The Bullet'n

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Pine Bluff ammunition

Arsenal prepares for busy fiscal year

By Rachel Newton
Pine Bluff Arsenal Public Affairs

PINE BLUFF, Ark. -- An aggressive and busy fiscal year is on tap yet again for the Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Ammunition Operations.

There are currently 13 planned programs for FY 2008, according to an annual business briefing that was presented by the Pine Bluff Arsenal command group in October.

"We just wrapped up the grenades but have a few thousand left to pack out," said Roch Byrne, ammunition operations director, during an interview in mid-November. "We are headed toward a scheduled shut down of that program in conjunction with our customers, and are going to begin working on some upgrades to our glatt and pyrotechnic mix facilities."

U.S. Army photo by Hugh Morgan

From left: Col. Bill Barnett, Pine Bluff Arsenal commander; Roch Byrne, PBA ammunition operations director; Brig. Gen. William N. Phillips, commanding general, Joint Munitions & Lethality Life Cycle Management Command; and Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, watch as Glenn Carter does assembly work on the M853 81 mm mortar line.

During FY 2007, the arsenal produced more than a million M18 colored-smoke grenades. "Eighty-four lot acceptance tests were conducted. Every single one passed the first time," said Col. Bill Barnett, Pine Bluff Arsenal commander, during the annual business briefing. "Want to talk about quality? That is a home run every time you step to the plate. There are a lot of bright stars out there, but it takes a team. As a Soldier that has used these products before, it is good. I celebrate what you do."

One of the upgrades taking place at the pyro facilities is the installation of a dust collection system. Upgrades are also taking place at the Grenade Starter Patch Facility, said Byrne. "This was mainly a manual process and we are upgrading to a more automated process," he said. "Our friends at E&T (Directorate of Engineering and Technology) are spearheading that for us."

Byrne said that ammunition operations is scheduled to start filling grenades again, starting with the M83 TA (terephthalic acid) smoke grenade, in March 2008. "So we have a few months off of that," he said. "We have approximately 94,000 to produce."

He said that the directorate actually just went through the entire production cycle of all the grenades – with the M83 and all four colors of the M18 – with starter patches.

"PBA" continued on page 10

Army News

Army announces Logistics Branch

Department of the Army
News Release

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Department of the Army announced Dec. 13 the establishment of a new branch, which took effect on Jan. 1. The Logistics Branch is the newest branch of the Army for commissioned officers, established by general order of the Secretary of the Army. Ordnance, Quartermaster and Transportation officers from the ranks of captain through colonel will be united into the Logistics Branch. This change will occur across all components of the Army.

"Establishment of the Logistics Branch fully supports the needs of the modular Army," said Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody, deputy chief of staff, logistics. "It promotes the development of multi-skilled logisticians, capable of anticipating requirements, planning, integrating, and executing all types of deployment and sustainment activities that enable our nation's forces to initiate and sustain full-spectrum operations. As a result of Army transformation and modularity, Army logistics has shifted from a functional to a multifunctional focus. The reduction of functional logistics commands and the increase of multifunctional logistics commands at all levels make this a natural evolution for Army logisticians."

"New lieutenants will still begin their careers as Ordnance, Quartermaster or Transportation officers to become technically and tactically proficient in their basic branch specialties," she said. Upon promotion to captain and completion of the Combined Logistics Captains' Career Course, these officers will begin their journey in the Logistics Branch.

The Ordnance, Transportation and Quartermaster branches will still remain. The technical skills of enlisted Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, warrant officers and lieutenants remain consistent with the needs of the transformed Army and the requirement for functional expertise within these branches.

The nature of the global war on terror has drastically changed the way logisticians operate on the modern battlefield. The Logistics Branch will develop expeditionary and campaign quality logisticians needed for future missions.

Ford named as Acting Under Secretary of the Army

Department of the Army
News Release

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Secretary of the Army Pete Geren on Dec. 4, expressed his appreciation for President Bush's designation of the Honorable Nelson M. Ford, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, to be the Acting Under Secretary of the Army.

Ford concurrently will continue serving as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, the position he held since October 2006.

Previously, he was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Controls in the Office of ASA from 2005 to 2006.

From 2002 through 2004, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Budgets & Financial Policy in the Department of Defense, where he was responsible for financial management, policy development and program evaluation for the Defense Health Program.

Prior to returning to Federal service, Ford held senior management positions in academic medicine, medical manufacturing and health insurance. From 1997 to 2000, he was President and CEO of Clinipad, a manufacturer of disposable medical products.

Ford holds a bachelor's degree in history from Duke University; a master's degree in education from the University of Delaware; and has completed additional professional training at the University of Pennsylvania.

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The editorial content of **The Bullet'n** ***is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office at Joint Munitions Command headquarters. Contributions to*** **The Bullet'n** ***are welcome; contact information follows.***

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More power for military's shotgun

Ammunition will decrease fragments in close urban environment

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Johancharles Van Boers

U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division prepare to enter and clear a building during fighting in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004.

By Darryl Howlett
Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command Public Affairs

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- A new type of ammunition is arriving in time to help Soldiers in dangerous urban landscapes, such as those in Iraq.

Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general of the Joint Munitions Command at Rock Island, Ill., approved the full materiel release of the M1030 12-gauge shotgun breaching cartridge in late 2007.

"The M1030 is an anti-material cartridge designed to be used for defeating wooden doors (deadbolts, knobs and hinges) and padlock hasps," said R. Ned DeWitt, product manager of crew served weapons with the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center. "The cartridge is functional with the Mossberg 500/590 and the Remington 870 shotguns. The cartridges will be tested in the XM62 Modular Accessory Shotgun System as part of the product qualification testing for the weapon."

The M1030 is a Soldier-enhancement program that uses commercial-off-the-shelf technology. The first requirement was approved by the U.S. Army Infantry Center in 1997. Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., served as the testing area for the M1030.

DeWitt said changes in combat from open field to urban environments drove the implementation for the changes.

"Since combat has migrated toward military operations in urban terrain, ballistic-breaching operations have increased. This necessitated the need for a specialized breaching munition capable of being fired from existing and future small arms weapons," he said.

The most important aspect of the new munition is its safety toward Soldiers.

"Shotgun" continued on page 10

Experience beyond measure

Interns shed title, join the JMC family

U.S. Army photo by Ted Cavanaugh/EL Hamm

Graduates of the intern program are joined by Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, far left, commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, and Jyuji Hewitt, JMC deputy to the commander, far right.

By RiKeshia Davidson
Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. -- "If you don't learn something everyday, you shouldn't come to work." In a simple phrase, Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, said a lot.

If learning is the key, then recent Federal Career Intern Program and Department of the Army graduates have accepted the challenge and are running full speed ahead.

Newly integrated into the workforce, the FCIP and DA interns shed the title of intern in the Jan. 3 ceremony at Rock Island Arsenal, complete with Rogers, well-wishers and stories of experiences that are typical of the average internship. Experiences seem to be a common theme among the former interns from voluntary deployments to transitioning from private industry, and routine rotations through departments highlighting their two-year training.

Experiences are critical to the learning process, but so is doing the "right thing and not just for your personal career, but for the team," according to Rogers. Rogers further challenged the group to "go after what you think is the right thing to do."

Even more challenging is the statement he added regarding the hesitation to change.

Rogers points out that the mindset that "things shouldn't change, needs to be changed." With this offer of encouragement, participants received a nod of support to dare to be different and exert intellectual creativity.

As the interns reflected on the program, FCIP participant Bill Dunkin spoke of wanting to join the Army family at a time when opportunities for employment were "scarce."

Later, an opportunity presented itself when—at that time—Dunkin was happy and satisfied with his current line of work. Not to turn down an opportunity, he submitted his resume blindly. The "opportunities (were) worth the initial sacrifice," said Dunkin.

FCIP provides much in the areas of work opportunities and professional growth, but for Dunkin the other perks made this transition a nice one. The work "we do contributes to the security of our nation," he said.

Other FCIP interns benefited from immediate opportunities that they took advantage of. Amber Brasseur voluntarily deployed to Iraq in October 2006. Prior to making that transition, she spent one-and-a-half years as an ammunition production manager. At the time the idea of venturing to Iraq was clouded with doubt as Brasseur received multiple medical shots and looked to a 24-hour flight, but today she says, "I will not have a problem

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Defense Ammunition Center recognized with Army Team Award

U.S. Army photo by Jaime Thompson

Joint Munitions Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. James Rogers presents the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System team members (left to right) Bruce Ramm, Adrian Wells, Mike Collins, Jim Medley, and Barry McCall with a commander's coin for excellence. Team member Don Kisling was not pictured.

By Jaime Thompson
Defense Ammunition Center Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- A team of five ammunition logistics engineers from the Defense Ammunition Center was recognized on Dec. 13, 2007 by Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, for its nomination in the 2006 Army Materiel Command Outstanding Integrated Product/Weapon System of the Year Award competition.

"The team's dedication to excellence in the performance of duty reflects great credit upon this unique unit, the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, the U.S. Army Materiel Command, and the U.S. Army," wrote Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general, AMC, in a congratulatory note to the team members. Rogers echoed these accolades as he presented each team member with a commander's coin for excellence at the field commanders' seminar held at McAlester, Okla. on Dec. 12-13, 2007.

The DAC team recognized for this award worked with Cybernet Systems Corporation to develop the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System, an innovative approach that provides the warfighter with a safe, accurate and efficient means of processing field-returned small arms ammunition. In contrast to time-consuming hand-sorting methods, the ATACS system fully automates the classification process, far surpassing the abilities of human inspectors. Currently, the ATACS is capable of classifying, inspecting, and sorting ammunition ranging from 5.56 mm to .50-caliber. The ATACS is capable of an average production rate of 50,000 rounds of 5.56 mm rounds per eight hours of operation and has processed five million rounds since initial integration.

The development of the ATACS took only eight months from problem identification to equipment fielding, and only 90 days to design, manufacture and field. The first ATACS, supported by DAC and Cybernet, was deployed in 2004 to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The second ATACS underwent validation tests at DAC and was deployed to Fort Irwin, Calif., in 2006, to be used in the inspection and separation of SAA training ammunition.

Future plans for the ATACS include being part of Desert Optimized Equipment, where mobilized workshops can be transported anywhere in the world on short notice to support the warfighter.

The Bullet'n invites you to participate in our first publication survey starting Jan. 22. Please provide us with your feedback on making this publication better. The survey will be located at www.jmc.army.mil.

Lean Six Sigma Corner

Success for JMC commodity system

By Sebastian Curtis
Joint Munitions Command
Munitions and Logistics Readiness Center

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- Standardization of the way records' transactions are inputted into the Commodity Command Standard System is a reality thanks to a Joint Munitions Command Lean Six Sigma Green Belt project. This project also will save the JMC approximately $10,000 in reduced contracting costs.

Previously, Holston, Iowa, Lone Star, Milan and Radford Army Ammunition Plants and Pine Bluff Arsenal custodial records required contractual support for entering transactions into CCSS.

The process developed by this project enables a direct feed into CCSS using the Army Engineering Products Support automation capability. This is the same manner in which custodial records for Blue Grass Army Depot, Crane Army Ammunition Activity, McAlester AAP, Tooele Army Depot, Anniston Defense Munitions Center, Letterkenny Munitions Center, and Hawthorne Army Depot are entered into the CCSS.

Additionally, ammunition reconciliations will be increased by this project by adding Holston, Lone Star, and Radford to the ones already performing them, such as Iowa, Milan and Pine Bluff. The ammunition reconciliations are an accountability management control that enhances each installation's ability to achieve and sustain the 95 percent annual reconciliation accuracy rate goal and the ability to complete the annual ammunition reconciliation before or within 45 days.

This project used LSS tools such as process mapping, baseline statistics, process capability, Pareto chart, cause and effect analysis, and failure modes and effects analysis.

The team had four members from JMC headquarters.

"By having traced this communication process, not only is there a better communication link for accountability of conventional ammunition, but also future improvements will be easier to implements as technology advances," said Gary Deitch, ammunition system specialist, of JMC's Munitions Logistics Readiness Center.

"The result of this project will be a tremendous help to the inventory office at JMC. It is charged with ensuring the accountable record is accurate and up-to-date. Because our 'government-owned, contractor-operated' installations are on non-standard custodial systems, it has always been a huge challenge to maintain their accountable records. We will now have a reliable route for data exchange with our (government-owned, contractor-operated) installations and our tracking metrics will only improve," said Carrie S. Krulik, general supply specialist, MLRC.

In addition to standardizing the CCSS input process, and achieving the 95 percent annual reconciliation accuracy, this project improved asset stockpile posture reporting.

...and its inventory management system

By Ricky Peer
Joint Munitions Command
Munitions Logistics and Readiness Center

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- The Joint Munitions Command recently completed a Green Belt Lean Six Sigma project designed to improve inventory management effectiveness and cycle time throughout JMC and Crane Army Ammunition Activity in Crane, Ind. The project saved the JMC more than $354,000.

The goal of this project was to improve inventory management and accountability of ammunition at CAAA in order to comply with Department of Defense regulatory requirements.

The project was scoped to CAAA with improvements being replicated across the JMC depot enterprise. LSS tools used in analyzing the project data included failure modes and effects analysis, cause & effect, value stream map, and measurement system analysis.

The team assembled to carry out the project consisted of five team members from Army Materiel Command, JMC and Crane.

Early in the define, manage, analyze, improve and control, or DMAIC process, JMC received approval from Department of Army and AMC to waive the fiscal year 2005 and 2006 physical inventory requirements. This allowed Crane to reset the stockpile balances and initiate FY 2007 physical inventory on schedule.

JMC and Crane made two changes to the inventory process.

First, JMC established monthly in process reviews with

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Lean Six Sigma Corner

Crane seeks continuous improvements with Green Belts

By Tom Peske
Crane Army Ammunition Activity Public Affairs

CRANE, Ind. -- Eleven Crane Army Ammunition Activity employees took a step forward toward the goal of becoming Lean Six Sigma Green Belts when they received their training course certificates Dec. 6.

The two-week course provided students an introduction to Lean Six Sigma and is the first of a two-step process to becoming a certified Green Belt. All students passed the written exam at the end of the course, and moved to step two of certification which is completing their Green Belt projects.

One of the course's instructors and Master Black Belt, Crane Program Manager Paul Allswede said, "The projects being worked on by this class range from stenciling defect reduction to improving efficiency in the excessing of material. All of the projects are directly linked to enhancing Crane Army's business strategy."

Allswede said the two-week course teaches students the define, measure, analyze, improve, and control methodology, as well as sundry support, lean and basic statistical tools use within each of the before mentioned phases. Sundry support includes project management, chartering, and tollgate reviews. Lean topics included value stream mapping, rapid improvement events, and the value lead time. Basic statistical tools included control charts, process capability, measurement system analysis, hypothesis testing, and design of experiments.

The day-to-day value of the training became evident quickly to its students, according to logistics management specialist Bobby Webber. He added, "My recent Green Belt training provided me with understanding that Lean Six Sigma can help an organization become more data driven in its efforts to identify and eliminate process problems. It also establishes new methodologies that can continuously generate improvement within that organization and, in turn provides the customer with a quality product, with timely delivery at a lower cost."

U.S. Army photo by Tom Peske

Col. Charles Kibben, commander, Crane Army Ammunition Activity, presents Green Belt training certificates to CAAA employees: (left to right) Walt Shearin, Bobby Webber, Dennis Sickel, Mike Budarz, Byron Steele, Jerry Tompkins, Randall Burcham, Tom Hedges, Don Neukam, Mark Helms and Chuck Payne.

Crane and Letterkenny Munitions Center now have a pool of 53 Lean Six Sigma Green Belts working to reduce scrap, increase cost avoidance and improve efficiencies across the organization.

Inventory

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Crane to maintain oversight of the count schedule. Second, AMC agreed to waive all open inventory programs from previous years.

As a result of these changes, Crane had fewer discrepancies and conducted fewer investigations.

The project goals and objectives were achieved. Crane completed the FY 2007 physical inventory within the regulatory timeframe, which resulted in zero carry-over into FY 2008.

"Good accountability is the nucleus of a well-run depot," said Mazie Angus, JMC's MLRC. "Having completed a 100 percent inventory and all associated backlog in a fiscal year is a great achievement for all the installations." This is the first time all installations have accomplished this, she continued.

This project resulted in increased stockpile accountability/accuracy, a complete focus on the current year program and the closeout of prior year programs.

Planning, organizing, teamwork and coordination set the tone at Crane Army Ammunition Activity for a new...

U.S. Army photo by Tom Peske

Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team review the proposed site location during their September visit to Crane Army Ammunition Activity.

AMMO BUNKER

By Tom Peske
Crane Army Ammunition Activity
Public Affairs

CRANE, Ind. -- Improvements to an installation's facility do not happen overnight. It requires thoughtful planning, teamwork and coordination for all the pieces of a new construction project to come together.

The proposed construction of a new ammunition bunker at Crane Army Ammunition Activity illustrates this thoughtful planning as key players from CAAA, the Naval Support Activity Crane and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked together to ensure success.

According to CAAA Civil Engineer Travis Summers, the new ready-service magazine will provide a safe and effective means of loading and shipping strategic configured ammunition loads and will enhance the activity's capability to meet the assigned requirements of the Army Strategic Mobility Program.

The process began in September when a planning charrette brought together all the key players to Crane. Summers said the charrette is a planning exercise that allows all of the various groups such as security, safety and environmental to meet with the project's primary user and provide their requirements for the project. This ensures that no major portions of the project are missed.

For this particular project, interviews were held with various groups, site visits were conducted, and preliminary designs and cost estimates were generated. During the meeting, all of the groups met with the Corps of Engineers charrette team and supplied their required information.

Within a couple of weeks, the Corps of Engineers had a finalized estimate and a draft was sent for CAAA to review. CAAA then sent the project to the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center for their review.

The information gained from the charrette will now allow CAAA to program the funds necessary for the magazine complex construction in fiscal year 2010. Summers said that once the project funding is approved, it will be advertised to contractors, and Navy Support Activity Crane, the host command, will oversee the construction to ensure it is completed as specified in the contract.

CAAA was established in Oct. 1977 and is a tenant of the Navy Region Midwest, Naval Support Activity Crane. The Army activity maintains ordnance professionals and infrastructure to receive, store, ship, produce, renovate and demilitarize conventional ammunition, missiles and related components.

Defense community discusses explosive safety issues

U.S. Army photo by Jerri Mabray

Col. Joe Tirone, U.S. Army headquarters, operations, participates in seminar discussions held at the Defense Ammunition Center.

By Jaime Thompson
Defense Ammunition Center Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- "Everyone is a safety officer," said Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command, as he addressed more than 90 members of the defense community during the Field Commanders Ammunition Logistics Seminar on Explosives Safety, Dec. 12-13.

Three sessions concerning explosives safety challenges were addressed during the third in a series of ammunition logistics seminars hosted by the Defense Ammunition Center.

Griffin served as one of the keynote speakers during the seminar. He stressed the importance of educating the field and applauded DAC for serving as the center of ammunition logistics excellence and successfully managing the Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) program. Griffin challenged seminar participants to increase the communication between the customer and producer, and work together in managing ammunition and explosives safety issues.

"We are the champions for ammunition," Griffin said. "We must all serve as safety officers."

Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general of the Joint Munitions Command, stressed the importance of explosives safety throughout the life cycle of ammunition. "We must manage ammunition down to the (Ammunition Supply Point) level, from production in the industrial base to the warfighter in the field," Rogers said.

Brig. Gen. William N. Phillips, commanding general of the Joint Munitions & Lethality Life Cycle Management Command, stressed the importance of leaders being engaged in explosives safety. "We are the world's best at explosives safety, but our leaders must be engaged to help continue this role," Phillips said.

From a foreign perspective on explosives safety issues, Lt. Col. Jean Francois Lemoyne, Canadian Armed Forces, shared Canada's explosives safety challenges with the group and said that both U.S. and Canadian armies share similar explosives safety challenges.

Additionally, the field commanders seminar included panel discussions on coalition munitions clearance including captured enemy ammunition, and ammunition and explosives safety challenges in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

DAC applies for national accreditation

By Jaime Thompson
Defense Ammunition Center Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- The Defense Ammunition Center has applied for candidacy to the Council of Occupational Education.

DAC's Training Directorate provides ammunition-related training to more than 35,000 military and civilian students annually, and offers a variety of training through on-site mobile training teams, accredited off-campus instruction facilities, and distance learning products. One of the directorate's main missions is to provide training for the Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance), the Army's oldest career program, and the Ammunition Managers career program. Combined, these career programs provide more than 1,000 qualified civilian employees who give on-site ammunition expertise to warfighters.

Since the U.S. Department of Education recognizes the COE as a national institutional accrediting agency, a number of military and governmental agencies use COE for accrediting purposes. Accreditation by the council is viewed as a nationally honored seal of excellence for occupational education institutions. The COE process begins with acceptance for candidacy, and then follows with a comprehensive institutional self-study, peer evaluation, and finally, a decision by the council based on approved accreditation standards and criteria.

"While COE accreditation is a thorough and lengthy process, achieving this status will provide the assurance that DAC's Directorate for Training is maintaining up-to-date, quality career and technical education programs," said Sally Riggins, chief of the technical training division.

PBA

Continued from page 1

U.S. Army photo by Hugh Morgan

Allen Dehagani, with the Directorate of Engineering and Technology, points out some of the new features of the white phosphorus facility upgrade to the visiting generals, as E&T director Emami Esmaeilpour (center back) looks on.

"We have proven that technology," he said. "It works very well."

In mid-December 2006, the M18 grenade project got back on track, with the added modifications of the starter patch. The patch corrected the lag time delay and greatly improved the lot acceptance test ratios. "We have made hundreds of thousands of grenades now with this patch and everything is great," he said. "We are, however, continuing to screen the fuzes we receive so the ultimate end user – the warfighter – gets the best product."

Another project currently underway for ammunition operations includes the M853-A1 81mm illumination round production run. "We are running approximately 67,000 of these and have passed the first lot acceptance tests," said Byrne. "We have also kicked off the M930 120 mm illumination mortar production."

The FY 2005 M485-A2 155 mm illumination projectile round production was also kicked off in November 2007. "This was an order from 2005 and we were just awaiting parts," said Byrne. "In conjunction with our customer, (ammunition operations) just purchased a new computer-driven automated drill machine."

He said that this particular round physically is one of the biggest the Arsenal produces. "It is very similar to the M110 white phosphorus rounds. The payload is an illumination candle versus (white phosphorus)," said Byrne, adding that these are the rounds that include parachutes.

Due to a customer order, ammunition operations filled a batch of M110 155 mm phosphorus rounds on one of the old lines in early December. "Because the new (white phosphorus) facility is not operational as of yet, we have to go back to old methods for this order. We are also trying to increase our direct labor hours and because of acceleration on the other projects, we have to fill the M110s," said Byrne. "The customer is ok with it as long as they get the rounds."

Byrne added that a batch of M929 120 mm rounds will be used to prove out the new phosphorus facility once that time comes. "The customer really doesn't want them. They are just going to be used to break in the new equipment," he said.

One of the more historically interesting programs on tap for FY 2008 is the M14 incendiary grenade project.

"It has been a long time since we made them but we have made them," said Byrne. "They burn very hot and are used for things like vehicle destruction because I have been told they burn through metal."

The directorate continues to stay busy and work is plentiful, said Byrne. "I am very proud of what is going on the M485 line because we got started later than we hoped. With the concerted efforts of folks here at AO and E&T and all over the Arsenal, we have caught up. We were way behind on some of our old work and that is significant. I am proud of everything."

Shotgun

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"Current shotgun-ballistic breaching utilized 00 Buckshot cartridges that are not designed for breaching," DeWitt said. "Soldiers have suffered severe injuries during breaching operations utilizing buckshot cartridges," he said. "The frangible projectile of the M1030 minimizes ricochet hazards currently associated with buckshot breaching and provides a much safer alternative to the Soldier."

DeWitt said the ammunition contractor Allied Techsystems, Inc, will produce the ammunition in its plant in Minnesota, with ammunition orders already being filled by the Army, Marine Corps and the Navy.

U.S. Marine Corps file photo

A Marine with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division peers out a window, April 6, 2007, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

JM&L LCMC's Safety Spot Check

A message concerning ammunition and explosives mishaps

By Gen. Richard A. Cody
Vice Chief of Staff of the Army

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Army has recently experienced an increase in serious mishaps involving ammunition and explosives. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2008, we have suffered the loss of three Soldiers from ammunition and explosives mishaps, one due to improper handling of unexploded ordnance, the second due to a live round erroneously mixed with dummy rounds during weapon familiarization training, and the third due to the functioning of a recovered munition a Soldier was carrying in his backpack.

Non-fatal ammunition and explosives accidents that result in severe injuries and property loss are occurring on a more frequent basis. Trends include mishaps due to improper ammunition and explosives storage and handling, improper headspace and timing on .50 caliber M2 machine guns, and taping of grenade pins and spoons. In addition, unauthorized modifications of small arms weapons are becoming more prevalent, primarily with the M4, M203, M249, and to a lesser degree, the M9, compromisng not only the safety but the functionality and maintainability of these weapons.

Leader engagement is a must. We are an Army at war and our Soldiers and their assets are continuously exposed to risk. Engaged leadership directly impacts the reduction of accidents and increases safety awareness. I am asking leaders at all levels to ensure their Soldiers are knowledgeable of and follow requirements and procedures for safe ammunition and explosives handling and storage, are aware of the dangers associated with picking up munitions found on the battlefield, know their weapons and use and maintain them properly, and immediately report ammunition and explosives mishaps.


Gen. Richard A. Cody

For further information, consult the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, https://crc.army.mil/home and the U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety, https://www3.dac.army.mil/usatces.

Interns

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anytime in the future raising my hand, going a second time."

Not only does Brasseur attribute her confidence to the program's endless opportunity to learn, but also to her own willingness to "try different things." Time spent as an FCIP intern allowed Brasseur the chance to explore professional opportunities and seek knowledge from seasoned employees exiting the workforce.

Lessons learned are meaningful, with Brasseur noting that actively trying to get to know "as many people as possible" is significant to the overall experience.

According to JMC Intern Program Manager Brenda Lee, 98 interns in the FCIP and DA intern program have graduated.

So where will you see the new class of interns? Honestly, don't be surprised at where this class shows up next. Their experience is varied and their desire to get the job done, impressive. Lee says it best, "Every FCIP can make a difference— every skill is important — every person counts. There are a lot of opportunities."