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Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant

Historic, successful: Mississippi AAP deactivated

By Rebecca Montgomery
JMC Public Affairs

JOHN C. STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss. - The Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant, the only ammunition plant built by the Army after the Korean War, officially deactivated during a ceremony July 29.

"It is an understatement for me to say that over the years, Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant has served the Department of Defense and the nation well," said Col. Charles W. Kibben, commander of

Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Crane, Ind.

Established in the mid 1970s on land permitted to the Army by NASA, Mississippi AAP was dedicated on March 31, 1983. At its height of employment in 1989, the plant had 1,831 employees.

"Through the hard work and dedication of its employees, the Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant always made sure the war fighter had what was needed when it was needed," said Kibben.

The Army ceased active production at MSAAP in 1990 and began layaway of equipment. In December 1992, Mississippi AAP became an industrial park under the Congressionally appointed Armament Retooling and Manufacturing Support program that allows rehabilitation of unused munitions manufacturing facilities for commercial use.

"It is the most successful ARMS facility in the United States and today hosts 20 government and commercial tenants," Kibben said.

The plant was a subordinate installation of the Joint Munitions Command.

The deactivation of Mississippi AAP is the second JMC facility closed as the result of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission actions. Kansas Army Ammunition Plant, Parsons, Kan., closed earlier this year.

The Mississippi plant was designed to handle the complete on-site production and assembly of M483A1 155mm howitzer projectiles and grenade bodies. It was capable of producing 120,000 packaged rounds per month of the 155mm projectiles.

The Naval Oceanographic Office, Department of Energy, the Government Printing Office, Navy Human Resources Center Southeast,

Navy Special Boat Team 22, Pratt-Whitney and other tenants at the plant site employ more than 650 people.

The plant has been reassigned to the Army Installation Management Command's Fort Rucker (Ala.) effective Aug. 1 pending reversion back to the NASA. IMCOM retained Mississippi AAP's two Army civilian employees, who will work as caretakers of the facility.

The 2005 BRAC Commission recommended closure of two other JMC ammunition production facilities: Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, Texarkana, Texas and Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, Riverbank, Calif. The commission also ended ammunition storage missions at Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, Calif., and Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas. All BRAC closures and realignments must be completed by 2011. ^{J.M.C.}

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If you thought week one was interesting....



Living the Lean Life...

McALESTER, Okla. – I survived week two of Lean Six Sigma green belt class with new memories and stories to tell.

If you're wondering why the date-line above reads McAlester, Okla., and not Rock Island Arsenal, that's because my second week of green belt class held at RIA came during the same time I had to support -- as a Navy reservist -- the U.S. Pacific Command, located at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii. (It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it.)

Initially it felt a little intimidating sitting in the classroom knowing that in this particular second week of green belt class, I was THE (singular, as in only one) newcomer.

The two classes were vastly different in personalities. The green belt class in Rock Island, maybe included three "Alpha-type" personalities. The class in McAlester had around 20. Now imagine being the new kid on the block.

As with any green belt class, new wonderful terminology was introduced by my instructors and master black belt Steve Tutt and master black candidate John Pelzel. They were determined to make my head spin by learning about: failure modes and effects analysis, idea generation methods, and Pareto charts.

And of course this was in addition to retaining subjects from the first week of class like Little's Law, Work In Process, and my personal favorite, TIMWOOD, or the seven types of waste. (Hello, transportation.)

Despite the very hot weather AND

seeing my first tarantula up close and personal, the atmosphere for the classroom was fast-paced.

Overall, I enjoyed the class very much, and was happy I remembered most of the material from the first week of class. However, the one thing that ticked me off to no end was the endless conversation by certain students while the instructors were talking. I thought to myself in my best British accent, "How, rude!" or better yet, the Americanized version, "Will you please stop being rude and..." (you can pencil in the rest)

I mean it went on for three days. It kept being placed in the minus category at the end of the plus-minus notepad each day.

"What part of shut up do people don't understand?" I started another round of flashbacks to my childhood. Growing up in my neighborhood, if you talked while your parents, teachers, Sunday School teachers, or basically any adult was talking you stood to lose your sense of taste, as in, "Boy, I will knock the taste buds out of your mouth!"

Obviously, someone forgot to distribute that memo when the rude students were growing up.

As far as that darn Define, Measure Analyze, Improve, and Control simulation, since I was the new kid on the block, one person from McAlester's first week of green belt class did not make it to week two. So I filled the role of a contractor, or customer. Oh my, Luke Skywalker has just crossed over to the dark side of the force. And let me tell you, being a customer was way more fun than working like crazy trying to pass paperwork through 15

people.

However, at the end of the week, it was all about the test.

The test proved more difficult for me than the one after week one. More questions and far more material to cover in an hour and a half. After the test, my brain felt like silly putty.

After my performance on the first test, I was sure earning a 95 or higher would not prove difficult. However, after the first page of the second test, I settled for just passing the test. Talk about lowering your standards. And anyone who tells you an open book test in easy, obviously they haven't taken a Lean Six Sigma open book test.

When the votes were tallied, a score of 88 would have to suffice. That's OK because receiving my green belt coursework certificate was a nice way to end the week down in good ol' Oklahoma.

Now as far as my project is concerned...

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Contributions to *The Bulletin* are welcome; contact information follows:

E-mail address: darryl.howlett@us.army.mil
Postal address: *The Bulletin*, ATTN: AMSJM-PA,
1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill. 61299-6000.
Phone: (309) 782-1514, DSN 793-4516.
Datafax: (309) 782-3935, DSN 793-3935.

Brig. Gen. Larry Wyche
Commanding General

Steve Abney
Chief, Public Affairs Office, JMC

Peter Rowland
Chief, Public Affairs Office, Picatinny Arsenal

Darryl G. Howlett
Editor

Rikeshia Davidson
Assistant Editor



Picatinny hosts 82nd airborne during week-long experience

By Eric Kowal
Picatinny Public Affairs

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- The three sirens before the first detonation were reminiscent of warnings given to villagers in an old World War II film. Shortly after the shots were prepared and the bystanders hid in cover, the sound of the explosion sent a shot of adrenaline into the bodies of the Soldiers causing them to hurry their feet along to the remains of the rocks which had just been shattered.

As exciting as this may sound, it was all part of an exercise and at no time were any lives in danger of being lost. The exercise was part of a demonstration done for 11 Fort Bragg, N.C., Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division who visited Picatinny Arsenal on their third stop of a week-long tour of Research, Development and Engineering Command organizations July 16.

“The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate to these Soldiers how the tools and weapons used in combat are tested and developed,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Ossen, one of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center explosive ordnance disposal staff noncommissioned officers here who led the tour.

The explosion came from a test demonstration conducted with four blocks of TNT in Picatinny’s desolate gorge area during the later part of the day’s tour.

Specialists Adam Nystrom and Aaron Cummings of the 82nd Airborne entered a large hole approximately 10 feet in diameter and five feet deep. Neither had ever handled TNT before and the tension and nerves were easily visible as they listened to Ossen and fellow Picatinny Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldier Staff Sgt. Christopher Combs instruct them on how to set the time fuse.

Once everything was in place, and all the bystanders



U.S. Army Photos courtesy of Erin Usawicz

Steady hands Specialists Aaron Cummings and Adam Nystrom of the 82nd Airborne Division prepare four blocks of TNT for detonation during a demonstration at Picatinny Arsenal.

were protected in a nearby bunker, Cummings and Nystrom pulled the igniters on the time fuses and scurried away not realizing there were still three minutes before detonation.

Upon returning to the hole to examine the destruction, several of the larger boulders had been reduced to nothing more than rubble, and the smiles on the Soldiers’ faces expressed pure joy.

“None of my buddies back at Bragg are gonna believe me,” Nystrom said excitedly, adding a mimic of one of his fellow Soldiers back at Fort Bragg by saying, “You went to Pica-Where and did Pica-What?”

Fort Bragg is where the 82nd Airborne Division calls home. The unit prides itself with being able to strategically deploy and conduct forcible parachute entry into any given location at a moment’s notice to secure objectives in part of military operations and support the interests of the United States.

With over 30 years, employee remains committed to service



U.S. Army photo by Ely Trapp

Almost Routine Master Sgt. Dave Beaumont hugs his wife, Sandra, before his seventh deployment. After more than 30 years of military service, Beaumont will retire from the Air National Guard. He is currently a motor vehicle operator at Tooele Army Depot.

By Ely Trapp
Tooele Public Affairs

TOOELE, Utah -- In a small yet intimate gathering at the Salt Lake City airport, family members and friends of the 151st Air Refueling Wing sent off a small group of Warfighters for a deployment to the Middle East.

Among that small group was Master Sgt. Dave Beaumont, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the group and a member of the Tooele Army Depot workforce.

This is Beaumont's seventh deployment in his 27-year-long career with the Air National Guard as well as his last. Including four years of active duty in the Navy and two years in the

Navy Reserve, upon return from this deployment Beaumont will retire with more than 30 years of military service.

A motor vehicle operator at Tooele Army Depot, Beaumont began working at Tooele after his active duty tour in the Navy back in 1977. "I may be Air National Guard but I will always claim Navy," he said while reminiscing about his years in the Navy.

As a sailor, Beaumont worked on board a ship for more than two years deploying to Korea, Vietnam and Okinawa. While at sea, he was part of the crash crew responsible for refueling, launching and landing aircraft.

After two years of trying to balance his family life, work and reserve duty requirements, he realized he was going to have to give the uniform up.

"He would fly out on Fridays for Alameda (Calif.) and return Sundays," said Sandra, Beaumont's wife of 32 years.

"The problem was we didn't know when he would return so we would sit and wait for hours at a time. It was hard on everyone including the kids." While waiting for his wife to browse at a fair in Salt Lake City, Beaumont started chatting with a fellow 'waiting husband.'

"I don't even remember how the military came up, but he asked if I knew how to cook and told me to check out the Air National Guard." Sandra admits the first few years of being married to a military man were hard; it was a different culture and a different experience. Some 30 plus years later, she still stands by her husband and supports what he does every step of the way.

"We feed them, clean them, entertain them, house them and bury them,"

said Beaumont, quoting an instructor who taught him the ropes of the services field. "In this field, we don't always know exactly where we are going or what our specific mission is going to be until we have boots on the ground," Beaumont said.

During his time in the Air National Guard, Beaumont has deployed to various countries including Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, and Europe. While all his deployments have been different in many ways, he said he has enjoyed every single one of them and has never felt his life to be at risk.

Support for the warfighters is unwavering - 45 percent of the workforce are veterans and there are 35 reserve component servicemembers members working at Tooele out of which five are currently deployed. Many of them fall under Harry Olson, Ammunition Support Supervisor, and Beaumont's supervisor.

"We are always encouraged by their dedication to duty," Olson said, adding that it is a double-edged sword. "You worry about them while they're gone, and you also lose an integral part of your team. But we completely support what they do. We hope and pray for his safe return home and we will be thinking about him while he's over there."

Some government employees who also wear a uniform are lucky enough to see their work come to fruition. During one of his deployments, Beaumont and his team had the opportunity to tour an area where ammunition was stored and distributed.

While there he spotted ammunition that came from Tooele Army Depot.

"I saw the box and thought 'hey,

"Guard" continued on page 5

Iowa welcomes latest commander

By Rikeshia Davidson
JMC Public Affairs

MIDDLETOWN, Iowa – “For both Lt. Col. Tommie Hewitt and the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant team, this assumption of command marks a new beginning,” said Col. Charles W. Kibben.

Kibben is commander of Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Crane, Ind. As commander of Iowa AAP’s higher command, he knows about the leadership at Iowa.

On June 23, 2009, Kibben was in attendance as James D. Nelson, interim manager, assumed responsibility of the plant from Lt. Col. Benjamin M. Nutt. With 33 years of civilian service, Nelson led the plant from June 23 until July 14. July 14 marked a new beginning. For Hewitt he assumes command of the ammunition plant, his first.

Kibben took time to introduce the lieutenant colonel to the Iowa AAP family as well as supporters.

“Let me exemplify what he is and what he means. He’s the type of military officer who typifies what today’s Soldier is all about. He’s well-versed in his profession.

“He has seen the face of battle and serves because he cares. He’s a leader



U.S. Army photo by Darryl Howlett

Accepting Command Lt. Col. Tommie Hewitt addresses the audience after assuming command of the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Middletown, Iowa, from James D. Nelson, interim manager. Robert O. Haines, safety and security officer and Linda Wobbe, environmental protection specialist, look on.

of highest caliber and that’s what you can expect from his leadership,” said Kibben.

With a faithful endorsement, Kibben reflected on the leadership of Nelson and his commitment to Iowa as Nelson relinquished the title of manager. “I know that Jim understands this plant like it’s a member of his family. We all knew his knowledge and expertise would keep it running nicely--and that’s exactly what happened,” said Kibben.

During his short tenure as manager, Nelson and the Iowa AAP family kept the mission of the plant in focus and on target.

“We all took this responsibility seriously and together we ensured safety, security and environmental responsibility were accomplished as planned. Again, our servicemen and

women depend on us and we’re proud to be able to support them.”

Nelson encouraged the incoming commander, expressing confidence in Hewitt’s abilities.

“I and the entire staff are here to support him. His leadership will ensure the mission of the Iowa AAP is accomplished and that we will fulfill our important role in the Army Materiel Enterprise.”

With a career spent almost entirely among Soldiers, Hewitt acknowledged he never imagined being commander of an ammunition plant.

But, he humbly expressed his intentions as the latest commander of Iowa. “It is a great honor to be your new commander. I will uphold the standards that have been set by the individuals and the organizations before me.” ^{JMC}

Guard *continued from page 4*

we sent that here, that came from us,” Beaumont recalled. “When you get to actually see (the ammunition) on the ground and see how it makes it to its final destination and how it will be used, it at all makes sense.”

“Every time he deployed I would

get a great big knot in my chest,” Sandra said. “I just felt horrible. This is his last deployment and as I see him go I just feel sad. I feel sad that this is the last one. It has been such a big part of our lives for so many years that it is hard to let some of those experiences go.”

“Some people have forgotten why we are out there and have forgotten the importance of what we do,” Beaumont added. “It means a lot when just one person says ‘thank you’ or when the people you work with support you.” ^{JMC}



U.S. Army photos by Darryl Howlett

Jeremy Hudson



Malia Brown

Jay Whitesitt



By Darryl Howlett
JMC Public Affairs

Lake City launches intern program

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. -- Taking a chance on young talent is always an adventure for any company, especially when that company is the U.S. Army.

A new summer hire program is underway at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, located in Independence, Mo.

All three of this year's inaugural class are from the state of Missouri and are assisting the government and contractor staff in various ways.

Malia Brown, 19, is from Lee Summit, Mo., and just finished her freshman year at Longview Community College, also located in Lee Summit. Jay Whitesitt, 19, of Odessa, Mo., is a sophomore from the University of Missouri-Columbia; and Jeremy Hudson, 23, of Jefferson City, Mo., is a senior, attending University of Central Missouri, located in Warrensburg, Mo.

Brown is employed with the government staff's administrative offices. Whitesitt is working as an information systems technician specialist, while Hudson is working for the safety office. Both Whitesitt and Hudson are working in their respective fields of study, while Brown has yet to declare a major.

"It's been fun so far," Brown said. "One of my duties here includes creating a breakout report of the type of media inquiries the plant received in the last three years."

The interns started their summer journey after Memorial Day. Lake City received funding from its higher headquarters, the Joint Munitions Command, located on the Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., to go after three summer hires.

Family Ties

Two of the three interns have family members who work at the plant. Brown's father, James Brown, works as an item manager on the .50 caliber and 20 mm production lines. Whitesitt's mother, Debbie Whitesitt, works for the plant's contractor, ATK, as an acceptance manager. Whitesitt also has an aunt, Cindy Hiles, who also works for ATK.

"It makes it nice that we don't have to take two cars to work," Whitesitt said.

Fitting in

So far, Whitesitt has made an easy transition from student to intern.

"I'm providing assistance to people who may need (computer) help," he said. "I enjoy it because the job keeps me busy and I'm in the field of what I wanted to do."

Hudson, who is scheduled to graduate in December, already has certain goals he would like to reach during his summer internship.

"I hope to get a good experience and hopefully a job with (Lake City)," he said.

In the mean time, Hudson is reading safety regula-

"A First" continued on page 7

Letterkenny receives equipment to aid recycle/demil program

News Release

Letterkenny Munitions Center

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. -- Members from the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command and Amtec Corporation met at Letterkenny Munitions Center the week of July 13 to install a Warhead Disassembly Machine, a Warhead Press-out Machine, and Material Handling Equipment Warhead Gripper in support of the HMX Recovery, Resource Recovery and Recycling Demil Program.

The HMX Recovery, R3 Demil Program was initiated to recover HMX from multiple Inter-Service Missiles. Initial capabilities are for the Sparrow missile warhead.

The necessary equipment includes a warhead freezer, a warhead disassembly machine, a warhead press-out machine, and an explosive-billet, size-reduction machine.

The process consists of freezing the

warheads, disassembling the warhead enclosure assembly, pressing out the explosive billets from the warhead casings, size reducing the explosive billets, and packaging the size reduced material for shipping. Recycling/reuse of materials from R3 demil into other uses contributes to pollution prevention.

"Installation of the equipment was initiated to make room at Redstone Arsenal for size reduction testing. This was the first stage towards R3 operations at LEMC. The freezer will be installed next after procurement.

The size reduction unit will be shipped after testing. LEMC will begin Low-Rate Initial Production after these items have been installed," LEMC Ammunition Equipment Specialist Chris Capasso said.

The warhead casings will be sent to a scrap recycler after being 5X flashed,

and the explosive filler will be sold to a vendor.

The funds generated will be reinvested into LEMC's R3 Demil Program. Projected operations at LEMC are scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2010. Size-reduction, warhead carts, and freezer equipment for this operation are pending procurement, developmental testing and evaluation, and installation.

According to Capasso, Amtec will provide local training to ensure LEMC personnel can fully operate the control panel as well as understand operational procedures for this remote operation. ^{JMC}

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tions, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations and touring production lines with quality assurance personnel. Hudson also assisted in investigating concrete chunks that had fallen from a second floor production building.

Lt. Col. Christopher L. Day, LCAAP plant commander, is happy the interns are assisting the plant with their skills and enthusiasm.

"The LCAAP's summer hire program gives us an excellent opportunity to

expose young collegiate talent to the rewarding benefits of government employment while leveraging their promising potential and creativity in our current activities," Day said.

"Additionally, the program fosters a relationship with the academic and local communities while proliferating the critical mission and associated strategic messages for the Lake City Army Ammo Plant."

Day believes the federal government should continue

making every effort to offer employment opportunities to college students.

"These young professionals are the future of our government workforce and a small investment, such as the summer hire program, will pay significant benefits in the future of our organization," he said. "LCAAP was able to identify several well-qualified students who promise to be exceptional performers in the future and who are already contributing to our mission today. We

are looking to expand on our summer hire program in the future."

Whitesitt completes his job rotation in August; Brown and Hudson in September, before all three return to school this fall. ^{JMC}

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With Skill and Enthusiasm
Top: Jeremy Hudson, interning in the safety office, looks above while helping investigate a concrete accident. **Bottom right:** Malia Brown works in the administrative staff office while Jay Whitesitt, **bottom left,** works as an information systems technician specialist.

Spotlight on

Lean Six Sigma

Creation of instructional DVD to solve training problem

By Darryl Howlett
JMC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Put down the books and pick up a DVD.

That's the message from a group of Joint Munitions Command employees who decided to create a hands on device to fix a problem.

The problem: minimizing or eliminating discrepancies in level 1 shipments of Low Level Radioactive Waste sent to the Rock Island Arsenal's Army Contaminated Equipment Retrograde Team (ACERT) Consolidation Facility. Level 1 shipments are made by the installation instead of using a contracted LLRW broker.

The solution: a green belt project that using several Lean Six Sigma tools allowed team members to create an instructional DVD to improve shipper expertise.

"I thought the project was needed. We had noticed a trend developing that we were getting discrepancies coming into the (ACERT) facility," said project sponsor Kelly Crooks, with the Safety/RAD/Waste office. "We knew it

needed to be addressed.

"Most people are visual and respond better to pictures than long, written out instructions. I thought it was a great idea. Joe and his team did really well."

The project's goal was to reduce the number of shipping errors associated with level 1 shipments to the ACERT Consolidation Facility. The project's scope included the complete cycle starting with the request for disposal to the receipt of the material at the consolidation facility.

"We started to see improvements in shipments right away," Crooks said.

The three-member team that took on the project came from JMC headquarters' Safety RAD Waste Directorate and the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, also located on the Rock Island Arsenal.

The team facilitated the development of the instructional DVD, which was distributed to all level 1 shippers during the pilot test. The pilot test lasted approximately three months. During this period, approximately nine level 1 shipments were received, with

no shipping discrepancies found.

"We tried to come up with a solution as a team, so we ranked the different possible solutions and choose an instructional DVD," Hart said. "Our director, Bruce Elliot, came up with the original idea of an instructional DVD."

RCH Technologies, located on the Rock Island Arsenal, created the video production.

"We had one guy from Blue Grass Army Depot that had never (shipped low level waste) before. He really got into (using the DVD)," Hart said.

In other words, another customer satisfied. ^J_M^C



U.S. Army photos by Darryl Howlett

ACERT Instructional DVD



Premiere joint exercise launched



The Golden Route A Golden Cargo convoy comprised of trucks from the 424th Transportation Company, Galax, Va., travels in Crawford County, Mo., on July 16, 2009, on its way to Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Crane, Ind., after leaving Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

By Spc. Jay Venturini
354th MPAD

HERLONG, Calif. – After many years, numerous conflicts and operations, the United States has utilized every branch of the military services to complete missions throughout the world.

Services usually conduct their operations separately, but sometimes they come together and work side by side.

Golden Cargo is an exercise where Soldiers, Marines and sailors work together to organize, load and transfer obsolete ammunition to Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev. for destruction.

“It’s been nice to see the other branches doing the same job, but in their own unique way,” said Sgt. Michael Miller, 261st Ordnance Company, Charleston, W. Va.

“Working side by side with Marines and sailors, I’ve learned more about how they operate, which has been very beneficial to me and my Soldiers.”

The Golden Cargo exercise, also taking place in Oklahoma, Kentucky,

Indiana and Pennsylvania, is in its 20th year of operation. The goal is to provide real world training for ordnance and transportation companies in a safe and controlled environment.

Working side by side with other services is a significant factor in the real world training because of the many operations in Iraq and Afghanistan requiring joint support.

“The training is relevant for today’s operations in the Middle East,” said Marine Cpl. Ridardrian Kelly, Detachment 1 Ammunition, Rome, Ga.

“When I was deployed to Iraq we did missions with the Army. There is definitely joint support over there.” Even though there were a few kinks at first, the process slowly became fluid motion with every servicemember doing their part to get the job done.

“It’s still a work in progress but everyone is working together to get the job done,” said Petty Officer 1st Class David Meyers, Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 11, Jacksonville, Fla.

Because the exercise consists of

handling and movement of live ammunition, it’s vital that every servicemember is on the same page when it comes to following proper safety procedures.

This not only ensures the ammunition is transported safely and securely, but no one is injured in the process, said Kelly.

“Safety is the biggest priority out here for everyone,” said Meyers. “Each service may have different procedure names, but they all equal everyone getting the job done safely.”

When Golden Cargo comes to a close and the servicemembers go back to their home stations, many will have a greater appreciation for their fellow brothers and sisters in arms even though they may wear a different uniform.

“I’m proud to be working alongside the other services,” said Kelly. “I don’t often interact with them, and it’s exciting to see how they function. You begin to realize that the people are no different than you are and you form a bond.”

Soldiers learn life-saving techniques



By Staff Sgt. Shane Slaughter
319th MPAD

MCALESTER, Okla. – Soldiers participating in Golden Cargo here further enhanced their combat preparedness by taking the Combat Lifesaving Course conducted by the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant Fire Department.

The course teaches Soldiers advanced life saving techniques to include airway management, bleeding control, chest decompression, splinting broken bones and inserting a needle intravenously (IVs) into wounded Soldiers, typically their battle buddies.

Laid out on neat rows of tables are all necessary items to complete the task, including needles, bags of saline solution, gauze and tape.

There are trained medical personnel at each table ready to step in and assist as needed.

“Today we are training on IVs... sticking your partner. I’m sticking my battle buddy for the fourth time,” said Pfc. Candice Hankwitz, 395th Ordnance Company, Appleton, Wis., with a sheepish grin.

As painful as it may be, the training provides a valuable skill that may be required to save somebody’s life.

Chris Morris, MCAAP paramedic conducting the 40-hour course, said, “If only one Soldier benefits from the training, it’s been worth it.”

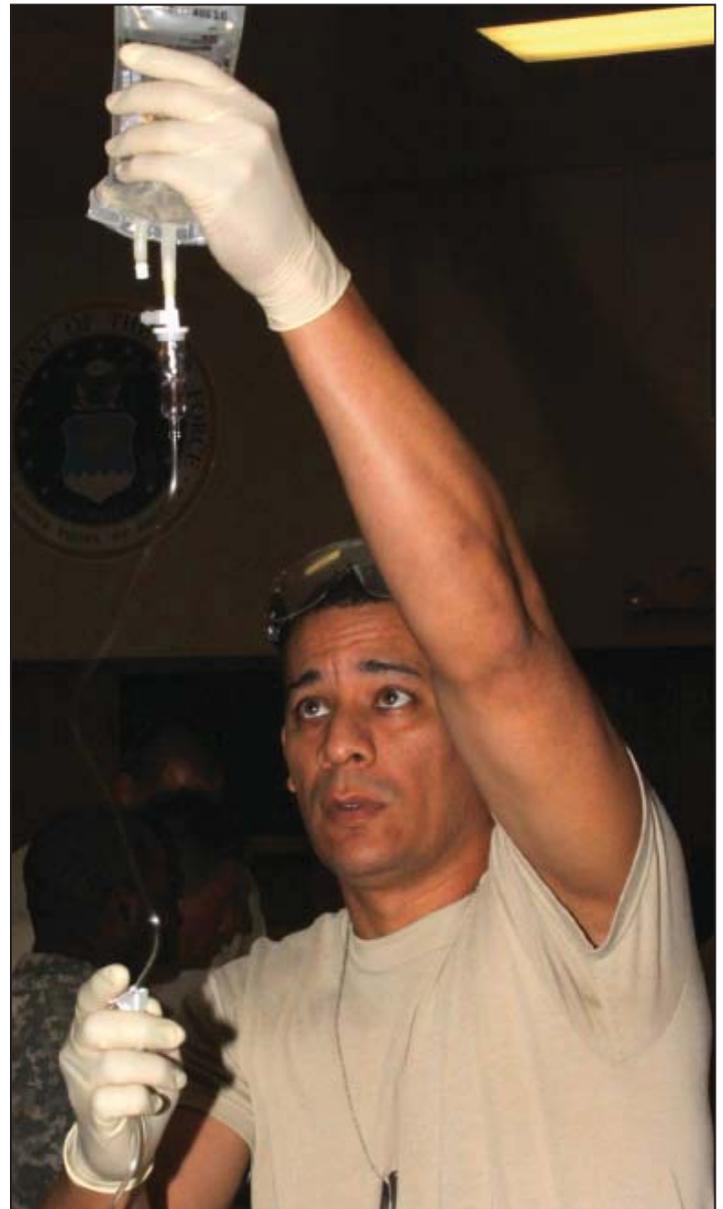
Following the course, Soldiers who complete the class for the first time have their time accredited to the Army Institute for Professional Development.

This aids in the promotion process by giving Soldiers more points toward promotion. “The Soldiers can use this on the road, in the field or on civilians,” said assistant instructor Capt. Alex Monje, 5501st U.S. Army Hospital, San Antonio, Texas.

This year more than 60 Soldiers are expected to earn or renew their certification in Combat Lifesaving.

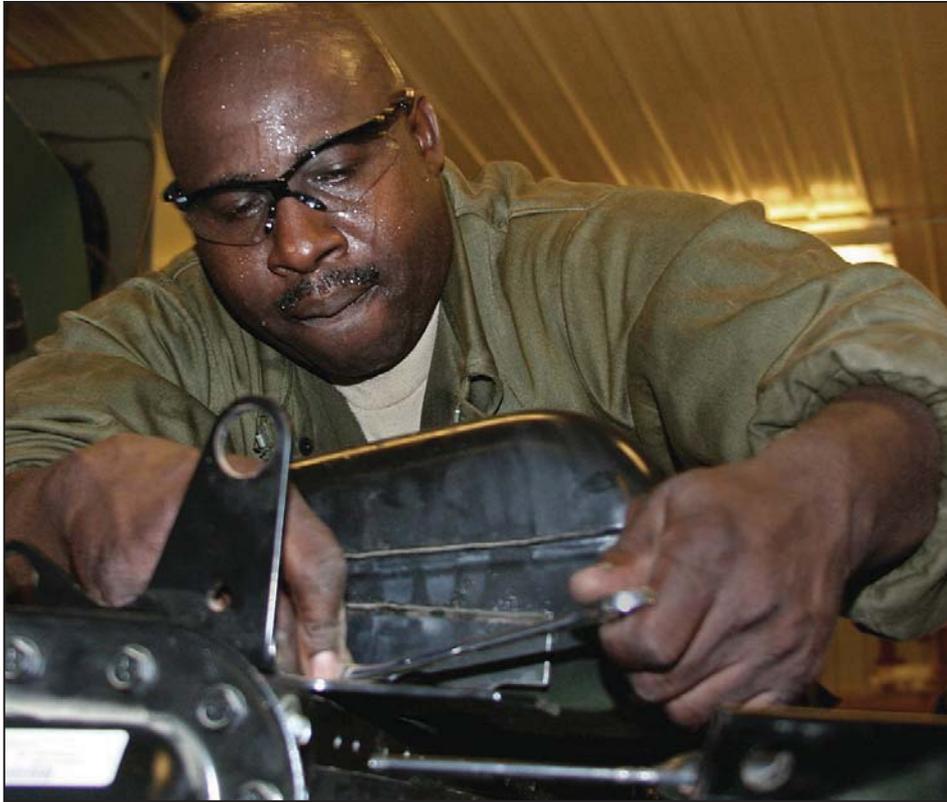
In order to stay current, Soldiers must renew their certification annually. “I really enjoyed working with the troops,” Morris added.

“It’s our chance to help out.”



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Slaughter

Preparation Sgt. Cesar Osario of the 393rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Fort Buchanan, adjusts the flow from an IV after inserting it into the arm of his battle buddy. Sixty Soldiers completed the 40-hour course.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin

Skill and Concentration Staff Sgt. Walter Chambers, a mechanic with the 1015th Maintenance Company, Fort Gillem, Ga., replaces a fan clutch on a M915 tractor trailer.

**By Staff Sgt. W. Watson Martin
319th MPAD**

CRANE, Ind. -- It only takes one Soldier to keep a group of mechanics in sync so a battalion full of transportation companies can accomplish their missions.

Staff Sgt. Walter Chambers, a family man and heavy equipment mechanic in his civilian life, has great experience. Whether the critical repairs are broken axles, flat tires or transmission failures, Chambers' fellow Army Reserve Soldiers point to him as one of the key persons that keeps the convoys' tractor trailers rolling in operation Golden Cargo.

Without him, the 1015th Maintenance Company, Fort Gillem, Ga., would not have been able to perform their mission, according to Chief Warrant Officer Jon Leland, 1015th team chief.

Chambers is a veteran role model with a wealth of experience who steps

up to the plate to offer his expertise any time, anywhere.

"The troops here really look up to Chambers. He has been more than willing to share his knowledge, not only with the mechanics in our unit, but the transportation and ordnance units that are here too," said Leland.

Chambers works in a maintenance building next to the 812th Transportation Battalion tactical operations center.

Mechanics from others units either drive heavy expanded mobility tactical truck recovery vehicles at the rear of convoys or work with Crane Army Ammunition Activity service centers outside the Golden Cargo exercise.

Even though others are quick to praise Chambers, the mechanic knows he's just part of team that must work together.

"Every mechanic has a job here, and another mechanic's work is just as important," Chambers said. "The

Mechanic sharpens skills, shares expertise

M915 tractor trailers hold up fairly well, being almost brand new," Chambers said while on his fourth Golden Cargo annual training exercise. "I've seen a lot of broken axles."

The heavy work comes easy to Chambers. Back home in Atlanta, Ga., he travels from place to place performing mostly engine and hydraulic repairs. "He's the main man," said Sgt. 1st Class Wiley Dawsey, also a mechanic.





U.S. Army photo courtesy of Scranton Army Ammunition Plant

Room for Creativity
Zuri Ward, senior at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, learns the history of Scranton Army Ammunition Plant while documenting archived photos. During her 10 week Minority College Relations Program internship, Ward said the opportunity allowed her to develop her own project and opened up various possibilities for a journalism major.

For undergraduate, internship sparks opportunities

**By Linda Gumas
Scranton Public Affairs**

SCRANTON, Pa. -- A picture is worth a thousand words. And equally so, a thousand pictures can lay the foundation for quite a story.

A college student is helping one of the Joint Munitions Command installations preserve the memories of individuals who worked from the days those pictures were taken.

The mission: help those in the future to realize what occurred in the past.

That student is Zuri C. Ward, a college senior, who has been working as a summer intern at Scranton Army Ammunition Plant sponsored by the Minority College Relations Program. She has been tasked with organizing

historical articles and photographs of the facility to include contacting retired employees dating back to the 1960s.

Her supervisor, Tim Tuttle, found a box of old photographs for Ward to identify, label, and organize.

She made sure the photos were filed properly and preserved for as long as possible.

"I've had several gracious volunteers come in to help me with identifying the photographs. I was able to learn a great deal from these individuals," Ward said. "These people were retirees who have shared with me their special stories and allowed me to record their memories."

The photographs, as well as the audio interviews, will go into a historical collection and will be preserved

for years to come. "I am proud to be working on a project that is the first of its kind at Scranton. History is important to everyone and I am happy to have the opportunity and responsibility to make sure this history is preserved at Scranton. Every day is history in the making," Ward said.

Ward is from Raleigh, North Carolina, and attends the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro. She is majoring in Journalism and Mass Communications with a concentration in Electronic Media and is set to graduate in May 2010.^{JM}_C

The MCRP  Since 1996 it has served students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and other minority serving institutions. As interns, students gain work experience with the federal government.

Keeping your hand on the wheel, off the keypad

By Sgt. Robert Knauer
Delaware Army National Guard

How many things can people do behind the wheel besides drive? It's not bad enough that some folks yak on the phone, oblivious to what's going on around them.

Some aren't satisfied until they're trying to steer, hold a cell phone and key in a message all at one time. Can you do that with two hands? More importantly, can you do that with one brain?

I consider myself a pretty cautious driver, always being mindful of others around me on the road. Staying aware of my surroundings has allowed me to dodge deer, drunk drivers and flying tires. Also, I never want to know what a .08 blood alcohol content feels like because I don't want to be on the side of the road taking a breathalyzer test. So far, I've managed to stay accident-free for the last 12 years.

Not that I haven't pushed my luck. During the last three years, I got caught up with text messaging. I initially hated texting and didn't see any point to it. Keying in a message took twice as long as calling and you had to pay extra for the "luxury" of this headache.

However, as it became commonplace, I grew accustomed to texting and it became a part of my everyday life. My friends and I would communicate via text whether I was at home, work or driving my car. Because I thought it would be more "high speed," I even got a new phone with a QWERTY keyboard, which was a lot easier and faster than using number keys.

After going to work as a safety specialist with the Delaware National Guard, I regained a strong grasp on

being safe and promoting safety. During some research, I came across an article that piqued my interest. The article, which was based upon a study conducted in England, stated text messaging while driving is more dangerous than driving under the influence of alcohol.

As I read the article, it really changed my way of thinking. It showed text messaging increased reaction times by 35 percent, compared to 12 percent for drunk drivers and 21 percent for those using marijuana. The article reported text-messaging drivers were 91 percent poorer in their steering skills (staying in their lane) than drivers paying full attention to the road. The article also stated it took an average of 63 seconds for a text message to be composed and sent compared to 22 seconds when sent from a desk. A multitude of disasters can happen in 63 seconds.

That got my attention. While I'd never be foolish enough to drink and drive, I have texted complete conversations while driving.

The numbers were compelling. I thought about the times paying attention to my driving kept me from an accident or a near miss. I immediately stopped using my cell phone while driving, especially for texting. I realized that if I didn't, it wasn't a matter of "if" but "when" I would have an accident.

Looking back on that decision, I'm glad I made it before something devastating happened to me or someone else. I cherish my life; there is no one in this world I'd risk losing it for just to send a text message. Also, I don't want

to have on my conscience the death or injury of someone else because of my negligence.

I am concerned, however, we may be trading one hazard (talking on cell phones) for an even greater one (text messaging). With cell phone use banned while driving on post, some Soldiers may resort to text messaging as a more "stealthy" way to communicate -- something that might be harder for military police to spot.

At a time when privately owned vehicle accidents are the leading cause of accidental death, this could increase the risks even further. And this isn't just a concern for lower enlisted Soldiers. Many of our leaders carry and communicate with BlackBerrys.

If you wouldn't drink and drive, why make an even worse decision to text and drive? Consider the risks, which far outweigh the benefits. If you have something important to say, park on the side of the road and call. After all, which would you rather give your full concentration to -- a conversation or a collision?

*If you're here,
texting and driving
is illegal:*

Alaska Arkansas
 California Connecticut
 Louisiana Minnesota
 New Jersey Utah
 Washington
 District of Columbia

*Drive a school bus?
Texting and driving
is illegal here:*

North Carolina Texas
 Virginia

*A
beginner driver?
Texting and driving
is illegal here:*

Delaware Maine
 Virginia Nebraska
 Oregon Texas
 North Carolina
 Maryland West Virginia