNO for B17 and B64 equipment. Van provided RESET disposition instructions for inducted B64/B17 equipment utilizing the LOGSA ARMT program.



Above: Silvano "Van" Labrador is the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Materiel Enterpriser of the Month for May 2011. He is completing his sixth deployment and still serves as the AMCOM RESET LNO for B17 and B64 equipment at his home station Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Editor's Note: Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. assumed command for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade from Col. O'Connor during a change of command ceremony held at brigade headquarters July 17.

Marines appreciate 401st support

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — “One team – one fight,” said U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, 2nd Marine Logistics Group commanding general, referring to the relationship between the U.S. Marine Corps units at Forward Operating Base Leatherneck and the U.S. Army’s 401st Army Field Support Brigade’s Logistics Task Force element located a few blocks down the street.

Dana met with Brig. Gen. Steven J. Feldmann, U.S. Army Materiel Command Responsible Reset Task Force deputy commanding general and Col. Michel M. Russell, 401st AFSB commander August 2.

“We appreciate the support,” Dana added. “We get support from the SeaBees [U.S. Navy Construction Battalions] and the 129th [Combat Sustainment Support Battalion], but most important are the AMC folks down the street.”

Dana added that units under his command boasting a readiness rate greater than 90 percent is “a testament to the support we receive.”

Feldmann noted that continuing to build the relationship between the Marines and the 401st will be critical in assisting the Marines as they reduce their numbers in the draw-down process slated to begin this year. He said fixing equipment as far forward as possible will streamline moving it back stateside.

Dana called the Logistics Civil Assistance Program “the best experience” and said he had no complaints when Feldmann asked about LOGCAP support for the Marines.

“As we see ourselves off-ramping, we’re looking at what LOGCAP can provide,” said U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeffrey Reagan, II Marine Expeditionary Force C4.

The Logistics Civil Augmentation Program is an Army program which uses contractors in wartime and to support global contingencies for Department of Defense missions. They deliver a wide range of support services such as dining facilities, laundry, and lodging to deployed forces worldwide, freeing soldiers for combat missions



Above: Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support commander consults notes as U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, 2nd Marine Logistics Group commanding general, talks to Brig. Gen. Steven J. Feldmann, U.S. Army Materiel Command Responsible Reset Task Force deputy commanding general, and U.S. Marine Corps Col. Jeffrey Reagan, II Marine Expeditionary Force C4, during a meeting August 2 at 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) headquarters at Forward Operating Base Leatherneck.

Afghan National Army Officer tours AFSBn-Kandahar maintenance facility

By J. Elise Van Pool

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The Afghan officer in charge of training Afghan National Army and Afghan Nation Police Humvee drivers came to see the Afghan National Army Humvee Refurbishment program, being conducted by the 401st Army Field Support Battalion-Kandahar.

Maj. Mohammad Zahir came to see the refurbishment operation being conducted by the 401st AFSBn and AC First as part of a program that will turnover refurbished Humvees to the Afghan National Army and Police.

“I learned a lot,” said Zahir. “We are happy to come out and check out the Humvee.”

The major was given a tour of the maintenance bays where the vehicles are rebuilt from the ground up. He was then taken on a road test of one of the refurbished vehicles and saw how mechanics take the vehicles through different tests.

“I like making sure the vehicles are 100 percent.” said Paul Ferguson, a Department of the Army Civilian from Anniston Army Depot in Alabama. Ferguson explained to Zahir how he road tests the Humvees by bringing them up to speed to test the transmission and taking them over steep inclines to test the suspension.

The Afghan Nation Army Refurbishment Program is a coalition program that will turn over thousands of Humvees to the Afghans and teach them how to use and maintain them. Coalition partners teach and mentor the Afghans as part of the program.

“It’s very personality driven,” said Australian Army Sgt. Andre Borg, mentor for the Afghan 205th Maintenance Corps. “If you don’t mesh with them it’s hard.”



Above: Sgt. Andre Borg, of the Australian Army and mentor to the 205th Afghan Maintenance Corps, Maj. Mohammad Zahir of the 205th Maintenance Corps and Mike Smith from AC First, look at an engine being rebuilt as part of the Afghan National Army Humvee Refurbishment program. Zahir came to visit the maintenance facility where the vehicles for his program are rebuilt.

The program is part of the larger effort supporting the counterinsurgency strategy outlined by Gen. David H. Petraeus and U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos in Army Field Manual 3-24 to help the Afghan people maintain their own security.

“I like this for our army,” said Zahir. “This is stronger for IED.”

Operation Ammo Clean Sweep begins

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Seven Joint Munitions Command Quality Assurance Specialists (Ammunition Surveillance) (QASAS) and Ammunition Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs) arrived here August 6 to support Operation Ammo Clean Sweep.

The Army has been in Afghanistan for almost ten years now. Many of the forward operating base and combat outpost sites are so remote that they have not been visited by QASAS or Ammunition LARs for several years, if ever. Because of that, some of the munitions on hand at those sites may pose serious explosive safety problems for Soldiers, as well as for units on patrols outside the wire with ammunition of unknown quality.

“The QASAS will be working with teams of Soldiers from the 101st Sustainment Brigade for the next four months and travel through the battle spaces in Regional Command-East and RC-South to identify all ammunition assets on hand. Their mission is to determine whether ammunition stocks are serviceable or unserviceable, and what ammunition is unsafe or “excess” (unaccounted for, or left behind by departed units),” said Kyle Voelcker, JMC Senior Command Representative. “The serviceable and safe excess ammunition will be properly accounted for to allow the assets to be tracked in the event of ammunition suspensions or restrictions.”

“They will travel to more than 135 sites, working directly with units at those sites, to identify and assess their munitions, ensure that only serviceable ammunition will be on



Front row: Mark Adkins (Senior Staff Technical Representative), Terry Mines, and Darrin Lampman. **Back row:** James Areniego, Kyle Voelcker (Senior Command Representative), Joshua Yott, Mark Combs, Steve Caskey, Tom Enricco (Senior QASAS USFOR-A), and Steve Buck

hand for the unit basic and combat loads, and assist units to turn-in or dispose of unsafe and unserviceable ammunition,” Voelcker said. “The end result will be a significant reduction of the explosive hazards to which our Soldiers are exposed.”

401st AFSB named DLA’s DOD Customer of the Year



Above: Mark W. Akin (right), 401st Army Field Support Brigade, deputy to the commanding officer, accepts a plaque naming 401st Army Field Support Brigade as Defense Logistics Agency Department of Defense Customer of the Year from Vice Adm. Alan S. Thompson, DLA director during the DLA Industry Conference and Exhibition June 28 in Columbus, Ohio. The Defense Logistics Agency is the Department of Defense’s largest logistics combat support agency, providing worldwide logistics support in both peacetime and wartime to the military services as well as several civilian agencies and foreign countries. DLA sources and provides nearly 100 percent of the consumable items America’s military forces need to operate and also supplies more than 84 percent of the military’s spare parts. DLA employs about 26,000 employees. The Agency’s headquarters is at Fort Belvoir, in Northern Virginia.

Photo by Charles Morris, Defense Logistics Agency

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The 401st Army Field Support Brigade was named Defense Logistics Agency’s Department of Defense Customer of the year in a ceremony held June 28 in Columbus, Ohio during the DLA Industry Conference and Exhibition. Mark W. Akin, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, deputy to the commanding officer, accepted the award on behalf of the brigade from Vice Adm. Alan S. Thompson, DLA director.

“401st is one of the largest DLA customers in Afghanistan,” said Duane Gross, DLA MRAP country lead. He said the volume of supplies and the 401st’s geographic dispersal across Afghanistan makes the 401st such a large DLA customer.

From sourcing hard to find and sole source items, to disposition services yards, DLA is involved in almost anything a unit or Soldier touches Gross said. “We’re here to take the delay out of DLA.”

A Customer of the Year recognition is awarded to the DOD and the Non-DOD customer organizations that exemplify the highest degree of professionalism; meet or exceed criteria in one or more other categories, and clearly stand above the rest in their commitment to the DLA and its programs and initiatives, such as DLA Prime Vendor, Quick Response, Performance-Based Services Acquisition/Logistics, Tailored Logistics Support Solutions.

MRV and H8 trainers and students weather the elements to train to standard

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—At the approximate midpoint in their six-month deployment, Soldiers from the U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department have weathered cold, rain, mud, heat and blowing dust to train dozens of Soldiers on operating the M1249 MRAP Recovery Vehicle and qualify many for the H8 Recovery Operations Additional Skill Identifier.

The H8 ASI is a specialized course to train Soldiers to operate and maintain recovery vehicles and how to use standard procedures to rig and recover wheeled vehicles. The sub-tasks include oxygen and acetylene gas welding, recovery methods, boom and hoist operations, winch operations and recovery of mired, overturned and disabled vehicles. The Soldiers train on M984 HEMTT wreckers and M1089 five-ton MTV wreckers. The H8 course is being offered to Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom whose units will be issued M1249s.

“It’s challenging here with the weather and the elements,” said Staff Sgt. Michael L. Lampley, U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department instructor. “It’s both a positive and a negative – it shows the hardships and trains them to endure the elements and accomplish the mission in this environment.”

Sgt. Maj. Gene M. Sousa, U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department, said the H8 ASI is a low-density qualification and is currently taught at the schoolhouse at Fort Lee as part of Additional Individual Training for Soldiers just out of basic training. Teaching the course in theater is different because the Soldiers have more experience on vehicles than Soldiers in AIT he said.

“People are capitalizing on H8 training here,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alvin V. Beehler, Recovery Division chief instructor. “We want to fill our classes and maximize training.”

“I’ve wanted this course for ten years,” said Sgt. Thomas J. Smith, E Company 3/10 General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Beehler added that many units close to the Bagram training site can send Soldiers on short notice to fill empty seats. Sousa said they increased the student load from eight to 12 Soldiers per class to accommodate the demand for training.

“This is a great career boost,” said Spc. Dominique J. Clark, 655th Transportation Company, 1225th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion. “We’re learning the right way to recover vehicles, the safest and the fastest way.”



Above: Staff Sgt. LeJaun D. Taylor, U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department instructor, (center) and Soldiers completing the H8 Additional Skill Identifier course watch Sgt. Thomas J. Smith, E Company 3/10 General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, as he uses hand signals to guide a M1089 five-ton MTV wrecker into position to tow a disabled vehicle.



Above: Staff Sgt. Michael L. Lampley, (left center) U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department instructor works with Soldiers completing the H8 Additional Skill Identifier course who are preparing to use a M984 HEMTT wrecker to tow a disabled vehicle.



Above: Staff Sgts. Michael L. Lampley (front left) and LeJaun D. Taylor (front right), U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department instructors pose with 12 Soldiers who are graduating from the H8 Recovery Operations Additional Skill Identifier Course July 10. They are also training to operate the M1249 MRAP Recovery Vehicle.

“They already know the basics,” said Sousa. “We follow the plan of instruction but integrate their experiences.”

“We gave them a scenario and they plan it out on the ground,” said Beehler as the Soldiers were beginning an overturned vehicle recovery. “We’ll let them rig and correct as necessary.”

A correction was necessary when Staff Sgt. LeJaun D. Taylor, spotted something and called out, “hey what are you doing?” The class stopped to listen to Taylor’s advice and adjust how they were rigging an overturned vehicle.

“Every recovery is different,” Sousa said. “They [the students] need to think creatively and understand the tools they have on each vehicle to complete a recovery that doesn’t damage people or further damage the equipment.”

Twelve students completed the seventh H8 course and graduated on July 10. The instructors are scheduled to continue training for approximately three more months before redeploying to Fort Lee.

Taylor said he feels a sense of accomplishment being part of the first TRADOC Ordnance School unit to deploy.

“They [the instructors] stay motivated every day, out here in the heat and wind and blowing dust,” Sousa observed while standing in the open field used for training and enduring winds of up to 50 mph and blowing dust and sand that left a crust of dirt on every face. “To be in this environment and stay motivated the way they do – it’s incredible.”

Brigade engineers building up Bagram

By Sgt. 1st Class Billy Graves
401st ASFB S7 Noncommissioned Officer in Charge

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The S-7 Engineering Section covers all construction aspects supporting 401st Army Field Support Brigade and battalion assets. During the last quarter, the major undertaking of completing outstanding contracts for construction and using a proactive approach to various BDE projects within BAF were initiated.

The foreign national housing project was opened and the latrines remodeled as part of the warranty. This proactive approach created a safer and more reliable facility not requiring continual repairs as the improved facility meets the International Plumber's Code and supports well over 500 people who live and work on the AMC compounds.

A security project to redirect pedestrian traffic around the ESSC building created a 365-foot gravel walkway. A concrete walkway contract has been awarded, to mitigate the risk created by the graveled pathway that is necessary for drainage in the rainy season.

The PEO Solider Storefront project, initially awarded to an Afghani contractor, was de-scoped and re-awarded to another contractor. The new contractor completed the project and the facility opened for business supporting the troops with the issuing of the OEF pattern uniforms and equipment. A similar situation was encountered with the PEO Soldier warehouse project with that facility scheduled for 100% occupancy by August 31.

The CREW two-story B-hut construction phase is complete. This project was delayed due to counterfeit materials. This emphasizes the necessity for CORs [contracting officer's representatives] being available to monitor the projects at all times. After demolition and re-installation; the finished product is a prime example of a quality product at a fair price and helps train the local population in proper building and electrical service methods.

The Phase V Housing project is progressing nicely in spite of recent changes in the base force protection policies

made it more difficult for the contractors to get their workers onto the installation. While these changes have slowed down the progress, the quality of the finished work is superb. Currently the first of four barracks are set for beneficial occupancy on August 31, with a second opening on September 30. These buildings have a latrine on each floor and each split room sleeps 8 to 16 personnel (4 bunk beds per half during the surge- 192 people total per building).

The three K-spans in the Eastern Expansion Area are well underway with the first scheduled to be completed by September 9 and the others slated for completion by October 5 and November 6.



Above: Construction workers and 401st Army Field Support Brigade S7 personnel stand in front of the barracks building slated to have a beneficial occupancy date of August 31. The maximum surge capacity is 192 persons per building. Each floor of the barracks will have shower and latrine facilities at the end of the building.

Force Protection adapts to emerging conditions

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— Bunkers and T-walls may seem immovable, but they are more like huge game pieces that can be shifted as needs change.

The 401st AFSB Brigade S2 staff regularly evaluates physical security and force protection measures throughout the area of operations to ensure that offices, housing areas, recreation areas and entry control points have the right level of protection.

When conditions or the footprint changes, S2 reevaluates and moves or replaces new barriers and bunkers where needed including pushing force protection assets to forward operating bases to protect 401st personnel at remote locations.

"These outlining units are in a constant state of flux and the need to 'improve their foxhole' is a regular priority," said Greg Kotyk, 401st Army Field Support Brigade physical security and force protection officer. "The Brigade S2 supports the units by ensuring funding and assets are channeled directly to each unit."

Kotyk said ASFBn-Bagram and FOB Shank have received more than \$1.1 million in force protection assets. Figures were not

immediately available for areas under AFSBn-Kandahar.

A 401st AFSB Brigade Working Group meets regularly to discuss ways to assist FOB operations, which includes all security aspects. With the help of contractors, these assets are placed in critical areas and as operations evolve in each FOB, the 401st AFSB S2 will continue to assist and project the sustainment of the maneuver units.



Above: Workers install a bunker near the new B-huts on the 401st Army Field Support Brigade headquarters July 29. While highly visible, bunkers and T-walls are only part of the force protection program managed by the brigade S2.

United Through Reading room opens at brigade headquarters

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—A white rocking chair in front of a hand-made quilt wall hanging and a reading lamp set the scene for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings to read a familiar children's book to their children. They won't be able to end the story with a good night kiss because about 9 time zones and thousands of miles separate them, but the United Through Reading room that opened at the 401st Army Field Support Brigade headquarters area July 10 is the next best thing.

The United Through Reading Military Program aims to ease the stress of separation for military families by providing a way for deployed parents to record a DVD of themselves reading books to their children and sending the DVD home to the child where it can be played over and over. The 401st United Through Reading program is also able to allow the reader to have the book sent to the child so they can read along with the DVD.

"Soldiers don't have to pay for anything, only the time they're willing to invest," said Maj. Jennifer L. Mahoney who spearheaded the effort.

Books have been purchased for the program and donors from eight states have sent books to Mahoney. She said some of the donors are anonymous. She created wish lists on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com and has received donations from 46 donors. Books range from board books for infants to books for elementary school age children. Mahoney said she had 2,159 books including some vintage Golden Books that still bear the original \$.39 price marking.

After receiving approval from the command, Mahoney began working with the brigade S4 to acquire books and some of the necessary equipment; S7 to get a connex and get it put into place and wired for electricity; the USO who mails the books and DVDs to the children; and she received the

the gift of the quilt from her mother's quilting group, the St. Albert's Piece Makers from Sun Prairie, Wis., and the rocking chair from co-worker Patty Creque's home station office at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

During the grand opening, 401st personnel browsed the books and were heard to comment that they remembered certain books and had read this or that book to their children.

"This is a way to maintain or keep a presence with the children," Mahoney said. "It helps morale to stay connected."

Chaplain CH (Capt.) Nathan Witt, brigade chaplain, echoed these sentiments during the grand opening. He called the reading room a "joy multiplier." He said his daughter is his joy and showed a photo of his daughter in front of a television with the DVD he had recorded and sent to her. She was clearly delighted to have her Dad reading to her which, in turn, increased his joy at having been able to send the book and DVD.

The reading room is open to all 401st personnel and can be accessed by contacting Mahoney or the Chaplain's office to schedule a time.



Above: Maj. Jennifer L. Mahoney, 401st Army Field Support Brigade battle captain, looks at a vintage book available at the United Through Reading room during the grand opening July 10. The quilt was made and donated by Mahoney's mother and her quilt group, the St. Albert's Piece Makers from Sun Prairie, Wis., and the rocking chair was donated by Patty Creque's coworkers from her home station office at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Creque was a communications manager in the Sabre Operations Center until her recent redeployment.

401st Army Field Support Brigade goes social

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— The 401st Army Field Support Brigade has gone social—media that is.

The 401st AFSB recently debuted a Facebook page that can be reached at <http://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB> and a Flickr page that can be reached at <http://flickr.com/401stAFSB>.

"One of our goals is to maintain contact with family members," said Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st AFSB commander. "We also see social media as a way to reach out to potential customers and employees and foster a culture of excellence by publically recognizing individuals who excel."

Family members have already been checking out the Facebook page and the Flickr page has more than 2,500 views in three weeks.

Social media is dynamic and changes frequently throughout the day, so remember to check our pages often.



Above: 401st Army Field Support Brigade Facebook logo.

401st Army Field Support Brigade

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Trust and Loyalty

