



# POWER LINE



## Tempo accelerates for convoy traffic out of Iraq

Story & photos by Pamela Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

### CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait –

Units started rolling in from the north in short bursts, but now with the deadline to be out of Iraq drawing ever closer, the pace has accelerated for Soldiers departing Iraq and for those taking over their hand receipts.

While it's the end of a mission for redeploying units, it's only the beginning for the many Soldiers manning the turn-in lanes at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

Staff Sgt. Kwame Peterkin is the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade's operational area. Units turn in tactical vehicles and communications equipment to Peterkin's team and business is brisk.

"My guys like to stay busy. It keeps Soldiers fresh," said Peterkin.

The turn-in involves some paperwork, and that, Peterkin said, is the biggest wrinkle.

"These units don't always come in here with the proper documentation. It's the biggest challenge. It halts the operation, but we work through it and we help them get it all in order so they can go home," said Peterkin.

This is Peterkin's third deployment so nothing rattles him, not even missing paperwork. He claims teamwork is what makes it all work.

"I came into Iraq when it started. I was here in the

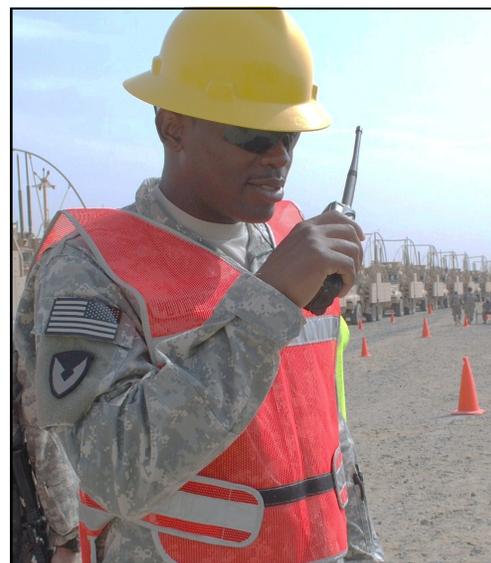


*Staff Sgt. Kwame Peterkin, NCOIC, Redistribution Property Assistance Team, 402nd AFSB, explains the turn-in process to incoming units. (Below) Peterkin orchestrates his team as convoys roll in to Camp Virginia, Kuwait.*

middle and now I get to see closure, the end of it, and this time I am working with a lot of AMC (Army Materiel Command) civilians and I am learning a lot from them. Most are military retirees who bring a lot of knowledge and having AMC experience on a resume will be a plus," Peterkin said. "I tell my team, this experience you can put in your toolbox."

It is estimated that between October and December the AMC team will move approximately 19,000 tactical vehicles out of Iraq. It's a job that takes a coordinated effort that starts and ends with Soldiers and civilians in the lanes.

"We have great cohesion. That's what makes us a good



team, makes the job easier," said Peterkin. "Civilians and military, we are all on the same sheet of music to do a mission."

# A word from Power 6: bold ideas

On 13 Nov, I held my first town hall as the brigade commander. We received a lot of questions from the field and I hope everyone left knowing that the leadership of the brigade is committed to ensuring the personal and professional success of every member of the team.

As I mentioned during the town hall, the Army Materiel Command has launched a new campaign that is asking for the assistance of every member of the team. AMC wants your ideas on how to become a more cost effective and efficient organization and has launched a “Bold Ideas” Campaign.

General Dunwoody realizes that the best ideas come from the people in the field and is seeking your input. After ten years of war, America and our Army must create a culture that is more cost conscious and we are looking to identify processes and programs that can save the taxpayer’s money.



**Col. John S. Laskodi  
Commander 402nd AFSB**

This campaign is designed to rapidly gather ideas and implement the best practices. General Dunwoody’s intent is to leverage all the talent and expertise within team to find “game changing” ideas. Think in terms of how equipment such as smartphones or iPods have changed the way we do business.

The establishment of the AFSB was a “Bold Idea” that has provided incredible value to our Army. A “Bold Idea” could be a change in doctrine, automating a manual process, or removing a process which adds no value, saving time and money.

I know we have the talent within the Power Team to provide that kind of input. Many of you have heard me say that “if it’s stupid, it’s not the policy of the 402nd AFSB.” Too often, smarter ways of doing business go unheard because they never reach the senior leaders who have the authority to implement change. This is a superb opportunity to be heard at the most senior level of AMC and I challenge those with “Bold Ideas” to submit them and make a difference.

This campaign runs through the end of December. You can register online at:

<https://collab.aep.army.mil/sites/BOLDIdeas>

Click on the Bold Ideas icon. Power Forward and Power our Future with your Bold Ideas!

**402nd AFSB  
POWER LINE**

**Commander:**  
Col. John S. Laskodi

**Public Affairs Officer/Editor:**  
Pamela J. Proper

Submissions and suggestions can be forwarded to the editor, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs Officer:  
pamela.j.proper@kuwait.swa.army.mil.

This newsletter is an official publication authorized by Army Regulation 360-1 and does not reflect the views of the 402nd AFSB, Department of the Army, or Department of Defense.

**AMC**  
is  
looking  
for a  
few...  
ideas

# POWER LINE

## HELLFIRE team: sustaining the fight, cutting costs

Story by Pamela Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

### CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar -

- As equipment is transitioned out of Iraq perhaps none is more critical than the HELLFIRE missile system. Since the drawdown began, more than 750 HELLFIRE missiles have been shipped to the 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar, where they are serviced, tested and repaired by the HELLFIRE Forward Test and Repair Facility.

The HELLFIRE team returned nearly half of those missiles back into theater combat stocks, said Lt. Col. Michael Brown, director of Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

“Because of this facility, turnaround times for HELLFIRE missiles are now less than 90 days. That’s a cost avoidance of more than \$39,000 per missile. Plus, this is reducing the workload at stateside depots by about 58 percent,” Brown said.

The HELLFIRE missile is the primary precision air-to-ground weapon used by joint and coalition services to protect ground forces and non-combatants. More than 11,000 have been fired in combat operations since 2001.

“The HELLFIRE facility in Qatar is saving the Army money, saving transport time and optimizing readiness by



Photo by Pamela Proper

*Al Neilsen HELLFIRE site lead, Qatar, explains the test set-up and service process to Brig. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general, Army Materiel Command-Southwest Asia/G-4, U.S. Army Central, Lt. Col. Michael Brown, director, of Acquisition, Logistics, Technology, for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, and Lt. Col. Aaron Cook, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Battalion-Qatar.*



HELLFIRE missile US Army photo

# POWER LINE

## HELLFIRE — From Page 3

testing, repairing and resetting missiles in a forward depot," Brown said.

Acquisition officials estimate the HELLFIRE facility in Qatar will save the Army more than \$55 million during the next three years.

"This is a great initiative to return critically needed assets back to the Warfighter more efficiently and with less downtime than a full depot maintenance effort," said Susan Carlson, deputy chief of staff, Army Logistics (G-4), after a recent visit.

"To date, assets returned have gone back into the hands of the Warfighter and been used against insurgents and other hostile elements, saving U.S. and coalition lives in the process. To be able to turn them around in three-four months vice two-three years saves the Army money, increases our readiness and gets the best systems to the fight," Carlson said.

Brig Gen. Karen LeDoux, commanding general, Army Materiel Command-Southwest Asia/G-4, U.S. Army Central, also visited the Qatar site and keyed in on the readiness aspect of the facility.

"Operations here have resulted in a significant increase in the availability and readiness of the Joint Warfighter's air-to-ground missile of choice," said LeDoux.

The Qatar HELLFIRE Forward Test and Repair Facility was recognized in 2011 by the **iSix-Sigma** community as the largest breakthrough improvement project in the customer service category.

That was a direct result of a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt project, which is an aggressive tool



Photo by Al Neilsen

*(Above) David Phillips, deployed from Anniston Ala., HELLFIRE missile depot, performs checks and services on a HELLFIRE missile that has been turned in and is being processed at the Qatar facility. (Below) Soldiers loading a HELLFIRE missile onto a Cobra attack helicopter. The HELLFIRE missile is the primary precision air-to-ground weapon used by joint and coalition services. More than 11,000 have been fired in combat operations since 2001.*



U.S. Army photo

used by leaders of industry to reduce waste and improve effectiveness of processes. As the Defense Department faces a future of budget cuts, the HELLFIRE program is already a frontrunner in practicing lean.

"The efforts by this highly talented group in the 402nd AFSB have embodied the best of what Lean Six Sigma initiatives can do to support our Warfighters, by doing more, without more," said LeDoux.

POWER LINE

402nd AFSB holds first town hall: mission on target

Photos & story by Pamela Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait –**

Col. John S. Laskodi, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Canterbury hosted the brigade’s first town hall here on Nov. 13.

The town hall gave the command group an opportunity to give an assessment of the mission at hand, discuss the future footprint of the brigade, and to address questions from the field.

Laskodi said that when he assumed command in July he was expecting to be at an extremely high level of stress by mid-November. “But that is not the case, due to the diligence of the 402nd team in keeping on task,” he said.

He thanked the brigade for being on target.

“This is an historic accomplishment. We’ve moved about 6,000 truckloads, some 400,000 tons of equipment in three months. Even though we still have a lot yet to do, we have hit every single target so far on this retrograde and I am proud to be a part of this team,” said Laskodi.

Canterbury, the brigade sergeant major, emphasized safety and the battle buddy system as the drawdown continues.

“There’s going to be stress, especially going into the holidays, and that battle buddy is going to be more important than ever. If you don’t have a battle buddy, find one or be one,” he said.

“Let’s look out for each other and pay close attention to safety as those convoys of tactical vehicles keep rolling in,” Canterbury said.



**402nd AFSB**  
**Command Sgt. Maj., Robert Canterbury and Commander, Col. John Laskodi host brigade’s first town hall taking questions from a live audience and via video teleconference. (right) Sgt. 1st. Class Steven Beckford, 402nd AFSBn-Kuwait makes a fine point about the “battle buddy” system.**



For the foreseeable future the brigade will be evolving.

Laskodi said that when he took command, there were 40,000 people in the brigade, and that has been reduced to 23,000. By January that will drop to 14,000, he said.

“The footprint will change, the staff will change but the

402nd AFSB will still have an enduring mission providing support to Department of State, the Taji training mission, the UAE [United Arab Emirates] PATRIOT mission and we’ll still have a pile of equipment to move after December 31,” said Laskodi.