

COMMAND CLIMATE/QUALITY OF LIFE

- Investing in and leveraging our most important resource, our people.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- This is what our nation expects and fundamental to building trust both internally and externally.

READINESS

- All we do must stand the audit test so that we are doing what we are chartered to do at the level our customers expect.

SUSTAINED RELEVANCE

- Remaining the “Gold Standard” for our many contributions to the fight and posturing the Command for the future.

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I look forward to visiting more CECOM organizations and having an open discussion and receiving your feedback on how we can improve these priorities as a global team. Again, I am truly grateful for the humbling opportunity to serve as you commander. Seeing your passion for the profession reminds me every day of why I serve our great nation.

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Army Strong!
Bruce T. Crawford
Major General, USA
Commanding

National Hispanic Heritage Month

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize Hispanic Americans for their many contributions in helping to shape our national character and strengthen our communities.

Hispanic Americans have enriched our Nation through contributions in many professions and fields, including education, law, government, business, science, sports and the arts. Today, Hispanic Americans continue to answer the call to duty in our Armed Forces and preserve a proud legacy as they stand watch on the front lines of freedom.

Since the founding of this great Nation, Hispanic Americans have served bravely in the U.S. Armed Forces, earning more than three dozen Medals of Honor and numerous distinguished military decorations for their leadership, courage and patriotism. Hispanic Americans have sacrificed in defense of our Nation's freedom, serving proudly in every major American conflict.

As the U.S. Army continues to protect our nation and advance freedom abroad, we are grateful to all of the brave men and women who serve our Nation and to their families who support their efforts.

America's greatest asset is its people and its diversity of thought and deed. The U.S. Army is a mosaic of the world's many cultures and we must take the time to honor and respect the rich heritage and outstanding contributions that help make our Nation great.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month we recognize the vibrant Hispanic influences in so much of our Nation's culture and overall way of life. Please join me in honoring the service and sacrifices of Hispanic Americans by celebrating the recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

APG Strong, Army Strong!

Bruce T. Crawford
Major General, USA
Commanding

Message from THE DEPUTY



**Gary P. Martin, Deputy to the
Commanding General, U.S. Army
Communications-Electronics Command**

The Army has established September as Suicide Prevention Month. As we observe this important month, we call special attention to our ongoing efforts to build individual resiliency among our soldiers and civilians. This year's theme is "Enhancing Resiliency- Strengthening Our Professionals." The theme reinforces the pledge of all Army leaders to build resilience in our military and civilian workforce and to support those in need so that we can enhance performance; increase readiness; and build a stronger force.

Some of you may have heard about the Army's Ready and Resiliency Campaign Plan. At Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), we offer a number of services that promote resiliency. Our master resiliency trained professionals are currently teaching resiliency classes at the unit and installation level. APG has over 30 trained dedicated professionals actively engaged in teaching the Ask Care Escort (ACE) mandatory training sessions in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of the installation. Our very own Army Public Health Command, located here at APG, has provided revised ACE cards and a new Leader's Guide to Suicide Prevention. This helpful guidance is available to each of you and may be found at various locations across the installation.

Each of us plays an important role in suicide prevention. Although September is our official suicide prevention month, we must all be diligent in working to prevent suicides each and every day. Suicide prevention, like all leadership challenges, is a Commander's

program and every leader's responsibility at all levels across our formations. But, the effort must be more than that. We all play an important role in recognizing uncharacteristic and suicidal behaviors in our coworkers; in being aware of the risk factors associated with suicides; and knowing how to respond.

The number of suicides in the Army has decreased over the past year. This may very well be attributed to many of us taking action to prevent this needless and tragic loss of life. The success of the Army Suicide Prevention Program rests upon proactive, caring and courageous people at all levels; Soldier or civilian; experienced manager or intern; who recognize an imminent suicide danger and then take immediate action to save a life. Active engagement from each of us can help to minimize the risk of suicide and stop this tragic and unnecessary loss of human life.

So, I challenge every member of the CECOM Family to seek training opportunities, use available services and resources such as our wonderful ministry team consisting of unit chaplains and assistants, and continue to develop skills which build personal resilience that can lead to positive outcomes during periods of increased stress.

Stress can often be associated with times of budgetary constraints; limited opportunities for promotion; economic and financial challenges; and demanding mission requirements.

Managing stress is a skill all of us must master. We can only strengthen our profession by building a culture of resilience and watching out for our teammates.

Finally, to those whose resilience is wavering... reach out to a helping hand. Do not give in to stress and never quit on life. There is someone available to help rebuild your strength. To all I say, our Army is strong because we stand by each other. And, by helping each other we can be even stronger.

Together, We Are CECOM Strong!

THE DECISIVE EDGE

Asset recovery mission reclaims, recycles C4ISR equipment

by Mr. Justin Eimers (CECOM)



TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pennsylvania -- A three-phase asset recovery, disposal and training mission has resulted in millions of dollars of work for Tobyhanna while recycling more than 750,00 pounds of scrap metal. The mission was completed last month at Red River Army Depot (RRAD) in Texarkana, Texas.

More than 15 depot employees spent four months at RRAD alongside Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) subject matter experts. Prior to their arrival, RRAD had accumulated thousands of C4ISR assets in need of proper recovery and disposal. In response to this accumulation, Tobyhanna and CECOM organized a mission to recover usable C4ISR assets for future repair, train RRAD personnel on how to properly store and dispose C4ISR equipment, and dispose unwanted assets that had been compromised due to improper outdoor storage.

C4ISR stands for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems.

Bonnie Donley, electronics worker in the Communications Systems Directorate's Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (SINCGARS) Branch and Tobyhanna's site lead for the mission, said the initiative was a huge undertaking.

"Planning for this mission started way back in 2011 and continued to develop until we began recovery efforts in April of this year," she said. Donley met with CECOM and RRAD personnel in January to lay the groundwork for each phase of the mission.

The first phase resulted in the recovery of more than 3,500 C4ISR assets, totaling in excess of \$30 million. This included recovery of nearly 3,000 Harris radio antenna couplers, providing significant cost savings resulting in serviceable work for the depot.

"The savings generated from this aspect of the mission alone cannot be overstated," said Bryant Anderson, CECOM Liaison and Assistant Project Manager. "These couplers were critically needed for Harris radio repairs and CECOM was prepared to execute a multi-million dollar purchase of them. As a direct result of this recovery, a \$24 million acquisition was averted."

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The second phase of the mission focused on training RRAD personnel on the proper handling, disposition and storage of C4ISR equipment, including controlled cryptographic items. A smart book was created to identify all C4ISR equipment in use at RRAD. The team also provided training on statements of work and SINCGARS installation kits. The TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Warren, Michigan, and RRAD worked with the team to verify and validate SINCGARS kit installation instructions across various vehicle platforms.

More than 750,000 pounds of compromised assets were disposed as a result of the mission's third phase. Of this total, half was credited to Tobyhanna's recycling fund, resulting in more than \$100,000 in savings.

Curlen Richardson, CECOM site team lead, said depot personnel remained focused and driven to succeed despite the effort required to complete each aspect of the mission.

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"They jumped right in and got the job done," he said. "Everyone was motivated and worked well together. I enjoyed working with Team Tobyhanna."

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Several challenges throughout the mission threatened to derail progress, one of which was an issue with the availability of material handling equipment. Anderson said due to quick thinking and an all-hands-on-deck effort, the team was able to procure their own rental equipment from a local vendor and remain a completely self-sufficient operation. The ability to overcome challenges helped the team complete recovery operations ahead of schedule.

"It is always a pleasure working with Tobyhanna employees," said Anderson. "Their professionalism and dedication to the mission really stood out on this project. Many times RRAD employees expressed how impressed they were with what the team was able to accomplish in the short amount

of time they were there." The mission wrapped-up on July 25, ahead of the anticipated completion date of September 30.

Donley and Anderson both credited the relationship between depot and CECOM personnel in successfully carrying out the mission.

"The Tobyhanna and CECOM teams worked together seamlessly to handle the various aspects of this mission from start to finish," said Anderson.

"Cooperation was key in understanding the mission and its expectations," added Donley. "I couldn't say more about the effort of everyone involved."



3,000 Harris radio antenna couplers were recovered from vehicles at the Red River Army Depot (RRAD) in Texarkana, Texas. Team members from the Tobyhanna Army Depot, Communications-Electronics Command, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, and Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support recovered and recycled more than 750,000 pounds of scrap metal across the installation.

Strengthening patriotism from overseas and back home

by Alison Cheung, CECOM G3/5

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland -- After nine months away from home, Shanea Copeland of 3/5 of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) returns from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, to life back in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. She returns to CECOM with a stronger sense of motivation, patriotism and mission understanding than before her deployment.

Copeland was chosen for a temporary duty assignment as the Department of the Army civilian to support the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade (AFSB) in the S2, Security and Intelligence Office in Camp Arifjan. "I excitedly accepted the position back in October 2013 with the goal to serve my country, support the service members, and experience what goes on in a theater of operation." Kuwait was Copeland's first-choice location due to the low level of perceived danger compared to other areas in the region while still supporting the service members and the U.S. in its mission.

After arriving in Camp Arifjan, Copeland tackled the challenge of adjusting to a completely different life and work-style. In CECOM G3/5, Copeland was the program support assistant and in Camp Arifjan, she was assigned as the assistant security manager.

During her new role as the assistant security manager she witnessed, "CECOM's logistics assistance representative and areas of quality assurance impact to the Warfighter and Army in both the area of equipment, training and software applications," Copeland explained. She worked closely with three battalions in monthly meetings, training, and liaison with other organizations such as ASC G2 in Rock Island, Illinois, and other entities for daily customer support to the military, civilians, contractors and Third Country Nationals personnel to promote security.

She also ensured that all personnel in the 402nd AFSB were cleared through the S2 office, receiving proper security briefings, access badges, debriefs, report threats, foreign travel briefs, intelligence updates and more. Copeland emphasized that, "a security clearance is paramount to U.S. protection. I, you, we must be a reliable, trustworthy, loyal person to the U.S. to be an asset to it and its operations anywhere in the world." This experience has taught Copeland to never second-guess any potential security threats and recommends for everyone to report a possible security threat to his or her security office.

After months of hard work, Copeland's devotion earned her the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Global War on Terrorism Medal signed by the brigade commander, and an appreciation award from the S2 office. She recommends every Department of Defense civilian and contractor to deploy, if possible and advises all to, "respect and experience the culture while being mindful of operational and personal security." Even though this assignment contained long work hours, extreme heat, different culture and different living habitats, Copeland praises that this experience was very rewarding and looks forward to future opportunities to serve her country.



Shanea Copeland, program support assistant, G 3/5, Communications-Electronics Command, received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Global War on Terrorism Medal from her former Brigade Commander, Col. James Kinkade.

Army transitions WIN-T sustainment support back to the U.S.

by Amy Walker, PEO C3T



Employees at Tobyhanna Army Depot work on WIN-T Increment 1 Satellite Transportable Terminals. The depot is teaming with Product Manager WIN-T Increment 1 for a WIN-T Increment 1 equipment overhaul, which returns aging equipment to like-new condition.

FORT BELVOIR, Virginia -- As the Army continues to upgrade WIN-T Increment 1, the tactical communications network backbone that first began supporting forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is also transitioning its sustainment strategy for the equipment from worldwide contracted support centers to standard organic support back in the U.S.

According to Caroline McCarthy, Readiness Management Division chief for Product Manager (PdM) WIN-T Inc 1, sustainment efforts will enable Soldiers to order repair and spare parts for WIN-T Increment 1 from the Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) instead of relying on contractor operated Regional Support Centers (RSCs). "We are also for the first time teaming with Tobyhanna Army Depot for WIN-T Increment 1 equipment overhaul, which brings aging equipment coming in from theater to a like-new state," she said.

WIN-T Increment 1 provides Soldiers at the battalion level and above with at-the-halt, high-speed, high-capacity voice, data and video communications. The Army began rapidly fielding it in 2004 to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, leveraging the Joint Network Node (JNN) Operational Needs Statement. To support a dynamic and aggressive fielding timeline, the program office used an Interim Contractor Support (ICS) RSC repair concept.

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"Overall, the ICS RSC concept provided excellent support of WIN-T Increment 1 systems over the years and allowed us to maintain 99 percent operational readiness reporting," McCarthy said.
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“Now that the system is mature, we are simply aligning it with the traditional repair process used by the Army.”
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The transition has already begun in Afghanistan with the closing of the two WIN-T Increment 1 RSCs there in June. WIN-T Increment 1 requirements at the other five worldwide RSCs are expected to be transitioned to the SARSS by the second quarter of FY 2015. Even though the RSCs are closing out repair support for WIN-T Increment 1 in theater, the RSCs will still actively support WIN-T Increment 2, Product Manager Computer and Networking equipment provided under the Common Hardware Systems (CHS) contract, and other customers.

PdM WIN-T teamed with the Communications-Electronics Command's Logistics and Readiness Center (CECOM LRC) to transition approximately 40 percent of WIN-T Inc 1 spare and repair parts from RSC support to SARSS. The other 60 percent are commercial-off-the-shelf items, such as laptops, routers and switches, which do not fit the SARSS model and will continue to be supported by CHS.

“Now that WIN-T Increment 1 has matured, Soldiers will be required to requisition parts under the SARSS process and will be more accountable for their equipment,” McCarthy said.

CECOM LRC traditionally takes over the role of sustainer when project management offices have completed fielding new programs. Among other roles, the organization acts as a supply chain manager, buying spare or repair parts and having items on the shelf to fill the requisitions. In mature communications programs when equipment fails, Soldiers submit requisitions through the SARSS to obtain repair parts. However, since the Army rapidly fielded WIN-T Increment 1, it used the RSCs for units to turn in equipment needing repair.

“Soldiers will be able to go through the normal requisitioning process they are used to under the SARSS process for parts, which is what many

units have been asking for as they have been operating outside the normal requisitioning process,” said Kevin Joyce, Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) lead for PdM WIN-T Inc 1. “It standardizes the process, using the same rules as most other systems managed under CECOM.”

The transition process can be complicated, especially with an advanced communication system like WIN-T Increment 1. WIN-T Increment 1 is a system of systems, with multiple terminals, variations and equipment with many different parts. It takes time to set up WIN-T into the SARSS, which must then be updated following system upgrades. Using the RSCs works well in the beginning stages of a program like WIN-T Increment 1, but SARSS is often the most efficient and economical process. However, the system has to be in the right stage of its lifecycle and the program has to be prepared for the transition to SARSS.

CECOM LRC teamed with PdM WIN-T in the early stages of sustainment planning to lay out the roadmap for future sustainment plans, which set the stage for an easier transition from the RSCs to organic support, said Thomas Keane, chief of the Increment 1 Branch in the CECOM LRC - Command, Control, Communications-Tactical Directorate.

Overhaul Under Way

Meanwhile, overhaul for WIN-T Increment 1 Lot 9 satellite transportable terminals (STTs) is already underway at Tobyhanna (TYAD), with Lot 10 STTs set to begin at a later date. The effort marks the first time since the program began fielding in 2004 that they will be overhauled. The Army selected the STTs to kick off the TYAD WIN-T Inc 1 overhaul effort due to the large number of STTs in the WIN-T Increment 1 program and the amount of battlefield wear and tear on them. It will start with a small pilot program that will ramp up as Tobyhanna optimizes the new overhaul process. The Army is also working to add the baseband tactical hub nodes and JNNs to the TYAD efforts as well.

“As part of our Lean Six Sigma efforts, prior to beginning the work on the STTs, we did a value stream analysis to map out the overhaul

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processes from beginning to end,” said Thomas Vilgos, a logistics management specialist at TYAD. “This is a new program for us and we will continue to improve and tweak the internal processes and steps for the WIN-T Increment 1 overhaul to get the job done in the most efficient manner.”

TYAD is conducting the STT overhaul using pooled STTs from the retrograde effort to enable an easier turnaround of unit equipment, thus enabling the use of a supply transaction instead of a maintenance transaction. This STT retrograde pool is made of equipment from units that no longer need their WIN-T Increment 1 equipment because they are either deactivating or receiving new mobile WIN-T Increment 2 equipment instead. Upon receiving overhauled STTs, units will then return their repair-eligible STTs back to TYAD to be overhauled.

“It’s more of a rotational concept and not a direct exchange, which provides efficiencies for the Army since there is no down time to the unit

and they remain mission ready,” Joyce said. “The unit doesn’t have to send their equipment to Tobyhanna and wait 70 days to get it back.”

Said Keane, “For most of the tactical Army, WIN-T Increment 1 is their expeditionary network, providing Soldiers at the battalion level and above with at-the-halt, high-speed, high-capacity voice, data and video communications. Transforming the way such an extensive program is sustained takes a great deal of cooperation and collaboration between organizations.”

He added, “Supporting the transition of supply support from the RSCs to SARSS and establishing an organic overhaul program on the STTs has been a tremendous team effort between PM WIN-T, CECOM LRC and Tobyhanna Army Depot. Everyone on the team has an important role, from tech writers to item managers to the ILS managers; everybody is doing their part to ensure a smooth transition.”

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PROVIDING THE
**CRITICAL
LINK**

Central Technical Support Facility (CTSF)

Network engineering support

CTSF Engineering Services completed network engineering support to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for Joint Readiness Training Center's rotation 14-10 as requested by and coordinated through the 406th Army Field Support Brigade.

Common operating environment

The CTSF continues planning, coordination, and scheduling for approximately 38 systems participating in the Common Operating Environment (COE) v1.0 Army Interoperability Certification (AIC) Follow-On. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology)-sponsored Integration and Interoperability Event commenced on August 19 and will continue through October 4 as a precursor to the formal AIC event scheduled to begin in October.

Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC)

Support to the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)

The LRC at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, assumed the responsibilities of performing routine weekly, monthly, and semi-annual maintenance for all TRADOC Initial Entry Trainees (IET) 543 barracks camera systems and equipment at Fort Huachuca for 111th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade, 2/13th Aviation Regiment, and the NCO Academy. TRADOC has 10 IET Barracks and the NCO Academy Barracks that are supported with security camera systems which directly support the SHARP program. The LRC is working on the final barracks installation and plan to be completed by late September.

Communications Security (COMSEC) training

The LRC Communications Security Logistics Activity provided COMSEC training support at Fort Drum, New York and Fort Huachuca, with TRADOC, PMs, and units, completing verification of KG-250X and v1Per Training Support Packages, providing training on the KG-250X INE, KG-175D In-line Network Encryptor (INE) and KIV-7M Link Encryptor Family (LEF) devices. Various scenarios were incorporated into the training and throughout each lesson, students applied their skills and knowledge through extensive practical exercises.

Border security

The LRC has coordinated a sustainment contract for Phase 1 of the Jordan Border Security Program program. The contract provides complete sustainment coverage for all hardware and software assets of the integrated system that covers 110km of Jordan's northern border with Syria.

Generator training

In an action coordinated with the US Embassy in Somalia, the LRC deployed one Civilian Field Service Representative and one Contractor to conduct generator training on the MEP 803A, 10KW TQG Generator for units of Uganda and Burundi Armed Forces who are deployed in Somalia for a Peace-Keeping operation under the African Union Mission. The training is being conducted in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC)

Satellite bandwidth

ISEC completed the installation of the Restoral Terminal (RT) as part of an upcoming Modernization of Enterprise Terminals (MET) upgrade in

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support of Product Manager Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems (WESS) at Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado. The RT will provide interim satellite communications while the earth terminals are being upgraded. The MET upgrades are scheduled to begin next month with an anticipated completion date in mid Fiscal Year. These upgrades will significantly increase the satellite bandwidth available to users across the Department of Defense (DoD).

Data communications upgrades

ISEC is providing engineering, installation, test and training for upgrades to the Vandenberg Air Force Base Interconnect Facility. The upgrades include carrier-level Internet Protocol circuits to enable transmissions over the Wideband Global Satellite System. These new capabilities will enable faster, more reliable data communications for users, to include those users from the DoD Space and Missile test range and the Missile Defense Agency. Installation, testing, and training on newly installed equipment have been completed.

Software Engineering Center (SEC)

Battlespace situational awareness

SEC is providing the Army critical interoperability for intelligence systems to ensure Warfighters have battlespace situational awareness. SEC developed new software for the Counterintelligence (CI)/Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Automated Reporting and Collection System (CHARCS) to resolve three high impact issues identified by PD CHARCS and Training and Doctrine Command Capabilities Manager-Sensor Processing, including ensuring functionality in situations when communications connectivity is erratic; ensuring proper user software installation; and providing for Standard Human Intelligence Report message transmission. After ensuring interoperability with the Distributed Common Ground System-Army, SEC fielded the CHARCS software upgrade to the CI/HUMINT Soldier community to support their CI/HUMINT data collecting, analyzing, reporting, managing, and visualizing mission. CHARCS and DCGS-A interoperability is critical for CHARCS to report HUMINT information to DCGS-A, providing Soldiers with more complete battlespace situational awareness



**82nd Airborne HUMINT Training at Fort Bragg
(U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Laughter)**

Critical systems interoperability

SEC conducted Army / Marine Corps Coalition Interoperability testing, validating systems capability to operate as a Cross Domain Solution and align both US and NATO Standardization Agreement requirements. To accomplish this, SEC provided the Army Marine Corps Interoperability Board a testing circuit extending from Camp Pendleton through the Joint On-Demand Interoperability Network to NATO and US Army Special elements onsite at DauMarie Kaserne in Germany. By working closely with our coalition partners through a distributed testing environment we strengthen coalition relationships and help our coalition partners to adapt US requirements. SEC's efforts are supporting the Joint Staff Chairman's priority # 1 (Coalition Interoperability) and priority #2 (Cross Domain Services) along with the Joint Command and Control Capability Operational Priorities in the FY14 Capability Sustainment and Modernization Plan.

Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD)

Support to the Logistics Modernization Program

The Army Materiel Command funded TYAD for the Wireless Local Area Network program to provide short-range wireless high-speed data connections between mobile data devices and nearby Wi-Fi access points to facilitate the next generation Logistics Modernization Program communications, and deliver capabilities that address AMC critical requirements. Installation begins November 4.



US Army artillerymen and USMC aviators conducting a fire support joint training exercise using helicopters to rapidly re-position weapons, vehicles, and personnel on the battlefield. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Pryor)

Audio Active Language Laboratory training

Two instructors from TYAD are conducting training of a 20 position Audio Active Language Laboratory (AALL) at the Tanzanian Military Academy in the city of Monduli this month. The purpose of this lab is to assist units in gaining operational English skills in order to increase interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces in-theater. Funding is provided by the State Department through the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Security Assistant Management Division.

Support for Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station

TYAD Field Service Representatives will provide maintenance, platform integration, software

upgrades and over-the-shoulder training for Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station for Product Manager Crew Served Weapons, in conjunction with the Special Operations Command, who requested support for their continuing mission at Camp Lemonnier and throughout Djibouti.

U.S Marine Corps Blue Force Tracking

TYAD is supporting U.S. Marine Corps Blue Force Tracking High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle component fabrication for the USMC Systems Command, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. The requirement is for a total quantity of 11,996 mechanical components and 10,859 electrical cable assemblies. Production began in 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 13 and is scheduled to be completed Sept. 30, 2014.



Tobyhanna Army Depot has been named the Depot Source of Repair for the Air Force's B-2A Spirit Bomber's Common Very Low Frequency Receiver (CVR). Repairs are scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2019. Built by Rockwell Collins, the B-2A CVR is a receive-only End Cryptographic Unit for off-line encoded Emergency Action Messages. It consists of the KGR-72 cryptographic terminal, antenna, human machine interface and power supply. This work directly aligns with Tobyhanna's designation by the Secretary of the Air Force as the Air Force's Technology Repair Center for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence and tactical missile systems.

Tobyhanna's LEAN practices recognized at Pentagon ceremony

WASHINGTON -- Eleven Army organizations that streamlined their business operations, eliminated redundancy and saved billions of dollars were recognized Wednesday for their excellent Lean Six Sigma practices.

Under Secretary of the Army Brad R. Carson hosted the Pentagon ceremony paying tribute to the winners of the 2013 Army Lean Six Sigma Excellence Awards Program, known as LEAP. Carson highlighted each organization's achievements, then he presented plaques to the winners along with Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Spoehr, director of the Army Office of Business Transformation.

Now in its sixth year, the LEAP Awards program recognizes outstanding project teams and organizations who have demonstrated excellence in implementing results-driven process improvement projects using the Lean Six Sigma, or LSS, concept to adopt new ways of doing business, while streamlining processes and reducing costs.

"For eight years, the Army's Lean Six Sigma program has trained professionals who have sought out and removed inefficiencies, reduced variance and increased the overall quality of service and materiel for our Soldiers and for our nation," said Carson. "The Army has trained more than 11,000 Lean Six Sigma practitioners and embedded them across the entire force.

"These specialized individuals execute over 2,000 different projects each year, and in fiscal year 2013, our Lean Six Sigma practitioners -- some of whom we will recognize today -- generated a cost-savings of more than \$1 billion, and they avoided costs for the Army of more than \$5 billion," he added.

The LSS awardees were selected by a board made up of 12 Army LSS master black belts chosen from across the Army to judge improvements made in personnel management, sustainment operations, theater logistical equipping as well as test and evaluation functions.

"Their accomplishments are indeed impressive," Carson said. "I congratulate today's award recipients on their achievements... achievements

which have unquestionably improved support for our Soldiers, civilians and their families."

The winners from AMC are:

- U.S. Army Materiel Command received an organizational award for completing 717 Lean Six Sigma projects during the year and garnering \$87.7 million in financial benefits during the year, approximately 4.6 percent of the command budget.
- Joint Munitions Command completed Lean Six Sigma projects providing \$40.8 million in total financial benefits, or 5.5 percent of the total budget.
- Tobyhanna Army Depot, under Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), was honored for reducing its materiel induction Process Lead Time from 2.7 days to 0.84 days. The elimination of the steps resulted in monthly savings of 229 man-hours. The cost avoidance was calculated for the period ranging from a portion of Fiscal Year 13 (Apr-Sep) through Fiscal Year 15 and totaled \$457,634 and a 99.8 percent reduction of process defects.



Col. Gerhard Schröter (2nd from left), Tobyhanna Army Depot commander, and Col. Donna Korycinski (center), West Point professor and Department Outreach with Industry coordinator for the Department of Systems Engineering, jointly accepted the Army Lean Six Sigma Excellence award on behalf of the project team and their respective organizations during a ceremony in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, Sept. 3, 2014. Also pictured are the Under Secretary of the Army Brad R. Carson (left) and Director of the Office of Business Transformation Lt. Gen. Thomas W. Spoehr (right). (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller)



Property Book team commended for innovation achievements



The Software Engineering Center's Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced team from left to right: Paul Bedard, Lonna Freeland, Michael Gormley, John Laudan, along with SEC-Lee Director Ricky Daniels (Official U.S. Army photo)

The Software Engineering Center's (SEC) Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE) team was selected by Government Computer News as a Top 10 Honorable Mention for Outstanding Information Technology Achievement in Government.

PBUSE was selected for the award from more than 140 nominees. PBUSE was nominated based on its innovative, one-of-its-kind within Department of Defense employment of Oracle Sun's high-technology Scalable Processor Architecture SuperCluster Server Suite to

replace its aging Production and Continuity of Operations Plan server architecture. Since its installation in July 2013, the SuperCluster has delivered substantial benefits including major improvements in processing speed, 93 percent faster than its predecessor, and more reliable system accessibility to the user, while reducing server rack space by 75 percent and reducing power consumption by 35 percent.

Career Ordnance Corps member earns Sharpe award

by Brandon Pollachek (PEO IEW&S)

A Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania, maintenance professional continues one man's legacy of service to the Army Ordnance Corps -- nearly 400 years later.

Rodney Thomas, who has deployed to the combat zone 13 times, received the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award during a ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Thomas is the chief of the Field Logistics Support Directorate's West Division and a retired warrant officer with 28 years of federal service.

The award is the culmination of Thomas' long career that most recently included a tour in Afghanistan serving as Tobyhanna's theater supervisor and deputy product manager Counter Remote Controlled IED Electronic Warfare System (Forward), or CREW. There he supported a number of Army systems, including a large portion of the Program Executive Officer for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors (PEO IEW&S) portfolio.

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"Certainly joining such a distinguished society as the 2,097th inductee is a highlight of my life," Thomas said after receiving the Sharpe award. "More amazing was the opportunity to shake hands with triple-digit award winners of this time honored society."

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The Sharpe award recognizes those individuals who have served the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps with demonstrated integrity, moral character and professional competence over a sustained period of time. Dr. Richard Wittstruck, deputy PEO IEW&S, presented the award.

The history behind the Sharpe award comes from its namesake, who according to the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Association, "was appointed to many positions in government during the very early years of this country. As the first settlers were arriving at the New World, many things would change about the government and life in general. The government of the Massachusetts Bay colonies was resided over by a governor, deputy governor, and a council consisting of 13 freemen. Sharpe served as one of these freemen.

In 1628 he was also charged with the care of the "five pieces of ordnance that belonged to the colony."

Thomas continues the long tradition of service set by Sharpe to the Ordnance Corps and greater Army serving as a longtime maintenance professional. A combination of experience and expertise afforded Thomas the opportunity to lead a team focused on sustaining many of the Army's critical life-saving systems operating in Southwest Asia.

"Thomas managed the day to day execution and oversight of Department of the Army assets in excess of \$1 billion," said Edwin Henry, former director of PEO IEW&S Forward in Afghanistan.

“He led more than 150 Army civilians in the sustainment of over 50,000 force protection electronic devices and systems [meant to protect the warfighter from improvised explosive devices] at nearly 100 forward operating bases in Afghanistan.”

Thomas and his team supported CREW, the Base Expeditionary Targeting Surveillance System-Combined, counter fire radars and Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment.

“Under Thomas’ leadership the work force was able to retain an overall system operational readiness rating in excess of 90 percent for assigned systems,” Henry noted. “He also implemented several responsible retrograde plans, resulting in a 50 percent manning reduction. His knowledge of logistics and the Army culture was truly a force multiplier for the PEO IEW&S team.”



Rodney Thomas (right), chief of the Tobyhanna Army Depot Field Logistics Support Directorate’s West Division accepts the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award from Dr. Richard Wittstruck, Deputy Program Executive Officer-Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, during a ceremony conducted at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Thomas, who has deployed to the combat zone 13 times, is a retired warrant officer with 28 years of federal service. The award is the culmination of Thomas’ long career that most recently included a tour in Afghanistan serving as Tobyhanna’s theater supervisor and deputy product manager Counter Remote Controlled IED Electronic Warfare System (Forward). There he supported a number of Army systems, including a large portion of the Program Executive Officer for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors (PEO IEW&S) portfolio.

The Sharpe award recognizes those individuals who have served the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps with demonstrated integrity, moral character and professional competence over a sustained period of time. (Photo by Bill Schofield)

CSLA employee receives Fort Huachuca honors

Christine Ritzer relocated from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, to work for the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Logistics Readiness Center's (LRC) Communications Security Logistics Activity (CSLA) as an inventory management specialist in November 2012. Ritzer recently demonstrated exceptional skills that led to her selection as Fort Huachuca's Civilian of the Month for July 2014. Ritzer is one of three subject matter experts within the Army located at CECOM/LRC/CSLA on Fort Huachuca, Arizona, who review and adjudicate Communications Security (COMSEC) Incident reports. During the nomination period, Ritzer reviewed and adjudicated over 167 COMSEC Incident cases that were submitted to CSLA's COMSEC Incident Management Activity (CIMA), 33 of the cases were forwarded to the National Security Agency for adjudication based upon the incident's impact on national security. In response to requests from Army users for her assistance, she takes the time to educate every individual on the complete submission process through the web-based COMSEC Incident Management Monitoring System.

Ritzer's expertise and initiative were a driving factor in the success of a recent Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) G2 inspection of the CIMA. During the inspection, her contributions were manifested in the CIMA receiving a satisfactory rating and outstanding comments from the HQDA G2 inspector. Her dedication, support, and exceptional service have reduced the negative impact to our National Security which, in turn, saves lives. Ritzer was a driving force in reviewing three years of incident reports for "Found on Installation," which provided critical information to HQDA G2 in the identification of Cryptographic Controlled Items which had been reported lost or recovered in COMSEC Incident reports over the three years. The reports identified 12,243 items with an estimated value of \$101,888,717.00.



Christine Ritzer (center), an inventory management specialist with the Communications-Electronics Command Logistics Readiness Center's Communications Security Logistics Activity is presented a Certificate of Achievement by Col. Thomas Boone, Commander, Fort Huachuca U.S. Army Garrison, Arizona, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Stephon Watson, Command Sergeant Major, Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) at the July 2014 Military Affairs Committee (MAC) luncheon Aug. 6, 2014, at the Thunder Mountain Activity Centre on Fort Huachuca. Ms. Ritzer was honored for her selection as the July 2014 Fort Huachuca Civilian of the Month from among many nominations across the Fort Huachuca tenant activities.

Awards

Superior Civilian Service Awards:

Mr. Jesus Flores, Jr.,
Information Systems Engineering Command
(ISEC), Fort Huachuca, Arizona

Mr. James Lint (ret.), G2,
Headquarters, CECOM

Mr. John D. Oltarzewski (ret.),
Software Engineering Center (SEC)

Commander's Award for Civilian Service:

Ms. Heidi I. James (ret.), SEC

Mr. John C. Bass, SEC

Mr. Bobby L. Scott,
Logistics and Readiness Center

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service:

Mr. David A. Bullock,
SEC, Fort Lee, Virginia

Ms. Willa E. Andrews,
SEC, Fort Lee, Virginia

Mr. Larry J. Bryson,
Communications Security Logistics
Agency, Fort Huachuca, Arizona

C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) Employees of the 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 14:

Senior Category – Thomas Evon,
Logistics and Readiness Center

Mid-Level Category – Frank Egidio,
Tobyhanna Army Depot

Junior Category – Charles Brown,
Tobyhanna Army Depot

C4ISR Team of the 3rd Quarter FY 14:

Information Systems Engineering Command
Special Operations Command South
(SOC SOUTH) Headquarters Relocation Team:



Rene A. Gomez
Ronald J. Lancour
Aerik T. Nguyen
Timothy C. Tarr



The Software Engineering Center's (SEC) Director Larry Muzzelo recognized SEC Employees John Oltarzewski and Heidi James at an August 21 brunch honoring their more than sixty years of combined federal service and upcoming retirements in September 2014. (Official U.S. Army photos)

HAIL & Farewell

The Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) welcomes its new military service members.

Command Sgt. Maj. William G. Bruns
Headquarters, CECOM

Maj. Kory H. Gacono
Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC)

Command Sgt. Maj. Ulysses D. Rayford
Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC)

Maj. Daniel Rodriguez, Jr.
ISEC

Maj. Sung Ju In
Software Engineering Center (SEC)

Capt. Jay B. Fisher
ISEC

.....

CECOM thanks the following employees for their years of dedicated service:

John D. Oltarzewski
SEC, Aberdeen Proving
Ground (APG), Maryland
Sept. 3, 2014

Jesus Flores, Jr.
ISEC, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona
Sept. 30, 2014

Eileen M. Brundage
LRC, APG
Sept. 30, 2014

Heidi I. James
SEC, APG
Sept. 3, 2014

William J. Kampo, Jr.
Legal, APG
Sept. 30, 2014

Forgiveness!



**Maj. (P) Young D. Kim,
CECOM Command Chaplain**

As a chaplain, I have counseled a lot of people. So many counselees have anger and hate in their hearts. So, this month, I'd like to talk about forgiveness.

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Landers said, "One of the secrets of a long and fruitful life is to forgive everybody, everything, every night before you go to bed." Lewis said, "Forgiving and being forgiven are two names for the same thing. The important thing is that a discord has been resolved."

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One day I heard Dr. Michael Youseff of Leading The Way Ministry tell the story of a South Korean pastor who was arrested by communists during the Korean War (1950-1953). The communists were going to execute him until the officer-in-charge heard that this pastor ran an orphanage. Instead of killing him, the pastor had to endure the pain of watching them execute his 19 year old son. Years later the officer-in-charge was tried by a United Nations court and sentenced to die. The pastor came forward and pleaded for the man's life and asked that the man be turned over to him. The court allowed that and eventually the man became a Christian. This man later became a leading pastor in South Korea.

Wow, what power in forgiveness this Korean pastor had to plead for this man's life, the man who had years earlier been responsible for killing his son. It is remarkable that this is the transforming power that forgiveness has when we allow it to be part of our lives. Colossians 3:13 says, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Matthew 6:12 says, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Anon said, "It is far better to forgive and forget than to hate and remember." Oh God, help us live with an attitude of forgiveness! Therefore let all of our workforce have peace and joy in their hearts.

Blessings!

CECOM kicks off preparedness challenge

by the CECOM G3/5 Protection Operations Office

September marks the eleventh annual observance of National Preparedness Month. Through the years, the Army has fostered a culture of preparedness to support, mitigate, prevent, respond and recover from the effects of natural or man-made disasters. These preparation efforts ensure that the Army stands ready to support the American people and their communities in a time of crisis. To reinforce individual responsibility for preparedness within the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), the G3/5 Protection Operations Office located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, encourages employee participation in National Preparedness Month. Employees can “pledge to prepare” by applying the Ready Army tenets: be informed, make a plan, build a kit and get involved. The Ready Army website: <http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/> provides more information on actions that support emergency preparedness and resilience. Responsibility for the safety and resiliency of the Army and the Nation lies with each Soldier, Family and Civilian. The commitment to national safety extends beyond individual ranks and into communities.

America’s PrepareAthon! provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards, such as: earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornados, winter storms and wildfires. America’s PrepareAthon! aims to increase the number of individuals who understand potential disasters

within their community, know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage, take action to increase their preparedness and participate in community resilience planning. America’s PrepareAthon! provides preparedness guides and resources to help community organizations practice specific preparedness activities necessary to stay safe before, during, and after an emergency or disaster. When Americans prepare and practice for an emergencies in advance of the event, it makes a real difference in their ability to take immediate and informed action, which, in turn, enables them to recover more quickly.

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As with any skill, practice makes perfect and reviewing preparedness actions is no exception. Be ready to respond when needed by learning preparedness actions and taking the time to practice them.
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Participation in CECOM’s four week Challenge to Preparedness will help build a more secure and resilient nation. Being prepared for disasters is a shared responsibility. It takes the whole community working together to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover

from the destructive forces of nature and other emergencies and disasters. Are you ready to act? You can be! Take the CECOM four week Challenge to Preparedness now!

Ready? Set. Go!

Week 1: Kick off the month by committing to increasing your emergency preparedness and resilience by registering with Ready.gov! Learn more at: www.ready.gov/prepare#NatlPrep

Week 2: During or after a disaster, how will you reconnect with each other? Where will you meet? What if your neighborhood is being evacuated? Make a plan now so that you will know what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency.

Check out these tools to start your family emergency plan today:
www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan#NatlPrep

Week 3: This week focuses on how to reconnect with your family after a disaster. Make sure your family has a family emergency communication plan. For more tips and information visit:
www.ready.gov/september#NatlPrep and
www.ready.gov/make-a-plan#NatlPrep

Week 4: Communicating with your friends and family when a disaster occurs is important to make sure everyone is safe. Now that your emergency communication plan has been completed, time to work on your evacuation plan. Have peace of mind when a disaster strikes and create your evacuation plan.
Visit: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan#NatlPrep

The APG Senior Management Association

Cordially invites you to attend their October 2014

QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

Date/Time: Oct. 15, 2014, 1130-1300

Location: Top Of the Bay, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Speakers: Mr. Joseph D. Wienand, Director, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, U.S. Army Research, Development, Engineering Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland

Topic: Four Critical Competencies for Leaders

If you have not already joined the site, you must do that first. Joining does not reserve you space for this presentation. You must click the link to indicate you are attending the briefing. Space is limited - first come first served.

Have you joined the SMA milBook suite?
The purpose of the Senior Management Association is to provide a forum for GS14/15 (and equivalents) at APG to exchange ideas, collaborate for mutual benefit and efficiency, facilitate brain-storming solution sessions, and other manager and leader issues facing APG.

By joining (and allowing notifications), you will receive early notice of special events as well as the ability to participate in sharing information with other APG senior civilians & military officers
<https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/apg-sr-manager-group>

RSVP TO THIS EVENT - <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/events/13971>

AROUND *the* COMMAND



Yongsan, Korea – Col. Johnny Broughton, commander, 411th Contracting Support Brigade, United States Force Korea (USFK), meets with the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Chaplain, Maj. (P) Young D. Kim at the 411th command headquarters in Yongsan, Korea. Kim was in Korea on leave and took the time to visit the USFK Command Chaplain's office, the 8th Army Command Chaplain's office and the 411th headquarters during his travels.



Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania – Tobyhanna Army Depot personnel, distinguished guests and members of the Veteran's Council attended the 13th Annual POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) Recognition held September 18 at the POW/MIA Memorial near The Landing. The guest speaker was Lorna O'Farrell, chairperson of the Monroe County Veterans Association and the co-commander of the Monroe County Joint Veteran Honor Guard. Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is a day to honor the men and women who are listed as missing and unaccounted-for, and their families who continue to burn the candle of hope, according to a statement issued by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. More than 83,000 Americans are listed as missing and unaccounted-for, dating back to World War II. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)



Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland – Col. Kim T. Biven (center), director, Field Support, Logistics and Readiness Center gets his new rank pinned on him by Gary Martin, deputy to the commanding general of the Communications-Electronics Command (left), and his wife, Yongbok Bivin, on Sept. 2, 2014. (Official U.S. Army photo)

ARMY SPOUSE, ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIER, PRE-RETIREE, RETIRED ARMY, OR DA CIVILIAN?

Complete the Performance Triad Communication Campaign Evaluation survey about **sleep**, **activity**, and **nutrition**. Your feedback is needed to help evaluate the Army-wide communication campaign.

We want your Feedback!
Go to

<http://go.usa.gov/X6TF>

or scan the code below



U.S. ARMY

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE TRIAD:
[HTTP://ARMYMEDICINE.MIL/PAGES/PERFORMANCE-TRIAD.ASPX](http://armymedicine.mil/pages/performance-triad.aspx)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Directorate of Health Promotion and Wellness at usarmy.apg.medcom-phc.mbx.hpw-webcontacts@mail.mil

**ARMY
FAMILY**
IS AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE



Back to School Safety

by the CECOM Safety Office



When parents talk about school safety these days, they're usually referring to the surge in violence at schools or environmental concerns. But research shows that school-age children are actually nine times more likely to sustain an unintentional injury – whether on the playground or in school – than to be the victim of violence or environmental concern while at school. In fact, an estimated 2.2 million children ages 14 and under are injured in school-related accidents each year, according to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. Accidents can be prevented if parents are on the lookout for potential hazards. To help you keep your children free from harm, here are some safety tips from SAFE KIDS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Traveling to and from School:

1. Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards.

2. Walk the route with your child beforehand. Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.

3. Before crossing the street, stop at the curb, edge of the road, or corner before proceeding.

a. Look left-right-left and, if it's clear, begin crossing, looking over your shoulder for turning vehicles. Continue to check for traffic while crossing.

4. Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.

5. Be sure your child walks to and from school with a sibling, friend, or neighbor.

6. Teach your kids – whether walking, biking, or riding the bus to school – to obey all traffic signals, signs and traffic officers. Remind them to be extra careful in bad weather.

7. When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible. Don't leave until they are in the schoolyard or building. If your child bikes to school make sure he wears a helmet that meets the safety standards. Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.

8. Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars, and avoid the driver's blind spot.

9. Remind your children to stay seated at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.

10. Tell your child not to bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes or pick up objects, as the driver may not see him before starting to move.

11. Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult, and how to call 911 for emergencies.

It may seem you have more to worry about now than you ever imagined! However, by being aware of potential accidents, you'll be able to prevent them, and keep your children safe.

For more information:
<http://www.safekids.org/>

Message sent: SEC efforts aid mission critical program success

by Cham Chhun, Software Engineering Center

On today's battlefield, a platoon is decisively engaged and unable to maneuver. A Soldier uses a Pocket-sized Forward Entry Device (PFED) calling for artillery fire. This message will leave the PFED and travel to the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), where the supporting unit will be chosen, air space will be de-conflicted, and fuse combinations selected. The message will then be sent to the gun, and rounds fired – all within as little as one minute of the request. The message, also known as "VMF K02.4," is a Variable Message Format (VMF) message that is digitally communicated by Soldiers and aircrews to transmit the information a weapons system requires. This message must be well-governed and fully standardized, ensuring mission success and providing the best capabilities to our Soldiers. Tactical Data Link Military Standards (MIL-STD) accomplish this by ensuring that messages function quickly and accurately.

The Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Software Engineering Center (SEC) coordinates MIL-STDs with Army and Joint representatives to enable interoperability and digital information sharing for mission critical systems. This includes leading the Army Data Link Configuration Control Board (ACCB), chairing the Joint Combat Net Radio (CNR) Working Group (WG) and presenting the status of Army Interface Change Proposals (ICP) and the Army evaluation of Joint Service-originated ICPs at the Joint Multi-Tactical Data Link Configuration Control Board (JMT CCB). These forums provide analysis, development, evaluation and configuration management of ICPs across Army, Joint and NATO forces.

Army and Joint programs have constantly evolving needs, which must be transmitted using MIL-STDs. Hence changes to these standards have to be evolved using standardized and structured processes to ensure new capabilities are added while preserving interoperability. The SEC helps the Army Enterprise evolve its Message and Protocol Standards through support for key ICPs. One change being led by SEC is the Joint Army-U.S. Marine Corps effort to create a workable Extensible Markup Language (XML) solution for the VMF in MIL-STD 6017. The approval of this ICP will enable an XML alternative to the proprietary binary parsers, which will be easily translatable from XML to binary and back for VMF messages. Developers can take advantage of an extensive range of XML

capabilities that are free, inexpensive or built-in, enabling significant cost savings.

MIL-STDs are tested through Test Tools, which the CECOM SEC develops for use in the field to validate messages against the latest standards. The Test Tools are designed with flexible, modular components, creating a reusable architecture that generates lower maintenance costs and encourages higher adoption by end users. The VMF Test Tool (VTT) and U.S. Message Text Format Test Tool (MTT) are certified by the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC); moreover, both are utilized by JITC in its system certification process. The Test Tools team works closely with the Messaging and Protocol subject matter experts to ensure that the tools reflect the latest changes to the MIL-STDs and serve as the "gold standard" available to verify the compatibility of systems.

Test Tools continue to be upgraded to incorporate changes in the relevant Message and Protocol Standards, enabling users to test their systems without the cost of sustaining a Test Tool. An example is through SEC's development and maintenance of the VMF Integrated Database (VID), a tool that allows developers to access specifications without building their own databases. Additionally, the release of the VTT 11.0, scheduled for the second quarter of FY15, includes updated capabilities such as importing messages for validation, storing messages and generating pre-populated messages. The Message Repository component of VTT will allow a future capability to do System-of-System testing in a lab, improving interoperability and reducing the cost and effort involved in testing in the field. Testing in the field involves a higher overhead cost in fixing issues, and the Message Repository features will allow VTT 11.0 to simulate testing in the lab, providing faster resolution of issues and a higher degree of confidence before deploying systems in the field for an exercise.

At the beginning of this article, a Soldier in the field sent a "VMF K02.4." The CECOM SEC efforts ensure this mission critical message works, and the information is transmitted quickly, enabling an immediate response. For more information, reach out to Mark Majkowski (443.861.8492) for Messaging and Protocol information, or Sanae Benchaaboun (443-861-9113), for Test Tool information.



History Highlights

UNCLASSIFIED

"MOBILE RADIO BROADCASTING & RECEIVING STATIONS"
Balloon Assembly MX-591/GR . (Development Model)
Part of Radio Transmitting Set AN/MRT-5

Overall View . Showing Balloon Inflated for Field Installation

DATE 9-18-51

SIGNAL CORPS ENGINEERING LABORATORIES

NO. SCEL 33179

History mystery from the archives

by Susan Thompson,
CECOM Command Historian

Occasionally, the Communications-Electronics Command History Office receives a research request about a topic we've never heard of before. That happened recently when we got a message from the Army Office of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, which is responsible for responding to all public requests regarding Army materials that are requested for use in movie or television productions.

The request was for an aerial photograph of Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, of which we have many. The requestor was a television production company in Japan. So far, all fairly normal. The history office receives over 300 requests a year for materials from researchers all over the world, most often for technical manuals, but frequently for photographs or information on Army programs such as the pigeon program.

However, the request from Japan was for a documentary film about Unidentified Flying Objects! Neither of the historians knew anything about UFO sightings over Fort Monmouth, but with a little internet investigation, it was soon revealed that the Fort Monmouth sightings played a major role in re-invigorating the official Air Force investigation on UFOs.

On the morning of Sept. 10, 1951, a radar demonstration was being conducted for a number of Army dignitaries. The radar technician who was operating the equipment picked up an unknown low-flying target moving faster than the automatic setting mode on his AN/MPG-1 radar set could plot. This would mean that it was flying more the 700 miles per hour, which was right at the upper capability of jets at the time.

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About 15 minutes later, two T-33 jet trainer pilots, flying close to Sandy Hook, New Jersey, spotted a large, slivery object flying below them, which seemed to move independently. The pilots estimated the object to be 40-50 feet in diameter, with speeds of over 700 miles per hour.

A report of these sightings was submitted to the Air Force and found its way to the group responsible for investigating such events, then operating under the name "Project Grudge." Accounts of the pilots' sighting were leaked to local papers, which resulted in high-level interest in the investigative process. "Project Grudge" became "Project Blue Book" in 1952 and would continue until 1966.

The results of the "Project Grudge" investigation concluded that the Fort Monmouth sightings could be attributed to the Evans Signal Laboratory release of two balloons at 11:12 Eastern Standard Time on September 10, which was during the time frame attributed to the sightings. The diameter of the balloons when they burst was approximately 39 feet. The radar anomaly was attributed to user error.

A further point of interest is that the CECOM History Archives has no records regarding either the sightings or the later investigation. The investigation would have been classified at the time. The records of "Project Blue Book" have been declassified, and many differing accounts of the incident can be found online, for those who are interested in continuing the investigation.



Training:

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Friendly reminder to make sure all mandatory training for fiscal year 2014 is completed by **September 30.**

