



# 401st Army Field Support Brigade

## Forward Deployed

“Trust and Loyalty”



February 2012 Volume 2, Issue 1

## Materiel Enterprise leadership visits the Materiel Enterprise forward

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, visited some of the more than 52,000 personnel who make up the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Jan. 20 - 22.

Dunwoody accompanied Heidi Shyu, acting assistant secretary of the army for acquisition, logistics and technology, on a quick visit to the 401st AFSB. They visited some of the Soldiers, Marines, civilians and contractors who make up the materiel enterprise and are AMC and ASA/ALT’s face to the field providing fielding and sustainment of new logistics solutions for the maneuver units; equipment sustainment; and disposition of non-mission essential equipment. They had an unplanned opportunity to meet Soldiers who were turning equipment for redistribution at the Bagram redistribution property assistance yard and hear first-hand how the process is working.

They saw Research, Development and Engineering Command’s field assistance in science and technology center’s prototype integration facility that brings forward deployed embedded engineering and prototype fabrication capabilities to develop rapid engineering solutions for operational requirements. They saw a hybrid hook, the PIF’s first product, and several other recent initiatives including steps to fit over mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle tires to make it easier to work on the vehicles and a device to prevent the heavy MRAP doors closing on a Soldier’s fingers. They were also briefed to a microgrid system being used at Bagram’s Camp Sablau-Harrison to provide reliable and efficient electric power.



**Above:** Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, and Heidi Shyu, acting assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, look over some of the equipment that will eventually have to be retrograded from Afghanistan



**Above:** Heidi Shyu, acting assistant secretary of the army for acquisition, logistics and technology, and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, watch intently as Tony Howell, boomerang field service representative conducts a shot test on the BMGIII acoustic gunshot detection system to demonstrate system capabilities.

The visitors saw cutting edge technology fielded by ASA/ALT personnel in conjunction with logistics support provided by the 401st when they visited the ‘petting zoo,’ an interactive display of some of the latest technology on the battlefield. Stopping at displays featuring biometrics, robotics, unmanned aerial systems, and counter improvised explosive device solutions designed to detect and defeat IED attacks and increase Soldier survivability, they questioned the experts on effectiveness and feedback from Soldiers in the field. Shyu was very interested in the weight of the Soldier-portable equipment and lifted several of the items herself.

Both Shyu and Dunwoody expressed their appreciation for the work done by all those who comprise the materiel enterprise and the partner units who facilitate external assets such as transportation critical to supporting the Warfighter. Dunwoody and Shyu presented their coins to more than 20 personnel for their contributions to the materiel enterprise.

Shyu made a separate trip to Bagram’s Heathe N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital to talk to medical personnel on the effectiveness of pelvic armor and other technology fielded to increase Soldier survivability following IED attacks.

Leaving Bagram, they travelled to see the northern distribution network that will provide increased transportation routes to retrograde equipment from the theater. They then had a fly-over to view RPAT operations at one of the 401st’s northernmost locations. The next day, they went to Kandahar Airfield to view 401st AFSB operations and meet with Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan leadership.

See more photos from the Shyu-Dunwoody visit on page 11 and visit <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB> and <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>



# Task Force Sabre Command Group

*"Trust and Loyalty"*



## Happy New Year 401st



It's hard to believe it's already February! I want to wish a belated Happy New Year to the entire 401st AFSB family – that's more than 52,000 deployed in direct support of the maneuver units and tens of thousands of family members and friends around the world.

The last two months have been incredibly busy for the 401st. We welcomed Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch as the AFSBn-Bagram commander in early December, and within days of taking command, he was immersed in the battalion's evolving missions to support troop repositioning and new requirements as well as figuring out how to retrograde equipment out of theater with one of the primary routes suddenly closed. Meanwhile, at the AFSBn-Kandahar, Lt.

Col. Garry B. Bush and his team met the challenges of building RPAT yards and conducting the first mobile RPAT mission in Afghanistan. The 401st team met these challenges and showcased our great people to a number of distinguished visitors.

We recently welcomed senior leaders from the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Army Materiel Command, and ISAF and each one was impressed by what the 401st, our team, does every day to support the maneuver units. Visitors such as Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, Heidi Shyu, acting assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, and ISAF Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel realize that we accomplish our mission with a team that is ever changing. This is driven by the addition of new people and the departure of those who have served honorably and well to support our missions and our Warfighters. All of our visitors left knowing that the 401st is value added and that we do make a difference.

We had the first snow of the winter in Bagram, followed the next weekend by the second snow, followed the next weekend by the third snow – the mountains look great! Thanks to everyone who pitched in to clear roads and sidewalks so we could continue our work supporting the maneuver units, but please be careful out there – we've had too many broken ankles, wrists and arms.

I had a late Christmas present, but one I always expected, when the New York Giants made it to the Super Bowl. I know all 52,000 strong from the 401st were rooting the Giants on to victory and WE WON!!!!

Thanks for all you do, you are value added and we all are the first to make a difference!

## Sabres Up...Trust & Loyalty!

## Happy New Year 401st



I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe New Year for 2012.

The rain, snow and cold weather has been challenging for everyone and unfortunately we have had some of our friends and co-workers suffer injuries due to slips and falls. This is where the importance of a battle buddy comes into effect, so that they can assist you in the event that you do fall. In spite of the weather, we as a brigade continue to meet our goals and maintain our tradition of being first to make a difference.

As we reflect on what we accomplished this past year, we look forward to doing more and meeting the challenges ahead of us. As we go forward this year, our mission will continue to evolve with an increasing focus on retrograde of non-mission essential equipment, while simultaneously meeting the requirements to field equipment to support theatre realignment and repositioning. Our goal is to increase our capabilities to deal with current challenges, while we continue our mission of providing support to the maneuver units across the CJOA-A.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of families who support their loved one while he or she serves our nation. The commitment and support of our families are the very foundation that our Soldiers, DA Civilians and Contractors use to sustain them during contingency operations on the battlefield. At home and abroad, the dedication of our Soldiers, DA Civilians, Contractors and their families allows us to continue to meet the Nation's needs. I am thankful for those men and women who continue to serve in harm's way. I am also thankful for those family members who make it possible for our Soldiers, DA Civilians, and Contractors to serve. You cannot have one without the other. Thank you for being part of the 401<sup>st</sup> family and for your continued support. I wish you all to have a safe, happy and blessed year.

## Trust & Loyalty



## AMC's LCMCs tally \$191 million in savings last year

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Army Materiel Command's life cycle management command personnel nested in the 401st Army Field Support Brigade realized cost savings and cost avoidance of more than \$191 million during 2011 by means that ranged from picking through the trash to securing special engineering approval to perform depot level repairs.

As part of Army Materiel Command's Materiel Enterprise the LCMCs provide the organizational structure to support integrated weapons systems by linking all branches of the materiel enterprise -research and development, acquisition, readiness sustainment and disposition. The LCMCs rely on their logistics assistance representatives, quality assurance specialists (ammunition surveillance) and inspectors to achieve cost savings by recovering usable or repairable items from Defense Logistics Agency disposition services yards; training units on repairing and maintaining their equipment; and assisting units with repairing equipment. In Operation Enduring Freedom, the 401st AFSB working through its parent, Army Sustainment Command, delivers integrated logistics solutions to operating forces and is AMC's single face to the field delivering materiel solutions from across the Materiel Enterprise.



**Left:** Ricky L. Gant, CE-COM IT LAR from Fort Bliss, works with Master Sgt. James A. Carter, the maintenance management noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a Mississippi National Guard unit, to check data on the SAMS II database which tracks everything maintenance related for the unit.

AMCOM contributed the largest amount to the total by reporting cost avoidance of slightly more than \$93 million.

"Cost avoidance for AMCOM tends to be high due to the high cost of aircraft and aircraft parts," said Adan Garcia, AMCOM senior command representative.

Garcia said AMCOM cost avoidance comes from the efforts of logistics assistance representatives and senior systems technical representatives and is part of the day-to-day job.

"We don't go to extra lengths to do this [achieve cost savings], it's just the way it works out when we're doing our jobs properly."

Cost avoidance is counted when an aircraft or component deemed unserviceable is 'saved' by the action of the LAR that keeps the equipment from being scrapped or replaced, said Garcia. LARs also assist units in performing depot level repairs approved by the aviation engineering directorate.

Garcia said the final way AMCOM achieves cost avoidance is factoring in the equipment and equipment repair training the LARs provide to units.

CECOM tracks their cost avoidance figures by fiscal year. During fiscal year 2011, CECOM saved a little more than \$48 million.

"LARs comb [Defense Logistics Agency] disposition services [yards] searching for items that can be used by units or are not ready for destruction," said Kenneth Hagie, CECOM SCR. "The items recovered are re-introduced into the Army inventory thus saving the government costs to replace the item and savings of destroying usable equipment."



**Left:** Matthew Hawver, quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance), checks through a box of items turned in at various ammunition amnesty boxes at the Bagram Airfield ammunition supply point. Amnesty ammunition is checked and when determined safe to use it can be issued to Soldiers. QAS(AS) and ammunition inspectors achieved nearly \$18.5 million in cost savings during calendar year 2011.

Hagie added that his team of 42 LARs are mission essential personnel deployed across the combined joint operations area.

"We go wherever the Warfighter goes," he said. "LARs are trained to search for the quickest viable solution for all requests.

"The Warfighter deserves our best effort to support and accomplish the mission," he added.

Joint Munitions Command added nearly \$18.5 million to the total. They accomplished this through amnesty turn-in programs and ammunition that was found on installations and then processed by a mobile ammunition processing facility.

The amnesty turn-in and mobile processing facilities share the same goal of removing unsafe or recalled ammunition from the battle space and ensuring that Warfighters have the right ammunition at the right place, on time, every time.

"We [quality assurance specialists (ammunition surveillance) and inspectors] want to improve force posture in the CJOA-A, and be good stewards of government funds," said Theresa A. Smith, JMC senior command representative.

Finally, TACOM tallied slightly more than \$31 million for the year. Perry Cushman, TACOM SCR said each LAR has a cost avoidance cost savings goal of \$100,000 per year.

"This is a team effort," Cushman said. "Some LARs such as an Armament LAR work many smaller amounts to equal their required \$100K annual goal where an auto-combat LAR may get the goal by saving one Abrams engine."



**Above:** Justin Doyle, sheet metal mechanic, Sgt. Matthew R. Vandecar, machinist and Rick A. Ehrhardt, AMCOM logistics assistance representative, look at a floor beam for a CH-47F aircraft that will be replaced in theater instead of the aircraft having to be flown more than 8,000 miles for repairs at a depot in the United States.

See LCMCs on page 10

## DoD AL&T sees technology saving Soldiers lives in the field

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— Senior Department of Defense officials for acquisition, contingency contracting and program support saw first-hand how recently fielded systems are helping Warfighters defeat and survive improvised explosive devices during a visit here Jan. 8.

Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, Richard T. Ginman, deputy director for contingency contracting and acquisition, and Gary J. Motsek, deputy assistant secretary of defense for program support, visited the counter improvised explosive device training area managed by Combined Joint Task Force Paladin and Joint Program Office MRAP to see cutting edge technology used by Soldiers on a daily basis to defeat and survive IEDs.



**Above:** Master Sgt. Chad A. Walker, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Combined Joint Task Force Paladin CJ7, demonstrates a Minehound to Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, Richard T. Ginman, deputy director for contingency contracting and acquisition, and Gary J. Motsek, deputy assistant secretary of defense for program support, during a visit to the counter IED training area at Bagram Airfield Jan. 8.

The group saw systems fielded by Joint IED Defeat Office and Project Manager Close Combat Systems, Product Manager IED Defeat/ Protect Force which offer a range of options to detect and defeat IEDs. They had an opportunity to talk with Soldiers and contractors assigned to TF Paladin who train units on how to effectively use the new technology. The devices ranged from handheld biometric scanners to sophisticated detectors that will locate IED command wires in a variety of terrains and circumstances.

Master Sgt. Chad A. Walker, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Combined Joint Task Force Paladin CJ7, demonstrated several scanners used by units to find buried IEDs or command wires and explained the unique capabilities of each. Following the demonstration, Kendall had an opportunity to use one of the systems and located a buried command wire that was covered with several inches of snow.

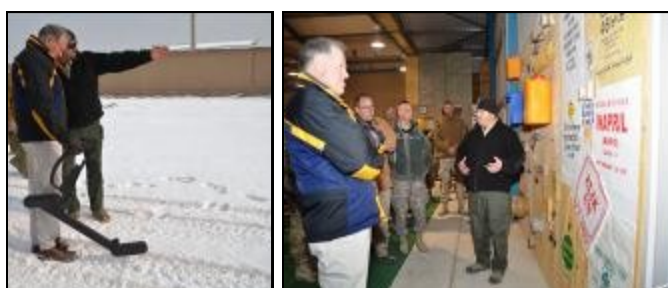
While visiting JPO MRAP, the group saw the latest versions of several MRAP variants as well as survivability and automotive upgrades being installed to vehicles.



**Above:** Contractors demonstrate a handheld biometric scanner for the Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, during a visit to the counter IED training area at Bagram Airfield Jan. 8.

The 401st Army Field Support Brigade provides logistics support to more than 40 program managers who field and sustain critical new equipment to units in Operation Enduring Freedom. Leveraging Army Materiel Command's subordinate units including Army Sustainment Command and partnering with Assistant Secretary of the Army/ Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, the 401st is AMCs single face to the field charged delivering the Materiel Enterprise to the Warfighter by fielding, sustaining and redistributing equipment ranging from uniforms to weapons to electronic devices to vehicles of all sizes and capabilities.

"CJTF Paladin's mission is to train the force, defeat the device, attack the network and enable justice," said Lt. Cmdr. Ronald J. Carpinella, CJTF Paladin public affairs officer, in a written statement. "We manage the U.S. EOD [explosive ordnance disposal] assets and coordinate with multi-national EOD assets throughout Afghanistan."



**Above left:** Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, uses a detector to find a command wire similar to those used to detonate improvised explosive devices commonly used against coalition forces in Operation Enduring Freedom during a visit to the counter IED training area at Bagram Airfield Jan. 8.

**Above right:** Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, views a display of materials used to make improvised explosive devices during a visit to the counter IED training area at Bagram Airfield Jan. 8.

For more photos check out 401st Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB>; and the 401st Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>.

## ISAF CSM visits 401st

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel toured a program manager ‘petting zoo’ sponsored by the 401st Army Field Support Brigade acquisition, logistics and technology directorate Jan. 21 and thanked the Soldiers, Marines, civilians and contractors who field, maintain and provide training for some of the most up to date technology on the battlefield just days before he officially assumed his duty as ISAF senior enlisted advisor.

Capel, the incoming NATO International Security Assistance Force command sergeant major, spent time viewing static and interactive displays of new materiel solutions recently fielded to the maneuver units to give them the decisive edge. He also talked with program and product managers, field support representatives and Army civilians who daily work with the maneuver units to ensure they not only have the most up to date technology but also have the training to use it and the support they need to maintain it on the battlefield.

After touring the exhibits and getting hands-on experience with some of the technology, Capel thanked those who help bring “America’s sons and daughters home.” He presented coins to a number of people and said he wished he could personally thank everyone but asked those present to convey his appreciation to their coworkers.



**Clockwise from above left:** MSG David E. Knight, Theater NCOIC for Joint Robotics Repair Detachment, shows incoming ISAF Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel holds an extendable search stick used in with a Recon Scout robot. Edward W. Schoenherr is holding the remote control for the robot while Marine Sgt. Johnathan Williams stands by. **Top right:** Lenin M. Vera CREW fielding and sustainment manager, discusses the capabilities of various counter improvised explosive device detect and defeat systems available to Soldiers with Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, incoming ISAF command sergeant major, during Capel’s visit to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Jan. 21. CREW is an acronym for counter remote control improvised explosive device (RCIED) electronic warfare. **Bottom left:** Peter P. Sabecky, theater lead for Wolfhound Product Manager Prophet/CECOM, explains Wolfhound capabilities to Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, incoming ISAF command sergeant major. - Wolfhound is a handheld threat warning system and direction finding system that targets enemy command and control nodes, but can also be used in combat search and rescue missions. Sabecky also received a coin from Capel. **Bottom right:** Frank A. Dudas, program manager unmanned aerial systems lead, briefs Command Sgt. Thomas R. Capel, incoming ISAF command sergeant major on the Puma unmanned aircraft system. Watching are Alan Riddle, Brandon Woodcock and Trent Rundell, standing next to a Shadow, who work on unmanned aerial systems.

## Scanners provide added level of security and safety

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—The combined resources of Army, Air force, contractors and civilian air assets moved a personnel scanner into place at an entry control point here Dec. 31.

The scanner was emplaced at an entry control point that is heavily used by Afghan civilians requiring access to a coalition run hospital. Several hundred persons enter the control point every day and before having the personnel scanner, each person was subjected to a physical pat-down as part of the entry process. Now they will step into a scanner similar to those used in airports.

“The scanner will reduce personnel pat-downs, provide a better security posture and move personnel through the [entry control] process faster,” said Maj. Nicole Willis, Program Manager Guardian liaison officer. “It provides an extra layer of security and will be safer for everyone.”



**Above** Maj. Nicole Willis, Program Manager Guardian liaison officer, demonstrates how personnel will use the scanner emplaced near an entry control point on Bagram Airfield Dec. 31.

“The [coalition run] hospital is a huge COIN effort,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Larsen, security forces, 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard assigned to 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. “The scanner will be a 10-fold improvement that provides a less intrusive X-ray scan, a more thorough search and increases our stand-off distance – it’s a huge asset.”

It took about six weeks to complete the mission Willis said.

“The planning was pretty quick,” she added.

The execution needed more coordination due to the number of groups involved such as coordinating for a civilian helicopter to use a military sling system Willis said.

It was estimated the scanner would be up and running about two hours after being put in place. A generator and fencing were installed by contractors and Air Force security personnel.

**Left:** A civilian helicopter moves a Force Protection personnel scanner into location near an entry control point at Bagram Airfield Dec. 31.

**Far Left:** Airmen install fencing near a newly emplaced personnel scanner at an entry control point on Bagram Airfield Dec. 31.



## Energy initiatives save money, resources and provide reliable power

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRBASE, Afghanistan**— Cutting edge technology and energy initiatives for Operation Enduring Freedom that bring energy efficient power generation to forward deployed units were showcased to senior Department of Defense personnel by members of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Research, Development and Engineering Command Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center, U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force personnel and customers here Jan. 8.

Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology, and Sharon Burke, assistant secretary of defense for operational energy plans and programs, visited Camp Sabalu-Harrison to see the first microgrid emplaced in OEF. The microgrid is a joint venture encompassing Project Manager Mobile Electric Power, REDCOM, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and was supported by Burke's office. They also saw several solar energy platforms that REF uses in its Energy to the Edge initiative to provide portable energy solutions designed to operate more efficiently, reduce fuel consumption and generator maintenance time while storing excess energy to meet the energy requirements of combatant commanders at forward operating tactical units.



**Left:** Maj. Thomas W. Casey, Rapid Equipping Force team chief, Afghanistan, briefs Sharon Burke, assistant secretary of defense for operational energy plans and programs, on the capabilities of a Solar Stick 360 hybrid solar and fossil fuel power system Jan 8.



**Left:** Maj. Thomas W. Casey, Rapid Equipping Force team chief, Afghanistan, briefs Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisitions, logistics and technology, Brig. Gen. Bryan G. Watson, director J-4 engineering, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, and Sharon Burke, assistant secretary of defense for operational energy plans and programs, on solar power platforms used in REF's Energy to the Edge program that provides efficient power generation systems to combatant commanders of tactical units.

Following briefings on the static displays, Burke discussed the future of the microgrid project and a new program, the Energy Initiative Proving Ground, that will establish a quantitative baseline for energy and fuel use in expeditionary operations and systematically evaluate the impact of technology such as improved efficiency environmental control units, insulating thermal tent liners, tent shades, and hybrid solar-electrical power technology. The EIPG will also place a hybrid solar power system into a Village Stability Platform site for evaluation as a stable, reliable power source reducing the fuel burden for critical Command & Control Communications and Surveillance systems.

Burke noted that the successful demonstration of the microgrid project was uncertain after PM- MEP was forced to recall their subject matter expert in mid-December. Zalewski volunteered to steward Camp Sabalu-Harrison and the microgrid to keep it operational and developed a memorandum of agreement between the RDECOM senior officer in OEF, the PM MEP, and the camp mayor to share responsibilities between RFAST-C and the mayor's cell for stewardship of the microgrid into the spring, when primary power is slated to be run to the site and the microgrid will no longer be required.

Burke recognized and thanked Lt. Col. Alan C. Samuels, RFAST-C director, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dane Honrado, Camp Sabalu-Harrison life support area commander, Maj. Thomas W. Casey, REF team chief, Afghanistan and Michael J. Zalewski, RFAST-C power and energy engineer, for their work on energy initiatives.

## Contacting the Chaplain

**BAGRAM:** The 401st AFSB Brigade Chaplain is Chaplain (MAJ) Edward Baccich. He can be reached at 318 481-8313 or 079-956-9316 (Roshan cell).

In the event of an emergency when the unit chaplain cannot be reached, contact the Brigade Battle Captain at 318 481-6629.

The Post Chaplain's office may be reached at 318 481-7312, 7313, 7314, 7315 or 7316 or call the NCOIC at 079-642-4490 (cell).

**Kandahar:** JSC-A Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tom Roltsch can be reached at 381-421-6045.

The JSC-A Chaplain Assistant is Staff Sgt. Daniel Clark who may be reached at 079-344-5567.

The Chapel Ministry Center can be reached at 421-6110/6113.

## 401st Army Field Support Brigade on the web

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the 401st AFSB and battalions by checking our Facebook and Flickr pages frequently. We're branded as /401stAFSB on both sites. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB>. Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>. You can also check Army.mil where we continuously post news articles.

And, if all else fails, just Google us.

## LTF and LSE Shindand surging for retrograde mission

By J. Elise Van Pool  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—The Logistical Task Force and Logistical Support Element co-located on the Army Material Command compound at Shindand Airbase is increasing its capability in preparation for the upcoming retrograde of U.S. and coalition forces out of Afghanistan.

“We have more than doubled the number of people here,” said Robert Coffey, LSE Chief.

The LTF and LSE, also known as Team Shindand, will be taking on several new missions as Soldiers begin leaving Afghanistan as part of President Obama’s drawdown of surge forces. These missions include maintenance operations for the forces remaining in country and facilitating the removal of excess equipment from theater back to the U.S. These will be in addition to the maintenance and sustainment services already provided to local units by AMC personnel.

“After 10 years of sustaining and equipping our Warfighters we are faced with the challenging mission of removing non-essential equipment off the battle field,” said Lt. Col. Paul Martinez, LTF commander. “Our redistribution property assistance team personnel bring a wealth of logistical expertise and knowledge to assist units so [they] have a successful equipment turn-in.”

Team Shindand will also sustain a field support maintenance team to replace the outgoing maintenance company.

“The FSM provides maintenance capabilities to service and repair tactical vehicles for US Forces and Coalition Forces in our region,” said Martinez. “[The] FSM also provides H-VAC mechanics, communications-electronic repairs and an outstanding Allied Trade Shop with skilled welders and machinists.”

Not only have they brought in additional people to execute the mission, they have built up their infrastructure to accommodate them. Recently a new, larger generator was installed on the compound to accommodate the increased electrical demand that will happen when the new offices that are being installed are occupied. The compound also has a new gym facility for use by the Soldiers and Civilians living on the compound.

“It is going to make a difference in morale, our health and a way to release the stress,” said Coffey.

Despite being at a remote location in Afghanistan and the relatively small the number of Soldiers and Civilians on Team Shindand, they are ready to continue their support to ongoing missions and the upcoming retrograde.

**Right and below:** New gym equipment for the increased number of personnel being stationed at LTF Shindand to accomplish the



**Far left:** Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Hutton supervises the removal of broken equipment to make room for a new generator. In the next photo an electrician at Shindand Airbase installs new wiring panels as part of infrastructure upgrades to support the increased number of personnel being stationed at LTF Shindand to support increasing missions for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade and LTF Shindand team.



## Stay alert and stay safe

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—At least on Bagram, pedestrians DO NOT have the right of way. Even where there are marked crosswalks and flashing pedestrian crossing signs, don’t assume that vehicles will stop for you.

One stop sign near the brigade headquarters is often ‘blowin in the wind.’ Drivers may not see the sign if it’s turned and not realize that they are required to stop there. The photo shows the sign slightly turned and there have been times when it’s literally impossible to see the sign due to the way it turns. This is especially true after dark. BE CAREFUL when crossing streets. Always assume the driver does not see you. Pedestrians thinking they can cross because a vehicle will stop could be in for a rude awakening (maybe in the Heath N. Craig hospital).

We need you in the fight so take a couple of seconds to be sure it’s safe to cross the street. And, remember your reflective belt after dark.



The stop sign near brigade headquarters may not be the only one that spins around so drivers may not be able to see it. Always stop and look both ways before crossing even at marked crosswalks. STAY SAFE!!!

## Christmas at the 401st

401st folks at Bagram served Christmas dinner, but before that, there were seasonal festivities including ugly sweater contests, decorating contests, gift exchanges and lots of smiles and fun.



# Snow Days at Bagram (and one photo from Kandahar)



## T-Hawk gives Soldiers, Marines eyes on the battlefield

By J. Elise Van Pool

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Soldiers and Marines are getting a new unmanned aerial vehicle that will give them real time intelligence on the battlefield.

The T-Hawk UAV system is being fielded to Soldiers and Marines by field service engineers located at Army Material Command compound at Camp Leatherneck. The systems will give small units the ability to collect real time intelligence while on missions with a system that is organic to their unit.

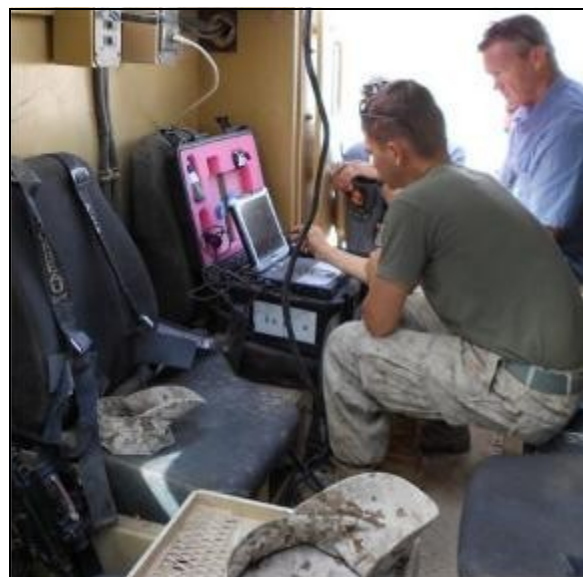
“It lets us get the information we need,” said Marine Cpl. Harry Hall, from Los Angeles, Calif., of Marine Combat Logistics Regiment 25.

A small group of field service engineers from Honeywell, teach Marines and Soldiers how to operate the system.

“We teach them the principles of flight and how the vehicles perform,” said Giovanni Lahoz, from Rio Rancho, N.M., a field service engineer with Honeywell, the company that makes the T-Hawk.



**Above:** Marine Sgt. Daniel Rabenstein and Cpl. Harry Hall, from Los Angeles, Calif., of Marine Combat Logistics Regiment 25, clean a T-Hawk as part of the operator's course Soldiers and Marines take when being issued the T-Hawk System. The course is held at the Army Material Command compound at Camp Leatherneck. Rabenstein and Hall were training on the systems to use in their upcoming missions.



**Above:** Marines operate the T-Hawk in a modified carrying case created to increase system portability. The T-Hawk provides real time intelligence to small units. The system gives these units the ability to have organic reconnaissance capabilities.

After a short four-day class, the units are ready to pilot the system on their own on missions.

“It's easy to setup and is a good asset for us to have,” said Marine Sgt. Daniel Rabenstein from Altoona, Pa., also with Combat Logistics Regiment 25.

The T-Hawk allows units to quickly get real-time intelligence on the battlefield without having to rely on higher headquarters to provide them with air assets.

“When we are out we have to rely on air assets not organic to us. With this we can get it in the air quick and get a look at something,” said Rabenstein.

“It provides a low level asset they can employ any time,” Lahoz said. “It gives them that flexibility.”

## LCMCs from page 3

Cushman also said TACOM LARs act as ‘policemen’ for TACOM items in disposition services yards.

LARs are an ‘honest broker’ in the unit when it comes to deciding between repair and replacement of components. He said Soldiers are not always trained to isolate faults and with their focus on readiness rates, the easier solution may be to replace at a higher cost than to repair a component.

The combined efforts of the LCMC SCRs, LARs, QAS(AS)s, SSTRs and inspectors achieved not only impressive cost savings, prolonged the life of some equipment and salvaged usable equipment, but they embodied the Materiel Enterprise that focuses on soldier and ground systems throughout the entire acquisition life cycle of systems from concept development, through engineering and manufacturing development, production and deployment, operations and support, and finally disposal.



**Left:** Ricky L. Gant, CECOM IT LAR from Fort Bliss, works with Master Sgt. James A. Carter, the maintenance management noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a Mississippi National Guard unit, in checking data on the SAMS II database that tracks all maintenance for the

## 455th ESFS lends 401st a hand and a nose

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—401st Army Field Support Brigade Commander, COL Michel M. Russell, Sr., presented coins and certificates of appreciation to several members from the Air Force 455th Air Expeditionary Wing - Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Feb. 1 who provided additional security when Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the army for acquisition, logistics and technology, and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, visited the 401st in January.

The 455th provides security and quick reaction forces for the sector of Bagram Airfield where most of the 401st assets are located. Prior to the arrival of the Materiel Enterprise leadership, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Thomas Henzl, officer-in-charge of the military working dog detachment, and Air Force military working dog handler Staff Sgt. John Makripodis and Carlos, a Belgian Shepherd, performed advance party security sweep and clearance operations. Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Hall and Senior Airman Jacob Ingledue, both members of the 455th ESFS Quick Reaction Force, provided physical security and convoy escort security during the visit.

During the presentation ceremony, Russell recognized the long-standing mutually-supportive relationship between the 401st AFSB and the 455th ESFS. The positive working relationship between the two commands has been forged over the course of the past year, in large part through the efforts of Greg Kotyk, force protection and physical security officer for the 401st AFSB, who works with units on Bagram Airfield to enhance the security posture of the brigade.



**Above:** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade (right), thanks members of the Air Force 455th Air Expeditionary Wing - Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron who provided additional security before and during a visit to the 401st by Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the army for acquisition, logistics and technology, and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, in January. Shown from left are Air Force Staff Sgt. Justin Hall, Senior Airman Jacob Ingledue, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Henzl, Staff Sgt. John Makripodis and Carlos, a Belgian Shepherd.

For more photos, visit 401st AFSB Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>

## Dunwoody-Shyu visit photos from page 1



## BCS Bowl

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—BAMA outnumbered LSU at the 401st, but everyone had a good time taking a break to watch the BCS Bowl game.



There was little doubt as to who was cheering for which team, but at the end of the day, everyone was part of the 401st team. Thanks to those who made the party a success by heading out early to get the food and stayed after the game to clean up.



## Super Bowl XLVI

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—A few fans gathered in the early (real early) morning hours to root for their favorite in Super Bowl XLVI. Kickoff was at 4 a.m. local time and a couple of true fans were in their seats in the brigade conference room until the Giants pulled out a last second victory.



Fans wait until virtually the last second of the game to see who would emerge victorious.



A special cup helped mark the day of Super Bowl XLVI.

## MRAP all terrain vehicle UIK installations pass the 1,000 mark

By Summer Barkley  
401st ASFB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—** The intense effort to return mine-resistant ambush-protected all-terrain vehicles with new survivability and automotive upgrades to the maneuver units meant there was no stopping work to celebrate the milestone of completing the 1,000th vehicle. The work the continued around the clock; the focus is on getting the vehicles into the hands of those who need them.

Joint Program Office MRAP is completing the survivability upgrades at several locations in theater while automotive upgrades are being completed by 401st Army Field Support Brigade civilians and contractors. The 401st AFSB is part of Army Sustainment Command, which forms Army Materiel Command's operational arm. The 401st is AMC's single face to the field for acquisition, logistics and technology and provides logistics support for the materiel solutions fielded to the maneuver units.

"The UIK [underbody improvement kit] is an enhancement that has significantly improved Soldiers effectiveness here in OEF," said Lt. Col. Kevin L. Geisbert, JPO MRAP country lead. "The JPO team of both government and industry professionals, working around the clock here in Bagram as well as many other sites in the CJOA [combined joint operations area], have labored tirelessly in order to keep the installation rate on schedule."

Geisbert noted that the challenges associated with this effort include expeditious conditions, timeliness of materials, readiness of tools, and vehicle availability have stressed the process.

"However, the collective efforts of leaders, planners, supervisors, and mechanics, both [in the U.S.] and here in OEF have

resulted in efficiencies that promise to keep the effort on schedule," he said. "Every single individual within the JPO Team, as well as our partners in the materiel enterprise, shares in the success to date."

Geisbert also said that while every contribution is significant, "the most deserving teammate is the Warfighter operating and winning in the battle space who every day validates the effectiveness of this system by effectively closing with the enemy."



**Above:** Brig. Gen. James M. Richardson, deputy commanding general, Combined Joint Task Force 1, looks on as Lt. Col. Kevin L. Geisbert, JPO MRAP country lead explains survivability upgrades being made to MRAP all-terrain vehicles to Frank Kendall, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, logistics and technology during Kendall's recent visit to Bagram Airfield.

## Brig. Gen. Dorman visits RPAT



**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—**

Brig. Gen. Edward F. Dorman III, director of materiel enterprise integration for U.S. Forces Afghanistan visited the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Jan. 17 and saw

redistribution property assistance team operations first hand. He specifically asked how the team handles equipment that is missing one or more components. LaTwanda Green, Honeywell team chief for regional command north, pulled a package for a vehicle and showed Dorman all of the paperwork that will accompany that piece of equipment as well as the attach shortage annexes. The shortage annexes annotate missing items and will be cited when equipment turned in by a unit is being returned to the Army theater property book. The Army theater property book is maintained by the 401st AFSB and is valued at more than \$17 billion.

## McNulty and Smyth promoted

**Congratulations to Lt. Col Brian J. McNulty and Lt. Col. Robert Smyth who were recently promoted to their current ranks.**



**Left:** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, places the lieutenant colonel rank on Lt. Col. Brian R. McNulty during a ceremony at brigade headquarters Feb. 1.



**Left:** Lt. Col. Scott Hamilton, Logistics Task Force 4 commander (left) congratulates Lt. Col. Robert Smyth just after he placed the lieutenant colonel rank on Smyth during a ceremony held at LTF-4 headquarters at Camp Leatherneck Feb. 3.

## DLA Director visits Afghanistan

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Defense Logistics Agency Director, Navy Vice Adm. Mark D. Harnitchek, visited DLA personnel and work areas in Afghanistan Feb. 6-8. During a brief visit to the DLA disposition services yard at Bagram Airfield, Harnitchek saw the disposition process for battle damaged vehicles, and other unusable material and equipment. He thanked DLA personnel for their service and presented coins to Sgt. 1st Class Ruth A. Wong, Expeditionary Disposal Remediation Team noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Glenn B. Nason, an ERDT member.



**Above left:** Navy Vice Adm. Mark D. Harnitchek, Defense Logistics Agency director talks with William Kelley, Bagram DLA Disposition Services yard chief during a visit to Bagram Airfield Feb. 7. **Above center:** Navy Vice Adm. Mark D. Harnitchek, Defense Logistics Agency director presents a coin to Sgt. 1st Class Ruth A. Wong, Expeditionary Disposal Remediation Team noncommissioned officer-in-charge. **Above right:** Vice Adm. Mark D. Harnitchek, Defense Logistics Agency director presents a coin to Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Glenn B. Nason, an ERDT member.

## CALL LNO located at 401st



**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Everyone in the 401st Army Field Support Brigade has a story about their work and time here and Maj. Eileen L. Moxley, who recently joined the 401st AFSB as a Center for Army Lessons Learned liaison officer, might just be the person to tell those stories.

Moxley is charged with reporting 'News from the Front' and capturing lessons learned for the his-

torical record and to provide a mechanism to share innovations, challenges and needs for information across the Army.

"The 401st AFSB is a unique brigade with an ever changing mission," Moxley said. "Each person in the 401st [is] value added to the mission."

Moxley will be travelling the battle space to talk to people and observe. She said she values each person's time and will work within their busy schedules to obtain a quality product.

"This is an opportunity to share your success and lessons learned with the rest of the Army," she said.

Editor's note: For more information about the Center for Army Lessons Learned, check them out at <http://usacac.army.mil/>

## Serving together

Best friends since they were 11-years-old and best man for each other, Angel Rodriguez and Enrique E. Soto, deployed together with Vista International to support information technology needs for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade at Bagram Airfield. They went to the same middle and high schools and the same university before working together at Camp Pendleton Navy Hospital. They said their deployment gave them opportunities they might not have had. Soto said his major accomplishment was completely building and securing a server. Soto said his experiences included wiring an entire building. Thanks for your service, good luck as you redeploy, and enjoy some great time with the family.



**Above:** Angel Soto and Enrique E. Soto who have been best friends since they were 11-years-old deployed together for a year. They are preparing for redeployment and looking forward to spending time with their fami-

## 'CROWS nest' provides drive-in service

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—The 'CROWS nest' located at Bagram Airfield and other locations offer drive-in service for Soldiers needing parts or repairs for certain weapons systems on their vehicles.

CROWS or the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station is fielded by Program Executive Office Soldier Project Manager for Soldier Weapons and allows Soldiers to use external weapons systems from inside the protection of an armored vehicle. CROWS is one of the more than 40 programs for which the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, part of Army Sustainment Command, provides logistics support as Army Materiel Command's single face to the field.

Recently Soldiers from Personnel Security Detachment Bravo Command Group drove into the 'CROWS nest' at Bagram to have a cable installed on their platform.

Sgt. Bradley R. Lord, truck commander, Senior Airman Alan L. Andrews, driver, and Senior Airman Shane G. Engelman, gunner, had a cable installed to link two separate systems, tested it out and drove out of the facility as satisfied customers in about one hour.

"It's a great system," said Lord. "It's saved lots of lives."

CROWS nests are run by TACOM Life Cycle Management Command and are located across the battle space. They are supported by government employees and contractors who provide maintenance and new equipment training. Additionally, they will travel to outlying bases to complete repairs on site.

"They either drive it in to us, or we go to them," said Gary Norris, theater lead for Kronsberg Defence & Aerospace which supplies the CROWS II systems. "Soldiers come back in and say 'it worked just like you said it would'."

Norris said the biggest advantage the CROWS system provides is that "it takes the Soldier [gunner] from outside the vehicle."



**Far left:** Sgt. Bradley R. Lord, truck commander, 'ground guides' Senior Airman Alan L. Andrews as he backs his vehicle out of the Bagram Airfield CROWS nest after having a cable upgrade installed on the vehicle. The facility literally provides 'drive-in' service for maneuver units who need upgrades or repairs to their systems.

**Left:** Senior Airman Shane G. Engelman, Sgt. Bradley R. Lord, and Senior Airman Alan L. Andrews stand in front of their vehicle at the Bagram Airfield CROWS nest after having a cable upgrade installed. CROWS stands for Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station.

## USMC Logistics Command visits 401st at Camp Leatherneck

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan**—Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general, Marine Corps Logistics Command, visited 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Logistics Task Force 4 headquartered at Camp Leatherneck, Feb. 1, to see how the 401st supports the Marines and Soldiers at Leatherneck.

Hudson saw areas where work on Marine Corps vehicles is completed by government and industry personnel to provide greater survivability and mechanical reliability to an array of vehicles used to keep the Marines in the fight. The 401st, working through its parent, Army Sustainment Command, is the single entry point for acquisition, logistics and technology support from the Army Materiel Command's materiel enterprise for U.S. and selected coalition forces.

Hudson toured Joint Program Office MRAP areas and saw upgrades being installed on Cougars and MRAP all-terrain vehicles. MRAP vehicles are fielded, sustained and upgraded by JPO MRAP with logistics support provided by the 401st AFSB.

Hudson also saw the 'Refresh and Refurb' program which is rebuilding nine types of vehicles the Marines use and is projected to extend the life of the equipment by approximately two years.

LTF-4 Commander Lt. Col. Scott Hamilton showed Hudson the new Mobile Parts Hospital that can manufacture high priority parts in short time periods thus returning vehicles to Soldiers and Marines quickly to rejoin the fight.



Photo by MAJ William Jones, USMC, JPO MRAP Site Lead RA

**Above:** Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general, Marine Corps Logistics Command (center), visits 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Logistics Task Force 4 at Camp Leatherneck, Feb. 1. Shown from left are Joann George, LTF-4 executive assistant, Robert McCallister, JPO MRAO site lead, Hudson, Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Edwards, LTF-4 noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Lt. Col. Scott Hamilton, LTF-4 commander.

## 401st Army Field Support Brigade

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## Trust and Loyalty

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Stephanie Akin, the 13-year-old daughter of 401st Army Field Support Brigade, deputy to the commander, Mark Akin, recently provided a poignant reminder of why the 401st works so hard to provide field and sustain the best equipment to our Soldiers.

Stephanie's sister Hilary is married to a Soldier commanding a unit in Afghanistan. She had just learned that the unit lost a Soldier who left behind a wife expecting the couple's child. She was moved to write a poem to try to comfort her sister, the grieving family and unit members left to deal with the loss of a brave Soldier, beloved husband, son and friend.

The poem reads:

### *We Want But Don't Get*

*Everyone wants something  
Peace or  
Love or  
Happiness  
The good things  
But some want other things  
Greed or  
Power  
And domination over something  
Everyone wants something  
No war and  
No death and  
No saying goodbyes  
But we don't get everything  
No matter how much we wish  
Somewhere  
A newly widowed wife cries  
And a child is confused  
Some where people are crying  
And not wanting to say goodbye*

Thank you Stephanie for helping us remember the sacrifice of some for the greater good of us all.

