



EEY ON THE 401st

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401st Army Field Support Brigade, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait APO AE 09366

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Task Force Support gets 'Ramrod' rolling

Story by Master Sgt. Jonathan Peltier
3rd Battalion 401st Army Field Support Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Task Force Ramrod's arrival in Afghanistan earlier this summer created a high priority mission for the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

The mission to ensure the task force's vehicles were mission ready, and in place for the Soldiers as soon as possible, involved all elements of the 'Supporting the Warfighter' Battalion's logistics, transportation, supply and maintenance resources.

3rd Battalion Soldiers, Army civilians and contractors from several locations — Bagram Airfield, Forward Operating Bases Sharana and Salerno, and Kandahar Airfield came together as

See Ramrod page 2



Photo courtesy Lawrence Tharpe, AGS, Inc.

AGS maintenance mechanics (L-R) Craig Shafer, Solomon Cheatman and Brandon Hammontree work on a Humvee at the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade Maintenance Facility at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept 19, 2008.

DAU course makes trek to Southwest Asia

Story and photos by Jim Hinnant
401st Army Field Support Brigade

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (Sept. 19, 2008) — Nearly 18 years ago, the U.S. Congress enacted the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act, a work of landmark legislation intended to improve the effectiveness of the people who manage and implement defense acquisition programs through education, training and work experience.

Here today, for the first time in Southwest Asia, Eighteen Soldiers, Army Civilians and contractors completed the classroom portion of the Inter-

mediate Systems Acquisition Course — known in the field as Acquisition 201B — one of the most difficult to obtain requirements for professional certification in the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics field.

"There are waiting lists in the states for this course," said Donald Hafner, 401st Army Field Support Brigade training manager. "For these folks to be able to complete the 201B course here is a real plus."

The week-long course, which has as a pre-requisite some 35 hours of online training, is part of AT&L

See Course page 3

Ramrod (continued from Page 1)

a team to get TF Ramrod up and running in time for their responsibilities, once again proving the 3rd Battalion is up to the challenge of supporting the warfighters on the ground.

As part of the battalion's mission, Light Medium Tactical Vehicles, Uparmored Humvees, Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck wreckers, HEMTT fuel tankers, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles and a host of other equipment were transported to, and repaired at, locations across Afghanistan for eventual issue to TF Ramrod units at Kandahar Airfield.

The first priority was accomplishing the maintenance required to get this equipment fully mission capable before Ramrod's move out date to its downrange locations.

To accomplish the task, maintenance work was divided among several 3rd Battalion locations, with medium/heavy vehicles and some Humvees repaired in Bagram, other Humvees worked on at FOB Sharana, and the remaining medi-



Photo courtesy Lawrence Tharpe, AGS, Inc.

AGS, Inc., senior mechanic David Gibson performs work on a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck at 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan maintenance facility, Sept. 19, 2008.



Photo courtesy Lawrence Tharpe, AGS, Inc.

AECOM Government Services, Inc. mechanic, Curtis Jennings, works on an Objective Gunner Protection Kit installed on a Humvee, at the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade maintenance facility at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 12, 2008.

um/heavy vehicles and Humvees fixed at Kandahar Airfield.

Personnel from other battalion locations, including FOB Salerno, were sent to these sites to "surge" maintenance capability during this critical period.

When asked, LTC Don Mayer said "The battalion really came together, I am proud of the mission we accomplished and proud of the Soldiers, civilians, and contractors that pulled together to do it."

The vehicles were in very rough shape when they were received by the Maintenance Support Teams and they required a significant amount of repair, along with substantial parts lists. As a result, the full range of support capabilities within the BN was involved in this effort.

Everyone worked hard every day to get the mission completed based on TF Ramrod's timeline.

As the task force's move out date approached, they were able to move their

initial elements downrange to their FOB through the efforts of the 3rd Battalion workforce.

After their departure for the mission, support priorities changed frequently as the task force adjusted their needs based on the conditions on the ground.

3rd Battalion quickly adapted to the need, immediately switching gears as new guidance was received.

Maintenance has continued for many weeks but is now in the final stages of completion.

At the time of this writing, there are only a handful of Humvee's remaining in shop, and they are all due out within days.

Through the combined and coordinated efforts of the entire 3rd Battalion team across the Combined Joint Operational Area, TF Ramrod was able to get all their units downrange to perform their critical mission in the continuing fight underway in Operation Enduring Freedom.



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Course (continued from Page 1)

Workforce Education, Training and Career Development Level II certification in the Program Management and Life Cycle Logistics disciplines, and Level III certification in the Contracting field.

“The complexity of the logistics business makes certification more important than ever,” said Hafner. “It’s more than just moving parts or supplies – it involves facilities, budgets, acquisition and more; today’s logisticians have to be knowledgeable in many areas.”

“Certification really means something,” said Jeff Patten, a Professor of Systems Acquisition Management at Defense Acquisition University’s South Region Campus, located at Huntsville, Ala. “We have a professional logistics workforce, not just folks doing the best they can – you don’t want to have people making multi-million dollar decisions without the proper skill set and knowledge.”

According to Patten, one of the real benefits of the professionalization of the AT&L workforce is the ability to more efficiently get critical technology into the hands of the warfighter.

“The MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle) program is a great example,” said Patten. “Two years ago, we didn’t have them and we have rolled them out quickly in a combat environment.”

Patten says training like the Intermediate Systems Acquisition Course has been instrumental in the MRAP and other recent acquisition successes.

“This course is key, we teach students to work in an integrated product team and solve complicated acquisition problems,” he said.

One student, who completed the course, says he came to the session looking to develop his logistics skills and prepare for career advancement, but found much more.

“I found the most beneficial part of the course was learning how a defense acquisition strategy plays out, from a



Intermediate Systems Acquisition course students (L-R) Alan Banks, Lewis Courtney and Terrence Wicherski go over a group assignment during a class session at the 401st Army Field Support Brigade training room, Sept. 15, 2008, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

need being identified and turned into a concept, and then to a finished product in the hands of the Soldier in the field,” said Department of the Army civilian Lewis Courtney, an U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Logistics Assistance Representative serving in Kuwait with the 401st Army Field Support Brigade. “The course opened my eyes to other areas in the acquisi-

Bringing Patten and fellow professor Chris Fry in from Huntsville, made economic sense as well, said Hafner.

“The last time we sent someone to the course, the trip was to Germany at a cost of about five thousand dollars,” he said

According to cost figures for this session, the bill came to approximately \$37,000 - or just over \$2,000 per student, said Hafner.

The greatest payoff from the training may be the focus on the “other thing we do as logisticians,” said Robert Williams, 401st AFSB chief of staff and deputy to the brigade commander.

“Acquisition, as are logistics and technology, is one of our core competencies,” Williams said. “This is one of the toughest courses to get, and bringing it

here gets our folks closer to certification while helping us focus on the ‘A’ of A, L and T.”



Intermediate Systems Acquisition course student David McDougal (L) assists Chris Fry, a Defense Acquisition University Professor of Systems Acquisition Management, Sept. 15, 2008, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

tion, logistics and technology field.”

Courtney said the course exceeded his expectations.

“The instructors from DAU were great,” he said. “Time flew by, and I was never bored.”



150th Stryker Combat Vehicle rolls out of Qatar Battle Damage Repair facility

By Jim Hinnant
401st Army Field Support Brigade

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — The 150th Stryker Combat Vehicle to be repaired and returned to a warfighting unit by the team at the Stryker Battle Damage Repair Facility, here, was the result of a process that has been refined over time and is now steady state.

“We feel we’re pretty close to where we need to be,” said Tim Armstrong, site manager, for the Qatar facility operated by General Dynamics Land Systems Division. “This Stryker was another damaged vehicle that we are getting back into the fight.”

The floor of the facility is busy, with the sounds of cutting torches, air-powered tools and vehicles being moved into or out of position in the repair line, but the intense pace seen in previous visits seems to have abated somewhat, largely due to the drop in combat losses in Iraq, says Armstrong.



photo by Jim Hinnant

Carlton Williams, production supervisor, General Dynamics Land Systems Division-Qatar, guides the 150th battle-damaged Stryker Combat Vehicle to be repaired at the Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar Stryker Battle Damage Repair Facility onto a trailer for shipment back to warfighters in Iraq, Sept. 12, 2008.

“The good news is that losses have dropped, and that means we’re not losing (as many) Soldiers in the fight,” he said.

Even though battle-damage related losses may have slowed, the SBDRFs 85-plus workers are going to stay busy, said Armstrong.

Based on the number of vehicles on hand, and those in the logistic pipeline coming from the battlefield, production work will



photo by Claudia Chandler

Members of the General Dynamics Land Systems Division-Qatar team pose for a group photo beside the 150th battle-damaged Stryker Combat Vehicle repaired by the staff of the Stryker Battle Damage Repair Facility at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

continue at the planned rate of six vehicles per month. In coming months, the workload will depend on how the fight goes in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The GLDS team here is anything but matter-of-fact about the work they do, and take pride in returning like-new SCVs to the warfighter.

In previous visits to the SBDRF workers spoke with pride of being able to return a vehicle so well-repaired that the Soldiers receiving it wouldn’t be able to tell it had been previously damaged - that pride in quality work remains unchanged.

Already inside the facility and undergoing work during the visit for this article, were

SCV’s numbered in the 160’s, so it seems a good bet that sometime in the early months of 2009 the 200th SCV repaired by the team here will roll out.

It’s also a very good bet that the quiet, professional work done here will continue.

When asked whether there was anything special about completing work on the 150th vehicle, Armstrong said “there was not anything

special about this vehicle, it’s another milestone — we did 100, now it’s 150.”

The safest bet of all is that the Soldiers who operate the Strykers repaired by the Qatar team are getting a first rate vehicle, ready to take them into harm’s way and back.



photo by Jim Hinnant

David Meulenberg, of Rising Sun, Md., a welder with General Dynamics Land Systems, creates a shower of sparks as he cuts out old welds during repair of a Stryker Combat Vehicle, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008, at the Stryker Battle Damage Repair Facility, Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.



Champion 6 Sends...

Greetings Champions! Another busy month has now passed that included numerous visitors to our footprint, as well as many support efforts that keep the warfighter going. Your daily performance continues to amaze and inspire me and I am honored to serve with such a great group of professionals dedicated to taking care of the Soldier.

In Kuwait, LTC Joe Ladner's team did phenomenal work in preparing equipment for the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, so they would be combat ready before crossing the berm into Iraq. In a short period of time, his team in Kuwait was able to flawlessly prepare and issue 140 Uparmored Humvees, 180 Medium and Heavy Tactical Vehicles, 96 M113 FOVs, 18 M1 Abrams Tanks and 51 Bradley Fighting Vehicles. All of this was done to standard through sheer hard work and determination to achieve success in a highly visible program that simply could not fail. You have certainly lived up to your motto of "Mission Focused...Support Driven".

At Logistic Support Element-Camp Buehring, LTC John Glasgow's team of technical experts performed the final touches on getting 2/4 BCT across the berm while simultaneously supporting 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, by ensuring all CREW and BFT items were properly installed and functioning as they prepare to move across the border and in harm's way. A total team effort by our proud members in Kuwait as they continue to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Down South in Qatar, LTC Jerry Jones continued his battalion's great success as six more Stryker's were rebuilt and returned to the warfighter in Iraq while also completing his OEF requirements for the HEMTT Wrecker refurbishment program. These wreckers are in short supply in Afghanistan and are a critical component to the theater vehicle recovery effort.

In Afghanistan, LTC Don Mayer's group of professionals continued their outstanding support to our coalition partners by providing greatly needed M1114 Humvees and weapons mounts. The work performed by the Allied Trades section in manufacturing and modifying these crucial weapons mounts is simply astonishing. Through their efforts, our NATO partners are able to mount their former Warsaw Pact-style weapons to our U.S. made HMMWVs and fight side by side as a combined arms team.

Also in support of OEF, LTC John Zeitler's Task Force Victory continued their sustained performance of excellent support by providing valuable technical assistance and support to each of the Task Force Brigade Combat Teams located through out the CJOA. Whether its ammunition, vehicles, communications, weapons, aviation, missiles, or a Soldier's gear, his team provides the daily interface with our combat forces to sustain readiness and build combat power – a great effort of true partnership and a prime example of leveraging our CONUS-based Life Cycle Management Commands to support the Soldier overseas.

As CSM Campbell and I continue to conduct our travels throughout the AOR, one common theme is always present and visible - our supported units truly appreciate the efforts and support exhibited by the Champion Brigade every day. You all are truly a team of Champions who perform to the best of your abilities as you meet each and every challenge. Thank you all for that you do and the sacrifices you have made to support our efforts in Southwest Asia. Stay safe, remain alert and God Bless!

Colonel Jon Buonerba
Champion 6



Champion 7 - "Net Call"



The Champion Brigade has been involved in a lot of new missions recently, and you have all continued to amaze the different commands we support.

September was full of challenges, one of the most difficult being the remembrance of 9/11. This date in 2001 changed the country, the military, our families, and those who support the military, as many live with the effects of 9/11 every day.

Unfortunately, we still have many Americans who do not think about this day until the media or someone else reminds them that 9/11 is approaching, or that it is already 9/11.

Regrettably, those of us who serve in, or support, the military, live this day everyday as we have left our families behind to deploy and fight the Global War on Terrorism.

There are a number of reasons that many of us are here, but MY belief is that WE believe that America's best days are ahead of us. We are the ones that write our history, to ensure no one will again cause Americans to suffer like we did because of the attack of September 11, 2001.

I recall being in Germany and have one of my Soldiers come to my office to tell me of the airplane that hit one of the twin towers. As I walked to the break room, the second airplane hit the second tower. In the next moments our threat level changed, and I would had Soldiers on guard as the Force Protection Level was elevated, all the events of that day will always be with me.

As we have just passed the SEVENTH anniversary of the worst terror attack in our nation's history, we must continue to ensure our workforce remains vigilant and understanding of security issues, the force protection posture, and all antiterrorism measures as we continue to safeguard ourselves, our battle buddies and our equipment.

October is now here and we are looking at the many ongoing and future missions the brigade has been ordered to accomplish. We are continuing the fielding of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to the warfighter and the fielding of the Base Expeditionary Targeting and Surveillance Systems-Combined (BETSS-C). Both are major fielding efforts that we have undertaken to ensure every warfighter has what he or she needs to defeat the enemy.

With this underway, we now face another challenge as the Reserve Component Soldiers who have served beside us for the past months are preparing to return home as their mission comes to an end.

These Soldiers have helped the brigade continue to raise the bar to the next level of support provided to units across Southwest Asia.

Many of them helped in the Surge that defeated or prevented the violence in Iraq and now they are in the midst of helping with the build up of forces that will occur in Afghanistan.

We thank them for their sacrifice on behalf of our nation. As their families look forward to them returning home in time for the coming holidays we are happy for them, but feel sadness because we are saying goodbye to friends who helped with the many accomplishments that have taking place during their tour of duty. We always knew that the mission would be accomplished because of the professionalism, pride in our nation and communities, and dedication to duty that they came with everyday.

I know this commitment will be taken up, and elevated to the next level by the inbound Reserve Component team.

To these Citizen-Soldiers and warriors who will depart in the coming days and weeks we say thank you, job well done, and take care.

Command Sergeant Major Carl Campbell
Champion 7

Army fires first round from cannon on FCS chassis

Future Combat Systems
Program Office

YUMA PROVING GROUND, Ariz. (Sep. 23, 2008) — The Future Combat Systems program successfully fired the first artillery projectile from the Manned Ground Vehicle Non-Line-Of-Sight Cannon prototype.

The successful firing of the projectile is a milestone for the program, said Lt. Col. Robert McVay, Army product manager for NLOS-C.

“This marks the first 155mm round fired from a fully automated howitzer mounted on an FCS hybrid-electric chassis and remotely commanded through its on-board computers and controls,” he said.

The NLOS-C has the ability to rapidly deliver precision munitions in both urban and conventional battle space, officials said, adding that it is the lead prototype in the Army’s family of eight FCS manned ground vehicles.

Advanced FCS technology provides the two-man artillery crew with the capability to rapidly deliver highly accurate sustained fires for close and destructive fires. That technology includes a fully automated ammunition loading system, improved accuracy through on-board projectile tracking, and the FCS network and sensors.



U.S. Army photo

The Future Combat Systems program successfully fired the first artillery projectile from the manned ground vehicle non-line-of-sight cannon prototype at Yuma Proving Ground, Az.

A total of eight NLOS-C prototypes will be produced between 2008 and 2009. All will undergo rigorous testing, safety certification and evaluations at various Army test facilities, officials said. They said the NLOS-C prototypes will be used for testing and evaluation of not only the artillery system, but also the MGCV common chassis and technologies.

The NLOS-C P1 will fire an additional 500 rounds through early 2009 to obtain

a safety release that will allow Soldiers to move, shoot, and communicate from an NLOS-C in spring 2009, officials said.

Starting in 2010, the Army’s Evaluation Task Force is scheduled to receive the first of 18 NLOS-C platforms. The AETF will put those vehicles through combat scenarios to provide lessons learned that will be used to enhance and finalize design for the final production NLOS-Cs and the rest of the MGCV family.

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Konar Province issues discussed

Defense Secretary meets with governor in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Adora Medina
3rd BCT Public Affairs, 1st Infantry Division

JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates met with Konar Provincial Governor Sayed Fazullah Wahidi Sept. 17 to discuss plans for this Afghan province that borders Pakistan.

The Konar province encompasses 14 districts and shares a 200 kilometer border with Pakistan. Navy Cmdr. Daniel Dwyer, the Konar PRT commander, pointed out that the majority of “kinetic activity” the province experiences is mainly due to its proximity to the Pakistan border.

Dwyer and Governor Wahidi explained their approach of “economic counterinsurgency” to Secretary Gates.

“We feel it’s more important to give jobs to the local fighting-age male to prevent them from picking up a rifle and fighting against us. We’ve been very successful with that right now,” Dwyer said.

The execution of projects such as the Konar construction center, a three-month course that teaches carpentry, plumbing and construction, has enabled the people



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates greets Konar Provincial Governor Sayed Fazullah Wahidi at the Jalalabad Airfield, Sept. 17.

to maintain long-term jobs and put these skills to work within their respective communities. Prior to the execution of this project, the primary labor originated from Pakistan.

Another major topic of discussion was the building of roads and bridges and the essential role they play in the economic structure of Afghanistan.

“With \$83 million, we’re primarily focusing on roads and bridges. We’re building that core infrastructure for Konar so their surplus crops can find ways to market,” Dwyer said.

The roads provide easier access, for merchant travel, through the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan and have cut the Improvised Explosive Device

threat significantly in those areas.

“Where the road has come, we’ve gotten some economic progress. We’re able to bring the government to the people and we’re starting to see a difference,” Col. John Spiszer, Task Force Duke commander, said.

Bridges have also contributed to economic growth by providing a route to Afghanistan for the many secluded villages cut off by a river along the Pakistan border, Gov. Wahidi said.

He emphasized the importance of these entryways, explaining how medical care, crops and agriculture were all being lost to Pakistan, and how the education of nearly 80 percent of the children in the Konar province was acquired in the bordering country. However, the simple construction of bridges changed all of that, he said, giving the people the support and easy access to their capital. “With the support of the coalition, our people are successful. We are very much thankful of them,” Wahidi said.



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Task Force Duke Commander Col. John Spiszer converse with Konar Provincial Governor Sayed Fazullah Wahidi at the Jalalabad Airfield, Sept. 17.

Aviation and Missile Command Update

Facility helps copters join Iraqi AirForce

Story and photos by Skip Vaughn
U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command

When the Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command's Security Assistance Management Directorate needed to get helicopters quickly to the Iraqis, it knew where to turn - the Prototype Integration Facility.

The facility, part of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, converted five Bell 206 helicopters from commercial to military use. The aircraft were modified for delivery to the Iraqi Air Force.

"This is the PIF working in support of SAMD," Danny Featherston, manager of the Prototype Integration Facility, said. "We had a very tight schedule to outfit five Bell Jet Rangers for the Iraqi Air Force. And this is part of our trying to equip the Iraqis. And as soon as we can get them trained and equipped, we can pull our Soldiers and civilians out of there."

Helping the facility on this mission is the Prototype Integration Facility's prime contractor JVYS, Joint Venture between Yulista Management Services and Science & Engineering Services. The aircraft should be ready by Nov. 15.



This is one of five Bell Jet Rangers which have been readied by AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility for delivery to the Iraqi Air Force.

"It's absolutely a gorgeous aircraft," Dan Parker, deputy director of the Security Assistance Management Directorate, said. "This is a major success for us."

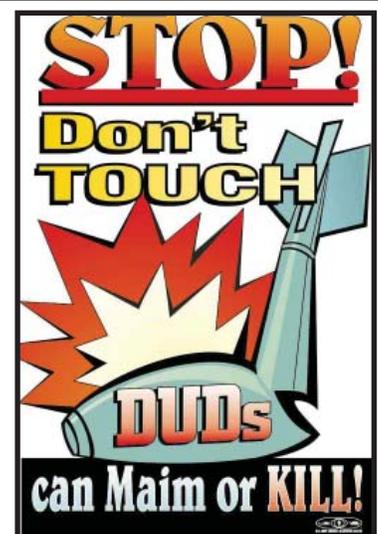
The helicopters will be delivered to a U.S. training school in Iraq and eventually turned over to the Iraqis, according to Miranda Oden, a branch chief at the Prototype Integration Facility.

Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of AMCOM LCMC, co-piloted one of the helicopters Sept. 8 from the facility to the Madison County Executive Airport in Meridianville. Dean Doudna of Fort Rucker was the pilot for this demonstration flight.

"This isn't about me flying the aircraft," Myles said. "This is about helping get our Soldiers back (home). It's about giving the Iraqis a way to defend their own country so our Soldiers and civilians can get back. And the PIF is doing that."



Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, AMCOM LCMC commander, adjusts his pilot gear before flying the Bell Jet Ranger from the Prototype Integration Facility to the Madison County Executive Airport in Meridianville, Ala.



Pentagon Hall of Heroes ceremony

MRAP developer, budget analyst capture Pace Award

Story and photo by Heike Hasenauer
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — An Army logistics officer lauded for helping save Soldiers' lives in Afghanistan and Iraq because of better armor protection, and a civilian budget analyst who, in 2007, was in charge of the largest peacetime appropriation in the Department of the Army, were honored by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren Monday.

A capacity crowd filled seats at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes as Geren presented the Department of the Army Pace Award to Lt. Col. Douglas Cherry and Steven Gray for their respective contributions to the Army.

Cherry was a staff officer for the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7. Gray served as a financial analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller.

Cherry was in charge of establishing Army requirements for what's now known as the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle program, MRAP.

Gray managed a \$45-billion budget, which provided the funds needed by the Army to sustain the all-volunteer force, Geren said.

"They epitomize the quality of our Army," Geren told attendees. "And we thank you for many, many years of service," he said.

Gray said determining how the \$45-billion budget was spent for pay and entitlements for active-duty Soldiers was a very stressful job. There's much oversight, "and I had to give numerous briefings to personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense and to Congress.

"Because of the 'Grow-the-Army' campaign, the force structure changed, and costs went up," Gray continued.

But money and balancing the books is his forte, he said. "I started [dealing with money] almost 18 years ago as an enlisted Soldier," said Gray, who was an accounting specialist in Frankfurt, Germany. After

three and a half years on active duty, he got out of the service on a Friday and entered Civil Service on a Monday, he said.

He's spent two and a half years at his current job. Previously, he served as a division chief and budget officer at U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Cherry was assigned to the Army staff in 2006 and was responsible for determining Soldiers' and commanders' requirements for tactical wheeled vehicles, Geren said. Those included the up-armored Humvee and what became the MRAP program.

As G-3 lead action officer for the MRAP program, he's [partly] responsible for saving many Soldiers' lives, Geren said. "Soldiers all over the theaters tell us stories of their survival because of the improved vehicles."

In August 2006, former Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody said the Army had a need that the up-armored Humvee couldn't satisfy, Cherry said.

"Because I worked on the up-armored Humvee program, I was the best person to work on a new program," Cherry said. "We didn't know it would be called MRAP.

"Early on, I met with a group of representatives from various agencies in Crystal City, Va.,," Cherry recalled. They helped us determine what was in the realm of possibilities for the new vehicle."

Though he's been on active duty since 1996 and spent 13 years in the Army Reserve, Cherry said he's never deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan; he was able to determine what commanders in the field needed based on conversations with Soldiers who had been downrange, and by reading virtually every report that came into his office about the dangers Soldiers faced and what they needed in the way of protection, among them reports from the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

By the end October 2006, the first MRAP contracts were awarded, Cherry said. Now, 10,000 MRAPs are in the combat theaters.



Pace Award Winners Steven Gray (L) and Lt. Col. Douglas Cherry pose with their certificates

Gray works in the same Pentagon office where he worked in 2007, and Cherry is in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, Force Integration Sustainment Branch.

"I'm looking at future Army units and how they'll meet future threats," he said. Because Cherry is a logistics officer, his focus is largely on quartermaster, ordnance and personnel-service-support units.

"The Army has more requirements than it has resources, so I provide recommendations to commanders [on what may need to be added to the mix and what they might best be able to eliminate or modify] to help them balance risks," Cherry said.

The Pace award is named after former Secretary of the Army Frank Pace Jr., who held the office from 1950 to 1953. The award has been presented to an Army officer in the rank of lieutenant colonel or below, and a civilian employee in grade GS-14 equivalent or below every year since it was established in 1962, officials said.

Awardees are selected based on their performance and completion of significant staff assignments that benefit the Army by providing financial savings or help develop technological improvements for the field.

“Eye on personnel”

NSPS Regulations Finalized

Department of Defense Press Release
Sept. 26, 2008

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management jointly issued the final enabling regulations for the National Security Personnel System, one of DoD’s human resources management systems. NSPS was originally authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 and amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

The proposed regulations were initially published in the Federal Register on May 22, 2008, for a 30-day public comment period. The department and OPM received 526 public comments. Nine of the 10 unions having national consultation rights with the department also provided comments.

DoD and OPM carefully considered all comments and suggestions. The final regulations incorporate some of the changes and recommendations received and reflect the department’s commitment to ensuring fairness and transparency in the performance management system, a key concern of commenters. A comprehensive overview of the comments and the department’s response is included in the supplementary information published with the final regulations.

While the final regulations incorporate significant changes, the core features of the personnel system remain intact.

The final regulations govern how classification, compensation, and performance management flexibilities will be accomplished.

NSPS retains the existing values of the civil service, including merit system principles and veterans’ preference, and allows employees to be paid and rewarded based on performance, contributions to mission accomplishment, and market considerations.

The NSPS regulations have under-

gone significant change since they were first introduced. Most of these changes were motivated by one of three factors: changes mandated in law, changes derived from lessons learned and best practices, and changes driven by public and union comments.



Changes brought about by National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008:

- NSPS will follow existing government-wide rules for:
 - Labor-management relations
 - Disciplinary and adverse actions and employee appeals of adverse actions
 - Staffing and employment
 - Workforce shaping
 - Excludes Federal Wage System employees from coverage under NSPS. Mandates that all employees with a performance rating above “unacceptable” (rating of 1 on a scale of 1-5) or who do not have a current performance rating receive no less than sixty percent of the annual government-wide General Schedule pay increase. In accordance with the statute, the balance will be allocated to pay pools for the purpose of increasing rates of pay based on performance at the valued performer (rating of 3) and higher levels.
 - Requires that all NSPS employees with a performance rating above “unacceptable” or who do not have a current performance rating receive locality pay in the same manner and extent as General Schedule employees.
- Adjustments and clarifications made

to lend consistency based on lessons learned and best practices:

- Allow for NSPS coverage of employees appointed for less than 90 days
 - Provide a conversion/movement out process for employees moving to GS positions, to ensure consistent pay setting practices for NSPS employees
 - Allow employees to request reconsideration of an individual job objective rating, in addition to the ability to request reconsideration of the overall final rating of record
 - Grandfathers GS pay retention timeframes for employees covered by GS grade or pay retention rules at the time of their conversion to NSPS
- Additional substantive changes made following publication of the proposed rules in the Federal Register:
- Revised definition of “rate of pay” to ensure consistency and conformity regarding pay issues.
 - Require organizations to share aggregate pay pool results
 - Extend accelerated compensation for developmental positions to positions assigned to the Student Career Experience Program in the student pay schedule
 - Extend within-grade increase “buy-in” provision to Federal Wage System employees who move into NSPS.
- DoD will continue to use NSPS flexibilities to build and sustain a high-performing workforce. There are currently approximately 183,000 DoD employees under NSPS.
- The next DoD organizations will convert into NSPS in the late 2008 - early 2009 timeframe, bringing the total number of employees under the system to approximately 200,000.
- The final regulations can be found here: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-22483.pdf>.

“Eye on safety”

October means the start of Cold and Flu season - be ready!

By Joel Baylor
401st Army Field Support Brigade Safety Manager

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — With daytime temperatures still on the warm side, you might not realize the Cold and Flu season is here - but it is.

The most important thing you can do to avoid getting sick; especially this time of year, is to wash your hands.

A common way to catch a cold is by rubbing your nose or eyes, so to protect against infection wash your hands more frequently, as they hands pick up germs from contaminated surfaces, and washing them prevents you from

infecting yourself.

Use warm water with soap and wash for several minutes for best results.

Hand sanitizers can be used as a secondary precaution. Other practices to assist you in staying healthy are cleaning high-contact items, such as door-knobs, faucets and telephones, with soap and water.

Even when your hands are clean, staying healthy means more than simply avoiding germs.

Healthy bodies have an easier time



fighting off infection. This means get plenty of rest, eat a well-balanced diet, exercise regularly, keep stressors to a minimum and cut back on unhealthy habits, such as smoking.

Is It a Cold or the Flu?

Symptom

Cold

Flu

Fever

Rare

High; lasts 5-7 days

Headache

Rare

Prominent

Aches & pains

Slight

Usual; often severe

Fatigue, weakness

Quite mild

Can last up to 3 weeks

Exhaustion

Never

Early and prominent

Stuffy nose

Common

Sometimes

Sneezing

Usual

Sometimes

Sore throat

Common

Sometimes

Preventing, treating the common cold

Believe it or not, a much more unorthodox therapy of warm-and-cold showers has recently been proposed, though not proven for the prevention of the common cold. Shower therapy joins an ever-growing spectrum of suggested preventions and treatment for the common cold - among them:

- Hand washing,
- Vitamin C
- Various over-the-counter cough and cold medications like aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen for fever and body aches
- Drink plenty of liquids. Water, clear fruit juices, and sports drinks (replace electrolytes) are good choices.

If you begin to have a fever after 24 - 48 hours of self care seek medical attention immediately.



September Champions

Champion of the Week—September 3, 2008

SFC Laurie A. Larson

3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade - Afghanistan

For her significant contributions during August 2008, SFC Laurie Larson is named the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Champion of the Week for 3 September 2008. During the past month, SFC Larson continued her outstanding support of her battalion's S1 section, supporting the needs of the more than 1,300 members of the unit, including validations, evaluations and awards. At the same time, she coached and mentored the newly assigned Soldier in her section, ensuring she had the necessary direction and support to be successful. SFC Larson also assumed the duties of the battalion commander's executive assistant for a three-week period while the incumbent was on leave. SFC Larson's performance in support of the commander was superb, while still completing her regular S1 workload. Finally, when the battalion was faced with operating without a Unit Security Manager, and with the imminent re-deployment of the S2/3, SFC Larson volunteered to add this to her duties to ensure the battalion was covered by a qualified, school-trained individual. All of these actions highlight the leadership, dedication and selfless service that SFC Larson continuously exhibits in support of the mission. SFC Laurie Larson is an invaluable asset to the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade and exemplifies the battalion's motto- "Supporting the Warfighter."



Champion of the Week—September 10, 2008

Mr. Edward Liquete

1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade - Qatar

Mr. Edward Liquete is a Supply Technician in the Storage section for the Army Preposition Stock-5 Team and our Champion of the Week for September 10, 2008. As a supply technician, Mr. Liquete receives and conducts inventories, packages, surveys locations, and identifies the final location that material will be stored in the warehouse, sunshade, or container yard. Mr. Liquete controls the secured cage system for sensitive and high dollar items and also performs weekly missions at the Ammunition Supply Point known as Falcon 78. During the past week, Mr. Liquete set up, and implemented, the location system in the sunshade and segregated equipment contained in three different projects — the MTA excess, Qatar sustainment stock, and the IBCT equipment going to Kuwait for the brigade sets. He also coordinated repairing and rebuilding pallets needed to properly store equipment in locations. Mr. Liquete works with over 20 million dollars worth of equipment and is instrumental in keeping inventories accurate and ensuring that the equipment continues to be in a serviceable condition and ready to be issued when needed by the warfighter. Mr. Edward Liquete's attention to detail has contributed greatly to the mission of our nation's warfighters and the 1-401st AFSB Storage Section.



Beginning Oct. 1, 2008, the "Champion of the Week" will be replaced by the 401st Army Field Support Brigade "Champion of the Month" award. Units should submit their nominations (200 words or less) by Email to davisj3@mmcs.army.mil NLT COB on the last Saturday of the month. The Champion of the Month will be recognized during the first Brigade Update Briefing of the following month.

September Champions

Champion of the Week—September 17, 2008

MSG Brian Holloway

3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade - Afghanistan

MSG Brian Holloway is the 401st AFSB Champion of the Week for the period 10 - 17 September 2008. Deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom as a Quality Assurance Inspector for 3rd Battalion, he has worked tirelessly to check and return over 1,500 pieces of equipment to the Warfighter. He takes a personal interest in training people to improve their skills and contributions. He has reviewed maintenance issues with mechanics, conducted classes on proper vehicle maintenance with Soldiers, and provided instruction on Construction Equipment Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services. When hard-to-find repair parts were located in Kuwait, MSG Holloway voluntarily traveled there to coordinate with 2nd Battalion personnel and bring the items back. His most recent contribution has been his performance as battalion safety officer. When the previous safety officer redeployed without a replacement, MSG Holloway volunteered to cover this critical area while still supporting the QA effort. In this capacity, he led a thorough safety and electrical inspection of 401st AFSB housing at Bagram Airfield, completed monthly safety inspections of production areas, and conducted the battalion's Remedial Driver's Training Program. All of these actions highlight the leadership, dedication and selfless service that MSG Holloway continuously exhibits in support of the mission and the Soldier.



Champion of the Week—September 24, 2008

Army Materiel Command Reposture Planning Team

401st Army Field Support Brigade - Afghanistan

For their outstanding contributions and diligence in leading the way while planning, coordinating, researching and staffing the Army Materiel Command/401st Army Field Support Brigade reposturing effort – The Way Ahead – the 401st AFSB Reposture Planning Team of MAJ Chet Chiles, Ms. Dianne Hamilton and Mr. Lenin Vera is named Champion of the Week for 24 September 2008. This team of outstanding individuals have dedicated many hours coordinating requirements and meeting with Combined Joint Task Force 101 J4, Joint Logistics Command, Army Sustainment and Materiel Command staffs, and other supporting elements and agencies to prepare a comprehensive plan for AMC operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their knowledge and expertise related to the combatant commander's mission requirements has been key in this major effort. The AMC Reposture Planning Team's dedication to the success of the mission and genuine concern for the welfare of the Warfighter are indicative of the Champion Ethos, and reflect great credit on them and the 401st Army Field Support Brigade.



September Champions

Champion of the Week—September 30, 2008

Ms. Marguerite Blassingame

1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade - Qatar

Ms. Blassingame's performance as the Battalion Budget Analyst was critical to the success of the Fiscal Year 2008 closeout during the week of 27 September 2008. Since April, Ms. Blassingame successfully incorporated elements of budgeting, manpower management and resource integration to develop and execute a budget plan for the Battalion. Ms. Blassingame worked diligently to closeout the battalion's financial year end funds. She monitored, and ensured contractual obligations were recorded and efficiently distributed the battalion's financial resources. Working meticulously under the pressure of deadlines and a tight timeline, she daily worked additional hours to compile, analyze, prepare, report and sort out last minute requirements. Her dedication culminated this week when the books closed and the battalion was declared a year end success! Ms. Blassingame's professionalism and commitment ensured the battalion was 100-percent obligated ahead of schedule in the year end closeout. Her outstanding performance of duty and dedication to the Champion Brigade and 1st Battalion reflect great credit upon her and are truly indicative of what it means to be a Champion.

A safety poster with a dark background featuring a soldier's face partially obscured by flames. The text is white and red. On the left, a red vertical banner contains the text: "PLRs Preliminary LOSS REPORTS for the week of September 5-11, 2008", a large white number "2", and "U.S. SOLDIERS DIED IN ACCIDENTS". The main text reads "Got RISK?" with a large question mark. Below it is the URL "https://cra.army.mil". Two red arrows point to text boxes describing accidents: one on September 5 near Baltimore, MD, and another on September 11 at Fort Hood, Texas. Both accidents resulted in 1 soldier killed. Logos for the U.S. Army and the Army Center of Excellence are at the bottom right.

PLRs
**Preliminary
LOSS REPORTS**
for the week of September 5-11, 2008

2

U.S. SOLDIERS
DIED IN
ACCIDENTS

Got
RISK?

<https://cra.army.mil>

➔ A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident September 5 at approximately 0011 near Baltimore, Md. The Soldier was operating his 2007 Yamaha when he was struck by a 1999 Honda Prelude traveling in the opposite direction. The Soldier had completed an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course and was wearing all required personal protective equipment.
COST: 1 Soldier Killed

➔ A Soldier was killed in a fire September 11 at approximately 0715 on Fort Hood, Texas. The Soldier was in his quarters when the fire started and was found after the fire was extinguished.
COST: 1 Soldier Killed

Losses

U.S. ARMY
ARMY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome new brigade members!

The following joined the 401st AFSB Family during September. Welcome aboard!

AFGHANISTAN

SFC George Bayer	3-401ST	Hermel Gordon	TF VICTORY	Brett Little	TF VICTORY
Darren Cantu	TF VICTORY	James Heaton III	3-401ST	Michael Madden	3-401st
Michael Chambless	TF VICTORY	Peter Heilemann	TF VICTORY	Ross Poppenberger	BETTS-C PMO
Emmett Conaway	TF VICTORY	Howard Henderson	MRAP PMO	Jimmy Richardson	TF VICTORY
Richard Coy	3-401ST	Phillip Herndon	AVCRAD	SGT George Tanner	3-401st
Carol Ensley	TF VICTORY	Brett Housley	TF VICTORY	Richard Wilson	TF VICTORY
Douglas Farnsworth	3-401ST	Joseph Jarrell	TF VICTORY		

KUWAIT

Michael Augustyn	S-6	Ellis Harmon	TACOM FRA	Frank Novitski	JCCS-1
Coye Barber	FRA	Robert Herndon	TMDE	Richard Payne	TACOM FRA
Barbara Castel	BDE HQ	Michael Hillis	TACOM FRA	Craig Powers	CDDOC
Bryan Califano	CECOM FRA	Billy Hines	TACOM FRA	Bruce Richardson	TACOM FRA
Brandon Dove	TACOM FRA	Anthony Houzah	TACOM FRA	Derek Schnorrenberg	LOGCAP
Jane Dwayn	TACOM FRA	Terrance James	TACOM FRA	Christopher Sherman	TACOM FRA
Timothy Easley	TACOM FRA	Terrance Lee	BDE S4	Sheldon Slaughter	TACOM IRMT
Gary Forsythe	TACOM TPER	Daniel Machado	LOGSA	Christopher Turner	TACOM FRA
Grissom, Charles D.	TACOM FRA	Colleen Manuszak	BDE S4	Eugene Wise,	TACOM FRA
Mchael Hall	TACOM FRA	Maureen Mare	JCCS-1		

QATAR

No Gains in the month of September

Thank you, team members for your honorable service!

The following personnel departed theater during September for redeployment:

KUWAIT

James Brewer	MAJ John Lindsey
CW4 Edward Bryan	Angus Martindale
Kenneth Celestine	Alean Nard
Brandon Cooper	Mickey Nottingham
Jack Dodge	Broz Powell
MAJ Mark Evans	Cameron Reed
Rodger Freeman	Johnny Rendon
Mark Greger	Christopher Rhodes
Kenneth Hickerson	Arthur Shaffinman
Kenneth Higgins	Derek Walters
Timothy Holley	SFC Machelie Winn
Jeffery Kabaj	Jeffery Wisewall
SFC Omar Kashif	Pecola Woods
LTC Mark Kelly	MAJ JB Worley
Joseph Lavigne	

QATAR

SFC Ennis Charleston
SGT George Tanner

AFGHANISTAN

SFC Carl Bjornstal	SSG Ronald Myers
Dennis Carver	Joseph Ruffino
Carlos Holcombe	Ted Shelton
Gary Lancaster	Mark Stevens
SGT C. Lewandowski	SFC William Turner
Chester Mack	Kyle Voelcker
CW4 Kenneth McLaughlin	James Weber
Dante Milledge	

Mark your Calendars!

Who: 401st AFSB

What: August Hail & Farewell

When: 5:30 p.m., Friday, October 24, 2008*

Where: DFAC Annex, Zone 6, Camp Arifjan

Why: Out with the old and in with the new!

*subject to change based on DFAC availability