

These contracts are important to the Army, she said. Federal agencies like the Army can leverage their utility budgets and take the steps essential to enhancing resiliency, achieving cost savings, and improving operations and maintenance, with no upfront costs to the government, she explained.

The costs of the projects are paid back over time as the Army realizes savings from the improvements, Hammack said.

TWO TYPES OF PROJECTS

There are actually two different types of energy-saving partnerships, said Randall Smidt, an engineer working for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. He explained the difference:

Utility Energy Service Contracts, or UESCs, are agreements between utility companies and government entities. The Anniston project is a UESC contract and the Army has initiated 42 of these in the last five years.

Energy Savings Performance Contracts, or ESPCs, are partnerships between the government and an energy service company -- such as Honeywell Building Solutions, Siemens Government Services or Schneider Electric. The Army has initiated 85 of these ESPC partnerships in the last five years.

ESPC PROJECTS

While partnerships with energy service companies or ESCOs can include renewable-energy projects -- such as solar, wind and geo-thermal -- the greater portion of these projects still focus on making conventional energy usage more efficient.

About one-fourth of the agreements include some type of renewable energy projects, Smidt said, and some of those are notable.

"We've got one small waste-to-energy plant" under design at Fort Irwin, California, said Smidt, adding that it's scheduled to come online next year.

Smidt is the Army's ESPC program manager. He explained that ESPC contracts, known as task orders, require annual savings measurement and verification, and include a minimum guaranteed savings amount.

Funding for these projects must be paid back to the ESCO within 25 years, along with interest. The cost avoidance in energy savings is used to pay the company, and of course, the government gets to keep the rest of the energy savings.

Many of the projects net cost avoidance that well exceeds the original energy-saving goals, Smidt said.

For instance, more than \$2 million in energy costs have already been saved at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, by a 42-acre solar-array project that came online in December 2012.

Two wind turbines at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, are estimated to produce more than 5 percent of the installation's power while 21,824 solar photovoltaic panels there will produce about 5.5 megawatts of power, which is at least 60 percent of the post's current power demand at peak periods.

Not all ESPC contracts involve renewable-energy projects, though. Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, has a \$39-million infrastructure-modernization



The solar array at the alternative energy corridor at Tooele Army Depot in Utah is a Fiscal Year 2012 Army Energy Conservation Investment Program project. Pictured here in May 2013, the 429 solar dishes are expected to provide 1.5 megawatts of electricity, approximately 30 percent of the depot's annual electric energy need. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

project at its Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center. Honeywell is installing high-efficiency HVAC systems and natural-gas heating that will allow the tech center to disconnect from the garrison's coal-fired steam plant. New plating and paint systems at the tech center are also part of the upgrade.

UESC PROJECTS

Virtually all of the UESC contracts are aimed at making traditional HVAC and energy systems more efficient.

The UESC projects are funded by a utility company that "might be a longer-term partner than a private company just coming in new for the project," Smidt said, when comparing a utility to an ESCO.

"Typically the utility knows the installation well," because they've been working long-term on the installation, he said. The contracts are competed, but often utility companies that have already been providing services on post make the best offers, he explained.

Funding for UESC projects are normally paid back to the utility companies in fewer years than the ESPC projects. In both cases, the government gets to keep any additional savings provided by the improvements.

UESC projects do not guarantee savings, but they do guarantee performance, said Randy Shed, energy program manager in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment.

"We're trying to reduce the cost of brown power as best we can," Shed said. "We have to stretch our dollars." These projects "reduce the energy going out the window," he explained.

"It only makes sense and shows we are very frugal and careful of how we spend the taxpayer's money."

LEADING THE WAY

The Army has actually been pursuing UESC contracts since 1992. In 25 years, the Army has initiated 382 projects at 48 installations, saving 4.4 trillion BTUs of energy annually.

ESPC contracts have been around the Army since 1996. A total of 242 contracts at 78 installations have involved \$1.856 billion in private-sector investments. These projects save the Army about 8.3 trillion BTUs of energy per year.

Adding the two types of contracts together, that adds up to saving 12.7 BTUs of energy annually -- enough to power 341,132 average U.S. households.



story continued on next page

Additionally, the Army is also initiating larger contracts for renewable-energy projects. The larger solar-array projects now come under either Power Purchase Agreements or Enhanced Use Leases.

The Army was already in the process of expanding energy-saving initiatives when the president made his challenge five years ago, officials said. As a result, they said, the Army was positioned to be responsive to the president's goals.

The Army is currently leading all government agencies in the number of energy-saving contracts that it's been able to arrange in response to the challenge. But that's not too surprising, officials said, since the Army is also the government's largest utility consumer.

"It's been a pretty drastic ramp-up" of investments over the past four years, Smidt said.

The \$1 billion is a lot of investment, said Shed. "It's a lot of hard work from all the installations

and it's been a total team effort. But still we have a lot more to do," he added.

Fanning said over the next couple of years, the Army will focus on Combined Heat and Power, or what many people know as cogen or co-generation.

"On college campuses, urban centers and Army bases, we've seen how CHP provides energy 20 percent to 30 percent more efficiently than conventional technologies," he said.

"I'm committing to a doubling of the amount of CHP produced by the Army in the next two years, and to triple it in four years," Fanning said. "That means we will add 50 megawatts per year through CHP projects, which is more than what the Army has added in the past 10 years combined."

Join APG in observing: POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK

GIVEAWAYS - REFRESHMENTS - DOOR PRIZES

-Open House

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
September 20, AA Rec Center, 11am - 1:30pm
Displays and Presentation

-Yoga on the Water

Breathe, Meditate and Preserve
September 21, CAPA Field - APG South, 11am - 1pm
Day of Registration: 10:30-11am
Yoga Mats and Towels

-5k Walk/Run

Race Against Waste
September 22, Top of the Bay, 11am - 1pm
Day of Registration: 10:30-11am
T-shirts and Timed Run/Walk



For more information or to pre-register for the Run/Walk or Yoga please contact:

Vickie Venzen 410-306-2260 or Vickie.a.Venzen.civ@mail.mil
Maia Kaiser 410-306-2199 or Maia.n.Kaiser.civ@mail.mil

Tobyhanna employees maintain modernization edge

By Ms. Jacqueline Boucher (CECOM)



Bobby Diep, a chemical engineer at Tobyhanna Army Depot, performs chemical analysis on electroplating process solutions. He works in the depot's Mission Modernization Branch. (Photo Credit: Mr. Jim Lentz (CECOM))



Branch personnel apply electronic, electrical, industrial, mechanical, and chemical engineering skills to modernize equipment, facilities, and support mission and production operations. Employees manage floor space and the individual job order program for all mission directorates.

The team also supports test measurement and diagnostic equipment modernization, provides major equipment modernization, and manages the furniture reutilization and capital investment programs for depot shops. The chem lab and industrial wastewater treatment plant support the plating shop.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is a recognized leader in providing world-class logistics support for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems across the Department of Defense. Tobyhanna's Corporate Philosophy, dedicated work force and electronics expertise ensure the depot is the Joint C4ISR provider of choice for all branches of the Armed Forces and industry partners.

CECOM employee recipient of prestigious John W. Macy, Jr. award

Story by Mary B. Grimes, CECOM Public Affairs



ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. -- "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." While history may attribute these

words to Anglican clergyman and evangelist John Wesley, they currently reflect the sentiments of recent recipient of the John W. Macy, Jr. award, Carrie A. Patches, Supervisory Logistics Management Specialist, Chief, CECOM Security Assistance Management Directorate (SAMD), AFRICOM/Canada/EUCOM (ACE) Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

A presentation of the CY2015 award was held June 23, in a ceremony at the Pentagon. On maternity leave with her second daughter, Patches was unable to attend and was represented by Larry Muzzelo, Deputy to the Commanding General U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM).

The award, according to U.S. Army Human Resources officials, recognizes demonstrated excellence in the leadership of civilians by an Army military or civilian supervisor. They said it also exemplifies the highest traditions established by Mr. Macy during his long and distinguished career of public service and the Army's philosophy that leaders are responsible for civilian personnel management

The road to this prestigious recognition is anything but a cakewalk. Patches explained that individuals under consideration for

the Macy award are nominated by their supervisors based on a specific contribution for which the team led by the nominee is responsible, and which resulted in material improvements in areas such as Army mission support, military-civilian teamwork, customer service, productivity, Equal Opportunity Office accomplishments, and/or enhancement of the Army's reputation as an employer.

Additional criteria for award eligibility required that the contribution must have culminated during the calendar year ending on Dec. 31 of the nominating year. Identifiable, sustained accomplishments are the key required elements. This, according to human resources officials, involves a record of accomplishments which reflect the extraordinary leadership of civilian personnel over a sustained period of time of more than the calendar year of the specific contribution.

Shouldering a record of accomplishments that is quite impressive, it is easy to see just how Patches came to be nominated. She led a team who managed a workload that encompassed approximately 169 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases consisting of 697 lines for a total estimated value of \$2.4 million. Several high priority efforts the team worked included: resolution of Failed Item Analysis Reports (FIARs) for Night Vision Devices (NVD) so shipment of the devices to all FMS customers could resume (this impacts multiple countries and multiple cases in multiple Combatant Commands (COCOMs)) and delivery of NVDs, Radars, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and radios including emergency case writing, implementation, contract award and delivery.

Patches' team completed the case writing and execution of two urgent cases for an ally in support of an ongoing crisis. One case provided Man-pack Radio Systems, Vehicular Systems, Base Station systems, Handheld Radio Systems and accessories in just more

than 1 1/2 years, a process that normally takes three to five years to complete. Another case provided NVDs and Thermal Imagers, support equipment, spares, training, and logistical support in just greater than one year, a process that normally takes two to three years to complete. All of these efforts required extensive coordination with Program Executive Offices, Program Management Offices, and vendors.

Expressing her surprise and appreciation for the award, the logistics management specialist said, "Besides my girls, this is my greatest personal achievement. I believe if you take care of the workforce, they will take care of the work mission. My team accomplished many wonderful things in CY 2015. Being recognized for leading the team and their efforts is a testament to the work they did. I won this award for the entire Army and it was presented by the Under Secretary of the Army. Receiving acknowledgement at that level for the efforts we performed is invaluable."

Clearly no stranger to hard work and commitment, and with 16 years of civil service to her credit, Patches shows no sign of slowing down. When asked how important dedication and commitment to service is to her, she said, "It's extremely important. In SAMD, we manage the execution of the CECOM LCMC Security Assistance programs by providing superior technology and life-cycle management to our International Partners; by supporting our U.S. partners by assuring a more responsive, agile, and interoperable military force during coalition operations, providing the technical expertise required to develop C4ISR architectural solutions to meet unique international customer demands while maintaining national security interests; and by providing total program management, from acquisition to sustainment, to best meet customer requirements. The work we do for our military services -- and in the case of my organization our foreign allies, is the greatest and most rewarding work someone could do."

With a workload that is ever so demanding, it's not difficult to see how it would take the energy and drive, and the support of every member of the team. That collective effort is what inspires and motivates Patches. "SAMD is a very small organization. The output produced by the workforce is beyond anything I have witnessed in my career. They do so much with so little. We have a workforce where each person manages multiple cases from cradle to grave. Our sister commands have teams of people who work a single case and may only have to focus on a single stage for that single case. In spite of these

huge workloads, their performance metrics are exceptional and they always maintain the utmost professionalism, never wavering under pressure. The workforce is truly remarkable," she said.

Humbled by the nomination, and receipt of the John W. Macy, Jr. award, Patches paused to not only express her appreciation, but to share words of inspiration to other employees seeking to be more and do more.

"Since this award recognizes demonstrated excellence in the leadership of civilians and the accomplishment of the mission through the civilian workforce, I will speak to fellow managers responsible for leading employees," Patches said. "The most important rule when leading people is to take care of the people. If you take care of the people, they will take care of the mission. Learn the strengths and weaknesses of each of your people and play to the strengths and help them improve their weaknesses. This will instill trust and loyalty with your workforce members."



Under Secretary of the Army and Chief Management Officer (CMO) Mr. Patrick J. Murphy (left), and Deputy to the Commanding General U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Mr. Larry Muzzelo, pose for the camera during the John W. Macy Jr., Award ceremony held June 23, 2016 at the Pentagon.

Mr. Muzzelo accepted the Calendar Year 2015 award on behalf of CECOM winner and recipient Carrie A Patches, who could not attend. Ms. Patches is recognized for her exceptional support and uncompromising diligence while supporting all programs in AFRICOM, Canada, and EUCOM, forging positive relationships with members of her division, our foreign allies, United States Security Assistance Command, program managers.

Timesaving idea profitable for depot, West Point cadets

By Ms. Jacqueline Boucher (CECOM)



From left, Sandblaster Leader Kevin Werner and Electroplater Leader Jeffrey Falcheck of Tobyhanna Army Depot escort West Point cadets through their work areas, familiarizing them with depot processes. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army photo)

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. -- It's about time. Leaders on the shop floor are spending less time documenting the number of hours their employees work thanks to the ingenuity of a handful of West Point cadets.

Four of the Army's future leaders and depot personnel used Lean Six Sigma (LSS) problem solving methodology to reduce time spent on labor reporting in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Support Operations Division by more than 30 percent, which translates to a \$219,000 cost avoidance over a three-year period. The team developed and implemented automated solutions as well as some process changes that improved quality and time.

"Working with Tobyhanna Army Depot to solve a real-world problem that's happening with their processes is a great opportunity and learning experience for the cadets," said Lt. Col. Jose A. Ramirez, the cadets' professor and project mentor at West Point.

"Having a deeper understanding of what depot-level means is important to junior-level officers as it gives them the knowledge of what capabilities exist in the facilities that maintain their equipment, which can help to make them more efficient and effective leaders," he said.

The success of this venture earned the cadets an award for producing the best Process Optimization Project at the General Donald R. Keith Memorial Conference at West Point, New York. The project, executed over an eight-month span, served as the United States Military Academy students Capstone Project. The conference features research projects which apply a comprehensive set of skills and concepts to a real-world problem or contemporary research area.

Subject matter experts at Tobyhanna Army Depot served as mentors, helping the cadets address the issue of excessive administrative time being spent on direct labor reporting -- a process that limited the amount of time left for more value added activities around the shop.

It wasn't unusual for some leaders to spend more than three hours a day on the managerial chore.

Leaders struggled to find time to focus on ensuring work was planned and available for employees, and address issues affecting production.

The cadets visited Tobyhanna multiple times to conduct this project. They joined forces with depot employees to define, measure, analyze, improve and control this issue. During the process, the cadets helped facilitate activities that used Lean tools such as process maps, fishbone diagrams and root cause analysis, while applying Six Sigma techniques and tools like control charts and correlation analysis.

Work on this project continued outside of the cadets' visits as well, where certain analysis, taskers and other project deliverables were completed on team members' own time.



"It is a humbling experience to work with a few of the Army's future leaders who will soon become the very men and women that Tobyhanna's workforce serves every day," said Eli Londo, management analyst and LSS Black Belt candidate.



"The importance of delivering quality products, on time and at cost becomes more than just words from a mission statement, but something for us to feel and live as part of the Army family," he said. Londo works in the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate's Process Improvement Division.

Aside from the bottom-line benefits to Tobyhanna, there were a number of accomplishments that resulted from this collaboration. As "Best in Track" award winners for the Process Optimization category, the

cadets beat out stiff competitors in their graduating class.

Other West Point cadets worked with personnel at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, the Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications-Tactical, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and a private industry medical facility.

"This is the fourth time we have had the privilege of working alongside West Point cadets and it continues to get better," said Mike McKeefery, Process Improvement Division chief.

"LSS certifications and awards aside, this collaboration provides some of the Army's emerging leaders and industrial base civilian employees with an experience that will be carried for a lifetime," he said.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is a recognized leader in providing world-class logistics support for command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems across the Department of Defense. Tobyhanna's Corporate Philosophy, dedicated work force and electronics expertise ensure the depot is the Joint C4ISR provider of choice for all branches of the Armed Forces and industry partners.

Tobyhanna's unparalleled capabilities include full-spectrum logistics support for sustainment, overhaul and repair, fabrication and manufacturing, engineering design and development, systems integration, post production software support, technology insertion, modification, foreign military sales and global field support to our Joint Warfighters.

About 3,200 personnel are employed at Tobyhanna, which is located in the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania. Tobyhanna Army Depot is part of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command. Headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the command's mission is to research, develop, acquire, field and sustain communications, command, control computer, intelligence, electronic warfare and sensors capabilities for the Armed Forces.

Unit Ministry Soldier represents CECOM at Best Warrior competition

Story by Mary B. Grimes, CECOM Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. -- While many things have changed throughout the U.S. Army over the years, its longstanding practice of calling on the finest Soldiers to support and carry out the mission, has not. That sentiment is shared in military training environments both at home and abroad, and is maintained from basic training throughout the course of the service member's career.

For Sgt. Juan Howard, Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), Unit Ministry Team, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., his participation in the Best Warrior Competition held July 7-9, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. is just one example of how important fitness and readiness is to the Army mission. Familiar to Soldiers throughout the ranks, the Best Warrior Competition recognizes those Soldiers who demonstrate commitment to the Army values, embody the Warrior Ethos, and represent the Force of the Future.

Recommended by his supervisor, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Scalies, to participate in the competition, the chaplain assistant accepted the challenge, and began the arduous process of preparing himself both mentally and physically for what can be termed nothing less than grueling. "I constantly studied the

Soldier's manual of common tasks, and I carried those tasks out by participating in hands on training with Sgt. 1st Class Scalies. From the physical aspect, I maintained my physical fitness by ruck marching and doing other exercises that I would encounter in the competition," he said.

Motivated by a number of factors, including the wholehearted support of his family, Howard said that he was from the start, ready to give the Best Warrior effort his all. "I always believed in my abilities, and I also had a great mentor," he said. That kind of confidence would come in handy as his three days of grueling mental and physical challenges got underway. "You are competing against a group of Soldiers, NCO's on Warrior tasks and battle drills. Each day began around 0230-0300 hours, and ended once all required tasks were completed. In this kind of competition, you get to apply all the lessons you've learned from your training, and then use that to optimize understanding and proficiency," said Howard.

To say that his experience at Camp Atterbury was a walk in the park, would be anything but true. Resembling in some ways, the training environment that every Soldier experiences as he makes his way through basic training,





the Best Warrior competition settled for nothing less than true grit from the Army's finest Warriors. Events included, but were not limited to depth of knowledge of battle-focused training, tactical communications, land navigation, physical fitness, leadership, communication skills, and a host of other tasks and battle drills.

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Howard said of the training, "You have to always be prepared for the unexpected. The training pushes you and demands that you strive to be the best you can be, and then go beyond that point. I still have a lot to learn, but for me it was a great privilege and opportunity to compete."

Asked how he thinks he did in the competition overall, Howard said with humility, that he'd place himself in the middle of the other competitors.

With a tour in Afghanistan, Fort Sill, Okla., and Ansbach, Germany under his belt, the CECOM Soldier can now add his participation in the Best Warrior competition to his growing list of experiences. Asked what he would like to do next, Howard said, "I'm open to any opportunity for self-improvement. Being prepared is so important to successfully moving forward. Opportunities like the Best Warrior competition teach you a lot about yourself, and what it takes to become a better leader. I would tell any Soldier that readiness and preparedness is important to that equation."



Photos by AMC Public Affairs.

HAIL & Farewell

The CECOM family would like to welcome our new Military service members that have come on board. Let us greet them with open arms and warm smiles!

CW2 Charles Sonnenburg
HQ CECOM Legal, APG

SFC Ivan Saldana
CSLA, Ft. Huachuca, AZ

MAJ Marcus White
ISEC, Ft. Huachuca, AZ

After years of dedicated federal service, some of our beloved CECOM family members are heading into the wonderful world of retirement. It is sad to see them go, but let us all wish the following employees a happy and healthy retirement!

COL Charles E. Harris III
HQ CECOM, APG
31 OCT 2016

Bruce W. Benso
ILSC, APG, MD
31 July 2016

Lynn Jurkowski
G8, APG, MD
03 August 2016

Charles E. Cole
ILSC, Germany
11 August 2016

Mark W. Claycomb
ILSC, APG, MD
31 August 2016

Awards

MILITARY AWARDS

Legion of Merit

CW5 Howard Phillips,
HQ CECOM G3, APG

Meritorious Service Medal

CW4 Benjamin Talbert, CSLA, Ft. Huachuca, AZ
SFC Joseph Scalies, HQ CECOM, APG

CIVILIAN AWARDS

Superior Civilian Service Award

Lynn Jurkowski, G8, APG
Fred F. Orr, Office of the G4, APG. MD

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Mark W. Dubois, SEC, APG, MD
Thomas F. Keane, ILSC, APG, MD
William E. Simmons, SEC, APG, MD
David M. Lapan, ILSC, APG, MD
Christine Wolcott, ILSC, APG, MD

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Tina R. Pelino, ILSC, APG, MD

CECOM Employees of the 3rd Quarter FY16 CECOM Certificate of Achievement

C4ISR Employee - Senior Category - *TIE* - **Lawrence Hu, ISEC, and Tejash Maisuria, SEC**
C4ISR Employee - Mid-Level Category - *TIE* - **Steven Pham, SEC, and Rose Rascon, ACC-APG**
C4ISR Employee - Junior Category - *TIE* **Kathleen Collette-Farmer, SEC, and Kelly Kolvek, TYAD**

C4ISR Team of the Quarter - SEC's Product Security and Testing Team

Team Members: **Michael Guerrieri, Phillip McDermott, Brian Thielking**

Childhood Obesity Info Session



September 15, 2016 | 11:30-12:30pm EDT

C4ISR Center of Excellence Campus, Building 6000, Myer Auditorium

Open to all | POC: Tiffany Grimes, 443-861-7901, tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil

CPR/AED Training

September 29, 2016 | 1100 – 1300 EST

C4ISR Campus, Building 6001, 2nd Floor, Room 224 APG, MD

Instructed by the APG Fire Department

Limited Space

Classes Open to: C4ISR Employees, Military and Contractors

Registration Required by 22 SEPT 16

POC: Tiffany Grimes,
tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil; 443-861-7901





MENTAL HEALTH

Awareness Info Session

September 20, 2016

11:30-12:30pm EDT

C4ISR Center of Excellence Campus, Building 6001, Fl 2, Room 224 (ACC Training Room)
Open to Installation Employees, Contractors, and Military
NON CAC CARD HOLDERS Must Return a Visitors' Form to the G1 POC by 14 SEPT 2016

POC: Tiffany Grimes, 443-861-7901, tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil



Prostate Cancer Info Session

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September 8, 2016

11:30-12:30pm EDT

C4ISR Center of Excellence Campus,
Building 6000- Myer Auditorium

Guest Presenter: Dr. Sankar J. Kausik, F.A.C.S

Chesapeake Urology

Open to all

POC: Tiffany Grimes, 443-861-7901, tiffany.l.grimes.civ@mail.mil

SecArmy lays out priorities at his first town hall

By C. Todd Lopez



Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning addresses Army civilians and members of the Army staff during a town hall meeting, Aug. 23, 2016. (Photo Credit: John Martinez)



Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning meets with American Soldiers participating in an exercise in Malaysia, July 29, 2016. (Photo Credit: John Martinez)

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Reflecting on his most recent trip to the Pacific, which included a stop in Malaysia, Secretary of the Army Eric K. Fanning said he was impressed by the interaction he observed there between American Soldiers and Malaysian forces, who are now participating in Exercise Keris Strike.

"It impressed upon me something that I didn't see in my time in previous services that do a lot of exercises as well," said Fanning, who has served in the past as acting Secretary of the Air Force, and also as an undersecretary with the Navy.

"When the Army interacts with another army, it is from the most junior soldier all the way up to the most senior soldiers. There is interaction between soldiers at all levels that you don't see with the way other services do their exercises, just by nature of how they fight, how they are organized, and the platforms they use."

That kind of interaction between soldiers he said, puts a face on the United States in a way that is not possible through other diplomatic efforts.

"There are 15,000 ... United States Foreign Service officers," he said. "We have 150,000 Soldiers outside the continental United States right now today, 10 times as many U.S. Army Soldiers around the world than there are foreign service officers. And many of them are interacting and representing the United States and doing it really well. Those Malaysians were really excited to be exercising and to be learning from Americans."

Fanning spoke on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the Pentagon to a packed house of Army staff on his priorities for the coming months as part of his first town hall meeting there. He said he plans to give such talks more often in the future.

TAKING CARE OF SOLDEIRS, FAMILIES, CIVILIANS

"For me, we have to keep the pressure on prevention of sexual assault. We have done a lot on responding to sexual assault. But I'd like to make the response stuff unnecessary," Fanning said.

"We get a lot of heat on that issue -- and we should. We should be held to a higher standard. But the benefit of that for the country is that we do lead the way on working on a lot of these issues. We've made a lot of progress that people outside the military are straining to look into and learn from and build on. We have to keep the heat on."

Suicide prevention, he said, is another area where the Army has led the way. That's an area where he wants to keep the pressure on to solve as well.

"I get asked about this a lot," he said, noting that there is a misconception about the prevalence of suicide in the Army. The Army is only slightly worse than the rest of society.

"But one is too many," he said. "What I really want to focus on is where that's related to behavioral health issues."

He said researchers in and out of the military are looking at the issue -- and that has given rise to even more questions, he said. Researchers are still learning about post-traumatic stress disorder among World War II veterans, for instance.

"But if somebody joins the Army, serves their country, is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice, we need to know from the behavioral health side if they have done anything in the line of service that has caused them problems," he said.

"They deserve to have it diagnosed, and they have earned the treatment that comes with it. We need to do some more work on that."

RAPID CAPABILITY OFFICE

New on the horizon for the secretary is the newly created "Rapid Capability Office."

"It's really designed to focus on [those times] where we see our overmatch on our capabilities isn't really where we thought it was going to be," he said.

Most recently, that's been informed by what

Russia is doing in Ukraine and Syria, in the way of cyber, electronic warfare, position navigation timing and survivability. What's being seen there raises questions about Army readiness in those areas, Fanning said.

"These are anti-access-type capabilities where we need a larger gap than what we have," he said.

The Rapid Capability Office is not about getting equipment out to the field faster, he said. It's about capabilities.

"We're not going to use this office to build a new helicopter," he said. "We're going to use this office because some technology on the helicopter isn't giving us the edge over the adversary we thought it was going to be."

He said that much of what the Rapid Capability Office will do will be aimed at streamlining bureaucracy in places that now stymie efforts to bring the latest technology to the warfighter as quickly as possible.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS ORGANIZATION

Fanning also said he and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley will soon be looking at how the Army headquarters is organized. He was quick to add that this had nothing to do with the number of people involved or the dollars going toward personnel.

"I think we have cut the headquarters enough, and I think in many places we have cut too far," he said. "This is trying to get at the hardest part of reorganization, which is what do you do differently, and what do you stop doing."

Primarily, he said, he is hoping to streamline communication efforts to ensure that he and the chief of staff are getting the information they need in time to make decisions using that information. And at the same time, he said, to provide the right information to those on the staff -- so they too get the information they need from the top.

"We want to find ways to inject our thoughts and guidance earlier in the process, which hopefully saves you a lot of time, because you're not having to move something up through the system and get it thrown back down and back up and back down, he said.

"So hopefully it's a better flow of information for us, and a better flow of information for you all, and a more efficient way of doing some things."



Wellness

Prostate Cancer Awareness Informational Session:

08 SEPTEMBER 2016 (1130-1230) Myer Auditorium, Building 6000, VTC available. The C4ISR Wellness Committee invites you to attend our Prostate Cancer Informational Session. In this session, Dr. Sankar Kausik, Chesapeake Urology Associates, will discuss the current trends and treatment options in Prostate Cancer.

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Childhood Obesity Informational Session:

15 SEPTEMBER 2016 (1130-1230) Myer Auditorium, Building 6000, VTC available. The C4ISR Wellness Committee invites you to attend our Childhood Obesity Informational Session. Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled, and today, nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher in African American and Hispanic communities, where nearly 40% of the children are overweight or obese. If we don't solve this problem, one third of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives. Many others will face chronic obesity-related health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, and asthma. Please join Dr. Allison Agwu and learn how to keep your children healthy, as well as learn fitness activities to do with them that are fun. This session will also get you moving with a fun Exercise DEMO.

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Mental Health Informational Session:

20 SEPTEMBER 2016 (1130-1230) ACC Training Room, Building 6001, Floor 2, Room 224 (Enter Room 120), VTC available. The C4ISR Wellness Committee invites you to attend our Mental Health Informational Session. This presentation explores the Transcendental Meditation technique as a means to reduce anxiety, depression, and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Dr. Roochnik will provide a broad overview of the Transcendental Meditation technique, and examine its theoretical underpinning and mechanics. Dr. Stixrud will discuss his clinical work with the TM technique, and delve deeply into the studies conducted at leading research centers (including the NIH), and published in reputable scientific journals, documenting the benefits of regular TM practice to mental health.

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CPR/AED Class (APG ONLY):

29 SEPTEMBER 2016 (1100-1300) ACC Training Room, Building 6001, Floor 2, Room 224 (Enter Room 120). The C4ISR Wellness Committee is soliciting interest for a CPR/AED training class conducted by the APG Fire Department. Training is open to C4ISR employees, contractors, and military. Limited Seating. Registration is Required. If you are interested, please return the registration spreadsheet to the G1 POC by 22 SEP 2016.

Saluting “Women’s Equality” Achievements

1. When was “Women’s Equality Day instituted, and by whom?

- a. Maureen O’Hara, August 3, 1974
- b. Bella Abzug, August 26, 1971
- c. Grace Sheldon, August 15, 1980
- d. Kelly Sorensen, August 20, 1969

2. Which state was the first to give women the right to vote?

- a. Nebraska
- b. Connecticut
- c. Wyoming
- d. Texas

3. Who said, “With passion and courage, women have taught us that when we band together to advocate for our highest ideals, we can advance our common well-being and strengthen the fabric of our nation.”

- a. Sandra Day O’Connor
- b. Donna Brazile
- c. John McCain
- d. President Barack Obama

4. An amendment to the education section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX is meant to prevent all forms of ...

- a. Test score manipulation in Black school systems.
- b. Gender discrimination in all schools that receive federal funding.
- c. Gerrymandering that ensures fewer minority schools are eligible for larger tax cuts.
- d. None of the above.

5. During the Holy Month of Ramadan, Muslims who are physically able, are required to...

- a. Visit the ancient gravesite of their ancestors.
- b. Travel no more than 10 miles outside of their worship districts, especially on Sundays.
- c. Fast from sunrise to sunset daily for the entire month.
- d. At ages 13 to 19, serve as model Muslims in traditionally non-Muslim communities.

6. In what year did the U.S. Civil Service Commission eliminate height and weight requirements which had previously been used to discriminate against women applying for police, park service, and firefighting jobs?

- a. 1950
- b. 1965
- c. 1973
- d. 1978

7. Among the more infrequent headstones at Arlington National Cemetery are those with gold lettering against the white marble. What do they signify?

- a. Merely a preference by the family of the deceased.
- b. The individual had served much of his career in war torn countries.
- c. A unit or company to which the Soldier was once assigned.
- d. The buried service member received the highest valor award – a Medal of Honor.

8. What Amendment to the United States Constitution granted women the right to vote?

- a. The 14th Amendment
- b. The 19th Amendment
- c. The 21st Amendment
- d. The 23rd Amendment

9. She was a manager at a Goodyear tire factory in Alabama where she worked for almost 20 years. She did not know her pay was significantly less than her male counterparts until receiving an anonymous note listing the salaries of three male managers. On January 29, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Fair Pay Act after her. Who was she?

- a. Lilly Ledbetter
- b. Madeleine Albright
- c. Karen McClinnis
- d. Maggie Swift

10. What U.S. President signed into law the “Women’s Armed Services Integration Act,” granting women permanent status in the Regular and Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force?

- a. Woodrow Wilson
- b. Calvin Coolidge
- c. Harry Truman
- d. Franklin D. Roosevelt

