



# 401st Army Field Support Brigade

## Forward Deployed

**“Trust and Loyalty”**



August 2012 Volume 2, Issue 3

## Critzer assumes command of 401st

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

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Col. Orlando Dale Critzer assumed command of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade from Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. Jul. 18 in a ceremony at brigade headquarters presided over by Brig. Gen. Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general.

The time-honored change of command ceremony is somewhat of a rarity for a unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Today's Army Force Generation model has units rotating in and out of the battle space for a set period of time with the commander usually remaining in command throughout the deployment. The 401st AFSB is unique in that it is headquartered in Afghanistan with commanders and personnel joining and leaving the unit as their individual assignments dictate.

Russell commanded the brigade of more than 54,000 Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors for one year.

Brig. Gen. French thanked Russell for leading the brigade and said he was “truly the Face of AMC to the field.” She acknowledged the competing and shifting missions completed under adverse condition and said the brigade under Russell's leadership had amazing accomplishments.

“It would take me hours to describe the numerous process improvements, missions supported, vehicles retrograded, equipment repaired, equipment issued and all the other critical tactical and operational support we have provided to the CJOA-A,” said Russell. “When I look out across the theater, everywhere there is a Soldier, Airman, Marine, Sailor or coalition force there's a Sabre providing a service that facilitates their ability to execute their mission.”



**Above from left:** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., outgoing 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, and Col. Orlando Dale Critzer, 401st AFSB commander, salute during a change of command ceremony held at brigade headquarters Jul. 18.



**Above:** Col. Orlando Dale Critzer accepts the 401st Army Field Support Brigade colors from Brig. Gen. Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general during a change of command ceremony held at brigade headquarters Jul. 18. Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., outgoing 401st AFSB commander looks on.

Col. Critzer said Russell was handing over the reins to “one of the finest tuned commands in theater.”

“It comes without saying that the 401st AFSB has a reputation of excellence, of professionalism, of teamwork and of unparalleled support,” Critzer said. “We will continue building the reputation that Col. Russell and his team have built and will continue providing the absolute best support to ensure the Warfighters have what they need to execute some of the most demanding missions in the toughest environment our military is facing today.

Russell's next assignment is to Army G8 at the Pentagon.

The 401st AFSB's mission is to serve as the single entry point for integration and synchronization for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology between the tactical level and the Materiel Enterprise while enhancing unit readiness and improving combat capability; and provide field and sustainment level logistics for both U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan in accordance with Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan priorities and is accomplished by more than 54,000 Soldiers, Department of Army civilians and contractors at locations across the Afghanistan area of operations.

*Editor's note: Visit 401st AFSB's Flickr page to see more photos of the change of command ceremony. Go to <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>. Also visit the brigade's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB>.*



# Task Force Sabre Command Group

*“Trust and Loyalty”*



Team Sabre, it is truly an honor to be your commander and I considered myself blessed to lead such an outstanding unit. Team Sabre remains one of the most finely tuned commands in theater and has a reputation for excellence, professionalism, teamwork and unparalleled support. Together we will take Team Sabre to even higher levels of success and together we will continue to set the standard for supporting the Warfighter.

The outstanding Soldiers, civilians and contractors who make up Team Sabre continue to show their willingness to meet customer demands in some of the most adverse conditions facing our military today. I promise that Team Sabre will always provide the best support to the Warfighter and together we will ensure they have what need to execute their mission. As your commander, I will support and resource you to be able to keep our promises to the Warfighter.

In the short time I've been here, I have seen and learned a tremendous amount and I stand in awe as I witness the accomplishments of Team Sabre. Our challenges could not be greater given the massive mission requirement, the harsh environment we operate in, the constant threat of insurgents – yet you, Team Sabre, always rise to the challenge and turn challenges into opportunities. The coming year will prove to be both exciting and challenging as we support the surge recovery, coupled with the massive retrograde missions. And we will do all of these things while simultaneously fielding new logistics solutions and sustaining the equipment already in the hands of the Warfighters.

I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and see them as opportunities for the 401<sup>st</sup> team. As we build our team and embark on this journey together, I am confident that we can handle anything that comes our way. Your hard work, your teamwork, and your dedication to excellence will lead us to success and will ensure that the Warfighter never has to be concerned about logistics! SABRES UP!

## Trust & Loyalty!



I would like to take this opportunity to tell everyone in this great brigade how much I'm looking forward to working with all of you. I've been in this business for more than 28 years and I bring my experience and enthusiasm to the job every day. Each day, I challenge myself to be the best CSM in the Army. The way I do this is to be the subject matter expert in my field, to answer questions as they arise, to be truthful and to respect every person I encounter.

I believe in honesty. I expect it from you and that's what you'll get from me. I am very approachable, and will solve issues or concerns as quickly as possible. You might not like the answer you get, but it will be the honest truth. I began with “I” because I wanted to begin by telling you a little about myself, now I'll shift to “we” – Team Sabre. We will accomplish every task put in front of us and do it to our fullest capability.

This organization is the largest brigade in the Army, so I challenge each and every one of you to be proactive, professional and never forget why you are here – to support the Warfighters. We will have fun as we get through these opportunities together.

I leave you with one more thing, each and every Soldier, DA Civilian and contractor is a professional and you know right from wrong. So do what's right and represent yourself, your families and the 401st AFSB with dignity, respect and professional courtesy at all times. You all are looked at every day by others and I want the whole CJOA to know that you are true professionals.

Thanks for what each and every one of you all do for this brigade and especially for our great Nation.

## Trust & Loyalty!

## Sliwinski assumes command of AFSBn-Kandahar

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Lt. Col. Stanley J. Sliwinski, Jr. assumed command of the AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade from Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush Jul. 16 in a ceremony at battalion headquarters presided over by Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st AFSB commander.

The AFSBn-KAF is one of two battalions under 401st AFSB headquartered in Afghanistan with commanders and personnel joining and leaving the unit as their individual assignments dictate.

Bush commanded the battalion of more than 5,400 Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors for 14 months.

Col. Russell thanked Bush for his leadership and for compiling impressive statistics including retrograding more than four thousand pieces of equipment, issuing hundreds of pieces of equipment and completing “more than half a billion property book transactions.”

He also commended Bush for improving force protection and life support conditions for battalion personnel.

In welcoming Sliwinski to the 401st, Russell said, “you are leading one of only two AMC battalions in a combat zone; and never forget the complexity, urgency and lethality of your decisions.”

Bush’s next assignment is to Army Sustainment Command. The 401st AFSB’s mission is to serve as the single entry point for integration and synchronization for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology between the tactical level and the Materiel Enterprise while enhancing unit readiness and improving combat capability; and to

provide field and sustainment level logistics for both U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan in accordance with Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan priorities and is accomplished by more than 54,000 Soldiers, Department of Army civilians and contractors at locations across the Afghanistan area of operations.



**Above:** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, passes the AFSBn-Kandahar colors to Lt. Col. Stanley J. Sliwinski, Jr., during the battalion change of command ceremony Jul. 16 while Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush and Command Sgt. Maj. Errol J. White, AFSBn-KAF, look on. Sliwinski assumed command of the battalion from Bush during the ceremony held at battalion headquarters.

## Russell awarded Legion of Merit

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Afghanistan and NATO campaign medals by Brig. Gen. Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general during an awards ceremony at brigade headquarters July 18.

The awards ceremony preceded a change of command ceremony in which Russell relinquished command to Col. Orlando Dale Critzer.

Russell’s next assignment is with Army G8 at the Pentagon.

The Legion of Merit is usually awarded to Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force general officers and colonels, and Navy and Coast Guard flag officers and captains occupying command or very senior staff positions in their respective services for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.



**Above:** Brig. Gen. Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, awards a Legion of Merit to Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander during an awards ceremony Jul. 18 at brigade headquarters. The awards ceremony preceded a change of command ceremony in which Russell relinquished command to Col. Orlando Dale Critzer.

*Editor’s note: Visit 401st AFSB’s Flickr page to see more photos of the awards ceremony. Go to <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>. Also visit the brigade’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB>.*



## New York National Guard Soldiers recognized for combat action

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— Two Soldiers assigned as customs agents to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade were awarded Army Commendation Medals with the “V” device and Combat Action Badges in an awards ceremony at brigade headquarters Jul. 12. A third Soldier was awarded a Combat Action Badge.



**Above:** Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez, 401st Army Field Support Brigade command sergeant major and Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st AFSB commander flank Spc. David P. Clark, Spc. Justin C. Ruiz and 1st Lt. Eric J. Leon following an awards ceremony Jun. 1 when Clark and Ruiz were awarded Army Commendation Medals with the “V” device and Combat Action Badges and Leon was awarded a Combat Action Badge.

The Soldiers were involved in a complex enemy attack against Forward Operating Base Salerno in eastern Afghanistan on Jun. 1. Specialists David P. Clark, a White Plains, N. Y. native and Justin C. Ruiz, a Bronx, N. Y. native directly engaged insurgents while 1st Lt. Eric J. Leon, a Port Washington, N. Y. native, took action to secure the Army Materiel Command compound. The Soldiers are part of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, a New York National Guard unit and assigned to the 401st for a nine-month tour.

At about 1 p.m. on Jun. 1, insurgents detonated a vehicle loaded with explosives near the post and insurgents tried to gain access. A firefight lasting about 30 minutes ensued with both Clark and Ruiz engaging the enemy.

Ruiz said he was driving a small utility vehicle that was flipped by the blast concussion.

“I was out cold,” he said. “When I came to, I ran to my hooch and grabbed by gear and ammunition. I ran toward the noise and helped the unit pulling security.”

The write-up for his award reads in part “Without thought for his own safety SPC Ruiz engaged the enemy with direct fire less than 75’ away while receiving direct fire from automatic weapons, RPGs, and detonations stemming from enemy suicide vests. SPC Ruiz assisted other Soldiers as they successfully prevented insurgents from gaining a foothold on the base. His skills as an infantryman were vital to the successful defense of his base. The actions in combat clearly displayed skill and bravery.”

Clark was conducting routine operations when the vehicle borne explosives detonated about 50 meters away from him. After getting his body armor and ammunition, he began checking buildings for insurgents and wounded.

“We secured the area until 2100 [9 p.m.],” Clark said. He said that was so Explosive Ordnance Disposal could complete their work.

The write-up for his award reads in part “Without thought for his own safety SPC Clark engaged the enemy with direct fire less than 75’ away while receiving direct fire from automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenades and detonations stemming from enemy suicide vests. His team was able to successfully destroy the enemy preventing them from gaining a foothold on the base. SPC Clark’s actions in combat and bravery were vital to the successful defense of the base.”

“I never thought I would work in my MOS [military occupation specialty],” said Ruiz, an infantryman. “My NCOs helped me get to where I needed to be to perform. My MOS helped me”

“It was not to hesitate – take care of each other,” said Clark, a medical logistician. “We relied on our training and strong battle buddies.”

Leon, redistribution property assistance officer-in-charge, said he was working when he heard and felt the blast and heard the direct fire from the insurgents.

“We rounded up the civilians and put them in MaxxPros [mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles],” he said. “Then we positioned other vehicles so no one could get into the AMC compound.

“I’m really proud of my Soldiers,” Leon said. “Some [Soldiers] went in the other direction.”

“They [Clark and Ruiz] briefed me on their ammo abatement program when I visited Salerno and two weeks later they’re in full battle rattle engaging the enemy,” said Col. Michel M. Russell, 401st AFSB commander, at the awards ceremony.

“This is no small feat,” Russell added. “I salute you.”

*Editor’s note: In the Army, the “V” device is worn on an award solely to denote “participation in acts of heroism involving conflict with an armed enemy.”*



**Above from left:** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander presents an Army Commendation Medal with the “V” device to Spc. David P. Clark and Spc. Justin C. Ruiz in recognition of his actions when his base came under enemy attack Jun. 1. They were also awarded a Combat Action Badge. Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander presents a Combat Action Badge to 1st Lt. Eric J. Leon in recognition of his actions when his base came under enemy attack Jun. 1.

## LOGCAP completes base de-scoping for turn over of FOB Dubs

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— Possibly the biggest news to come out of Forward Operating Base Dubs happened the day it was turned over to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Jun. 30.

FOB Dubs wasn't the oldest, largest, newest or smallest FOB. It was the first one to have LOGCAP services turned off in preparation for the base to be turned over to GIRoA for use by the Afghan National Army. Construction on the base, located in the Kabul area, began in 2005 and it was home to approximately 549 people.

While serving as a base for U.S. and coalition troops, FOB Dubs had 34 basic life services ranging from shower and latrine, food service preparation and meals, Moral Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to fire protection services provided by LOGCAP performance contractor Fluor Corporation. LOGCAP stands for Logistics Civil Augmentation program and is the U.S. Army's premier capability to support global contingencies by leveraging corporate assets to augment Army current and programmed sustainment force structure.

The cessation of LOGCAP services began Dec. 18, 2011 when Fluor was issued a cessation of contractor services notice directing them to de-scope and demobilize all LOGCAP services and Fluor personnel and prepare assets for movement in conjunction with the U.S. government transfer and closure. Fluor provided all the necessary tools, skilled labor and equipment to meet this requirement and they hired local workers to assist in the closure wherever



**Above:** Tony Cameron, LOGCAP plans liaison officer, Wesley Parker, Fluor site lead for FOB Dubs and Foreman Kilonzo following the ceremony Jun. 30 to transfer the base to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

possible. They worked for months to discontinue services supporting 145 buildings and personnel living on the FOB.

"This is our first large site transfer," said James E. Allen, LOGCAP deputy program director for Afghanistan. "It was a successful hand-off to the GIRoA."

"The successful transfer of FOB Dubs to GIRoA can be directly attributed to the lessons learned from past performance and [the] Iraq drawdown," said Allen.

Allen said the Dubs closure was "truly a success story from the LOGCAP perspective by serving as a 'test base' for de-scope procedures." He added that much of what was learned will be used in future base closures.

"Due to the geographical and environmental complexity of Afghanistan it is imperative that LOGCAP performance contractors get in front of the military troop drawdown to ensure LOGCAP does not encumber the Warfighter by competing for the same transportation assets to retrograde equipment or redeploy personnel," Allen stated.

FOB Dubs was home to Task Force Hydra comprised of members of the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a Georgia National Guard unit from Columbus, Ga. The personnel and equipment moved to nearby FOB Julien prior to the closure.

Logistics Civil Augmentation Program is the U.S. Army's premier capability to support global contingencies by leveraging corporate assets to augment Army current and programmed sustainment force structure.



**Above:** Col. Debra Grays, Theater Transition Team chief, speaks during the transfer ceremony in which FOB Dubs was officially turned over the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It is expected that the base will be used by the Afghan National Army.

### 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 and Army Sustainment Command where we post news articles. Army.mil:

Army Sustainment Command: <http://www.aschq.army.mil/home/default.aspx>

And, if all else fails, just Google us.

401st Army Field Support Brigade



## Quarterly Ammunition Amnesty Day at Bagram

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— A quarterly ammunition amnesty day was held at Bagram Airfield July 11 to give individuals and units an opportunity to turn in ammunition and explosives in any condition to ensure maximum recovery of military A&E items outside of the supply system.

Joint Munitions Command personnel assigned to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade worked with 10th Sustainment Brigade, BAF Safety Office and 60th Ordnance Company personnel to set up an area at the Ammunition Supply Point where A&E items could be dropped off.

The first Soldiers to drop off ammunition were from the 14th Military Intelligence Battalion and said the small arms ammunition they were dropping off was more than two years old and according to an ammunition safety message it should be turned in.

"It was very convenient," said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos A. Valle. "We just followed the signs."

"We wanted to get legacy ammo off the battlefield," said Capt. Victor Mitsuoaka, 10th SBDE Class V officer-in-charge. "And we also wanted to clear unsafe ammo off the battlefield."

He explained that legacy ammunition has been handed down from one unit to another as units rotate in and out.

The ammunition amnesty program is not limited to the quarterly turn in days. Army regulations require quarterly amnesty days but the BAF ASP receives amnesty turn-ins on a daily basis. For the last quarter the BAF ASP received about 42 short tons of ammunition serviceable munitions valued at almost \$950,000.00 of serviceable munitions that were and returned to the stockpile for future use.

"Units may bring amnesty in any time they want," said Neil Wachutka, JMC Senior Command Representative at the 401st AFSB.

Also there are 20 ammunition amnesty boxes across Bagram.

The contents are collected weekly, inspected for safety and serviceability status. Unsafe or unserviceable ammunition is destroyed and serviceable ammunition is put back in inventory. Last week, the value of ammunition collected from the amnesty boxes was approximately \$76,000.

"Most of the ammunition we collect comes from the amnesty box at the PAX terminal," said Michael H. Burns, Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance). "People get ready to go home and think 'maybe I shouldn't take this home' and the amnesty box is there for just that reason."



**Left:** Spc. Derek M. Jamison an Erie, Penn. native serving with the 14th Military Intelligence Battalion places ammunition his unit is turning in the Bagram ammunition amnesty day July 11 while Mary L. Hoy, Joint Munitions Command Senior Systems Technical Representative (SSTR) and Richard A. Vice, JMC Ammunition Logistics Assistance Representative (Ammunition LAR) carry more turned in munitions to the staging area

**Right:** Mary L. Hoy, Joint Munitions Command SSTR and Michael H. Burns, Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance), look over some of the munitions turned in during an ammunition amnesty day at Bagram Airfield July 11.

## Bush awarded Bronze Star Medal

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan**—Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush, commander AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal during an awards ceremony held Jul. 15 at battalion headquarters.

Bush was recognized for his accomplishments during the 14 months he commanded the battalion by 401st AFSB Commander, Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. Bush was also awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the NATO medal during the ceremony.

Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, awards a Bronze Star Medal to Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush, commander AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st AFSB, during an awards ceremony held at battalion headquarters Jul. 15.



## 401st Org Day



401st AFSB held an organization day Jul. 7. The day began with a solemn ceremony honoring 401st AFSB's fallen comrades. Following the ceremony, we played kickball, jumped rope and tried some golf shots from the 401st driving range. For more photos, visit the 401st Flickr site at <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>

## 401st gears up for surge recovery equipment turn-in

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Army Field Support Battalion-Bagram, 401st AFSB, held a rehearsal of concept drill Jul. 25 to test new redistribution property facilities and procedures and to prepare for the first of many significant retrograde missions.

The ROC drill gave the battalion an opportunity to validate their plan to use a new facility that will enable 24-hour operations as required when units have rolling stock and non-rolling stock that is no longer mission essential. Equipment comes in all shapes and sizes from hand-held items to vehicles weighting more than 20 tons. Thousands of pieces of equipment slated for re-issue to other units, return to a source of repair, or disposal will flow into the redistribution property assistance team yards. The 401st AFSB has the responsibility to manage property book transactions to remove equipment from unit property books, provide maintenance and upgrades on equipment remaining in theater, and preparing equipment for shipment or disposal.

One of the first large-scale RPAT missions is the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division turn-in. Soldiers and leaders from the unit gathered at the RPAT site Jul. 25 for briefings on the process.

Sgt. 1st Class Marc C. Marckx, 1/82 S-4 non-commissioned officer in-charge and liaison officer briefed first on safety and how to move through the process.

"Move the vehicle into position at the four-corners area, and begin unloading classes of supply onto the designated flat racks," Marckx said. "The vehicle can't leave until you have the inspection and you get a 3151."

"Then leave the four-corners to start the GFE process," he added.

The four corners operation is being conducted by the 10th Sustainment Brigade and they have collocated a satellite retro-sort yard with the RPAT yard to facilitate a 'one-stop' turn-in operation for the units.

"I'm pretty excited about running the four-corners," said Second Lt. Julia M. Neutkens, 10th Sustainment Brigade, RPAT four corners officer-in-charge. "There's amazing coordination with the 401st, it's awesome."



**Above:** Sgt. 1st Class Marc C. Marckx, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division S-4 non-commissioned officer-in-charge and liaison officer, gives a safety brief and describes the four corners and turn-in processes to 1/82 Soldiers.



**Above:** A Soldier guides a vehicle to a spot in the four corners section of the 401st Army field Support Brigade, redistribution property assistance team yard where items from all classes of supply will be off-loaded from the vehicles prior to being turned in at the RPAT yard. The four corners operation is being conducted by Soldiers from 10th Sustainment Brigade Task Force Muleskinner. This is one example of the partnerships 401st forges in order to complete their property redistribution missions.

Once the vehicles have been cleared to move out of the four corners, they are driven into the area where government furnished equipment will be removed. This equipment ranges from radios to mine rollers and will be removed by contractors.

All GFE will be inventoried and removed from the unit property book. While that paperwork is being processed, the Soldiers will be able to go to a break area where hot meals will be served four times a day. Once the paperwork is processed, the unit is relieved of responsibility for the equipment and the Soldiers will be able to leave the RPAT area.

"There are computer workstations where Soldiers and work on reconciling any paperwork discrepancies," said Maj. Brett A. Ayvazian, AFSBn-BAF support operations officer for retrograde. "The intent is to relieve the unit of all property book items before they leave the RPAT."



**Above:** Maj. Erin L. Harkins, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division Brigade Logistics Support Team chief, discusses procedures for vehicle turn-in at the Bagram RPAT yard with Maj. Brett A. Ayvazian, AFSBn-BAF, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, support operations officer for retrograde.



## Operation Thunderstruck gets underway

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Operation Thunderstruck, the name given to the turn-in of equipment by Task Force Devil Hammer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, got off to a successful start in the early morning hours of August 3 at the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade's redistribution property assistance team yard.

Trucks began rolling in shortly after 5 a.m. and by noon most of the Soldiers who came with the convoy had completed their turn-in and had a clean property book – one more step on the road home. More than 20 trucks went through the RPAT process to remove the vehicles and government furnished equipment on the vehicles from the unit's property book and transfer it to the battalion's property book.

Once the property book transactions were complete and verified contractors assigned to the battalion began removing some of the government furnished equipment from the vehicles.

"We're removing all the GFE if the vehicle is being retrograded back to the States," said Alex C. McGinnis, Logistics Task Force Bagram deputy. "If the vehicle will be issued to other units, some of the GFE is left on it."

Vehicles, or rolling stock, are only part of the RPAT process. The unit is also turning in containers full of non-rolling stock ranging from small hand held devices to generators. As is the case with the vehicles, serial numbers are verified and when the paperwork is complete, the battalion takes the equipment from the unit and places it on the battalion property book.

"We're getting the Soldiers forward – ahead of the paperwork," said Maj. Erin J. Harkins, 1/82 Brigade Logistics Support Team chief, Aug. 7. "We got a lot of good comments after the first day."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cedric T. Calloway, 1/82 property book officer, said things were "going pretty good" and echoed Harkins' on getting the paperwork correct before the vehicles roll into the yard.

"It's going good," said 1st Lt. Matthew D. Long. "Everybody is waiting for us and matching up the serial numbers, it's a good plan."

The TF Devil Hammer turn-in is being completed in the newly opened RPAT facility that allows for 24-hour operations in climate

controlled buildings that can accommodate a larger number of vehicles at once than could be worked at the former location.

The turn-in is a one-stop process thanks to the partnership with 10th Sustainment Brigade, Task Force Muleskinner, who is running a four corners operation to remove other classes of supply items from the vehicles in an area adjacent to the RPAT area. Once the vehicles are approved to leave the four corners, they drive less than 200 yards to complete the turn-in process at the RPAT yard.



**Left:** A Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, watches as a contractor and Army civilian verify serial numbers on pieces of government furnished equipment at the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade redistribution property assistance team yard Aug. 7 during the second day of equipment turn in for the 1/82 mission. Once vehicle and GFE serial numbers have been verified, the equipment is removed from the unit's property book and transferred to the 401st property book. Equipment will either be returned to a source of repair or prepared for issue to a new unit.

**Above top:** 1st Sgt. Nathan Hawker, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York National Guard, assigned to AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade ammunition abatement team checks a vehicle to ensure it's clear of ammunition and brass. **Above center:** Spc. Jamie Padilla, 27th IBCT, New York National Guard, checks a vehicle for ammunition and brass before clearing it to move into the redistribution property assistance team yard. **Above bottom:** A Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and a contractor at the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, check serial numbers on equipment being turned into the redistribution property assistance team Aug. 7.



## COMISAF command team visits 401st AFSB

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

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—General John Allen, COMISAF commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, COMISAF command sergeant major, visited the 401st Army Field Support Brigade on Jul. 26 and Jul. 27 respectively and were briefed on upcoming redistribution property assistance team missions.

The first stop on both visits was the new redistribution property assistance team facility that will allow for a greater through-put velocity and 24-hour operations in climate controlled buildings. All the briefers for Command Sgt. Maj. Capel's visit were enlisted Soldiers, many of whom do the hands-on RPAT work on a daily basis.

Both visitors were briefed on the process to clear excess supply items from the vehicles and how they will roll into the RPAT area where government furnished equipment ranging from communications equipment to mine rollers will be removed from the vehicles. Paperwork will be completed to move all of the equipment from the unit's property book onto the 401st property book. Workstations are available for unit Soldiers to reconcile any paperwork discrepancies and hot meals will be served four times a day to ease the wait. Once the paperwork has been completed, the Soldiers will be able to leave the RPAT area. For most that's one step closer to going home following their deployment.

The visitors also saw other 401st yards where vehicles and non-rolling stock equipment are staged pending being returned to a source of repair or other disposition.



**Left:** Maj. Brett A. Ayvazian, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade support operation officer for retrograde briefs Gen. John Allen, COMISAF commanding general, Jul. 26 on the paperwork required to clear equipment from a unit's property book prior to the unit redeploying.

**Right:** Master Sgt. Patrick C. Perez, Logistics Task Force Bagram, AFSBn-BAF, 401st Army Field Support Brigade non-commissioned officer-in-charge, briefs Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, COMISAF command sergeant major, on turn-in procedures for non-rolling stock at the Bagram RPAT yard Jul. 27 as Command Sgt. Maj. Karl A. Roberts, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (center) looks on.



## A family deployed – the Jones family in OEF

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

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Three members of the Michael R. Jones family are currently deployed to Bagram Airfield in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Father, mother and son are serving in different capacities; each said being deployed together can be a mixed blessing.

The family is no stranger to deployments. Dad, Mike, now a Department of Army civilian, deployed as an administrative contracting officer with Defense Contract Management Agency. He previously deployed to Iraq, as a DoD civilian, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom for 22 months. Mom, Clarita (Clara) D. Jones, an Army civilian, is completing her first deployment as a procuring contracting officer assigned to Logistics Civil Augmentation Program. Mike and Clara are deployed from U.S. Army Contracting Command, Las Vegas. Son, Air Force Master Sgt. Richard A. Jones, 33rd Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit, is completing 'about my twelfth deployment'.

"Having my parents in a war zone – it's different," said Richard. "I love the fact that they're here, but I hate it at the same time."

Recently an indirect fire attack occurred while the parents were visiting Richard.

"I saw my son in action," said Mike. "His first instinct was 'Mom, we gotta go.'"

"We became parents for the unit," said Clara. "We try to come over [to see Richard] every week and call to see what they [the unit] need – pizza, smoothies."

"The guys I work with tell me I'm spoiled," said Mike. "But, I'll take it."

Would the family recommend deploying together?



**Above:** Michael R. Jones, an administrative contracting officer with Defense Contract Management Agency; Clarita (Clara) D. Jones, a procuring contracting officer assigned to Logistics Civil Augmentation Program; and Air Force Master Sgt. Richard A. Jones, 33rd Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit, are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and are all stationed at Bagram Airfield.

"It's bittersweet," said Mike. "You worry about not one but two."

For Clara, being deployed together is "a dream come true." She said she thought she might be deployed with her son, but didn't expect to be deployed with her husband. Mike was originally at a different location, but was able to transfer to Bagram several months after Clara deployed and just before Richard arrived for his deployment..

All agreed that it's good being at the same location serving the same cause.

## General Ann E. Dunwoody relinquishes command of Army Materiel Command

By Adoratia Purdy  
AMC Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.**— Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody relinquished command of Army Materiel Command during a ceremony at AMC's headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Aug. 7, 2012.



**Above:** Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, accepts the AMC colors from AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald T. Riling at the change of command ceremony Aug. 7 at AMC headquarters in which she relinquished command to Gen. Dennis L. Via.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno hosted the time-honored change-of-command ceremony.

"It's great to be here on a day of celebration, a celebration honoring the accomplishments of Army Materiel Command. A unit that has frankly changed the dynamics of logistics for the United States Army," said Odierno.

U.S. Army Materiel Command, or AMC, has a complex mission ranging from development of sophisticated weapon systems and cutting-edge research, to maintenance and distribution of spare parts. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, communicates with it, or eats it, AMC provides it.

Odierno credits Dunwoody's vision and determination as the key factors in transforming AMC into the Army's Lead Materiel Integrator and joint logistics supplier, all while streamlining efficiencies and caring for the Soldiers, civilians and their families.

"Ann has been, and is today a Soldier first, always leading by example," said Odierno.

Considered throughout her career as a trailblazer for women in the Army, Dunwoody was the first female four-star general, assuming command of AMC in November 2008 and was the 17th commander in AMC's 50 year history.

During her tenure, Dunwoody oversaw the transition of AMC through the 2011 Base Realignment and Closure from Fort Belvoir, Va., the Army-wide synchronization and integration of the Directorate of Logistics and the drawdown of equipment in Iraq, all while providing uninterrupted support to the Warfighter.

After affectionately thanking her husband for his many years of support, Dunwoody took a moment to acknowledge the AMC workforce.

"To the 69,000 Soldiers and civilians of Army Materiel Command, you have made today and every single day of the last four years very special to me. I have watched you bear so much of our nation's burden over the last four year," said Dunwoody.

In 37 years she has commanded at every level. As a senior leader, she commanded the 10th Division Support command at Fort Drum, N.Y.; the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.; the Military Traffic Management Command/Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria, Va.; and the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Va.

She reflected on her time at AMC and the organization's impact on the Army.

"I've had the privilege to go to Iraq and Afghanistan many times and I got to meet with leaders one on one, and they all told me the same thing, they told me they never worried about logistics and I can't imagine a better compliment," said Dunwoody.



**Above:** Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, Army Materiel Command passes the AMC colors to AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald T. Riling during the Aug. 7 change of command ceremony in which Via assumed command of AMC from Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody.

The change-of-command ceremony also ushered in the leadership of Gen. Dennis L. Via. Via is no stranger to AMC's daunting task of equipping the force, as he has served as the AMC deputy commanding general since May 2011.

Lt. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston will serve as the new AMC deputy commanding general.

Dunwoody's retirement ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 15, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

To see more photos from the AMC change of command ceremony, please visit the change of command folder on the AMC Flickr page located at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/armymaterielcommand/sets/72157630952837304/>



## 401st Soldiers receive COMISAF Command Sergeant Major's coin

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Six Soldiers assigned to AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade received coins from Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, COMISAF command sergeant major, Jul. 27.

The Soldiers had been introduced to Capel during his visit to the Bagram RPAT yard where he learned of their outstanding mission support. He invited them to have lunch with him and several other Army Command Sergeants Major and Air Force Chief Master Sergeants and gave the Soldiers his coin following lunch.

After lunch with the 401st Soldiers and several Airmen assigned to the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez, 401st AFSB command sergeant major, said the 401st could not complete its retrograde mission without the Air Force.

"You help us fight the fight of retrograde," he said.

Capel remarked that the group was having lunch in a room named in honor of one of his Soldiers who fell in combat in Afghanistan in November 2002. He thanked the Soldiers and Airmen in the room and said they represent "the best we have to offer."

"When our country needed you the most, you found a recruiter and raised your right hand," he said. "I'm so proud to serve with you. You dedicate all your time to the mission; you are the tip of the spear."



**Clockwise from bottom left:** Master Sgt. Patrick C. Perez, Logistics Task Force-Bagram, noncommissioned officer-in-charge; Sgt. Erick Ruiz, mobile RPAT customs inspector; Spc. Scott Dickson, support operations transportation; Spc. John Liddle, redistribution property assistance team; Sgt. Nicholas A. Lathrom, S3 operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge and battle captain; and Spc. Anthony Espinal, mobile redistribution property assistance team; receive coins from COMISAF Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel Jul. 27. Perez and Lathrom are U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers who are nearing the end of their year-long deployment. Espinal, Dickson and Liddle are members of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York National Guard, and are assigned to the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, to support the LTF-BAF redistribution property assistance team.

## The Eye in the Sky

By Chaplain (MAJ) Edward R. (Ted) Baccich  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Chaplain

As I was out and about one day visiting troops and personnel in Afghanistan, I found myself looking through an amazing piece of technology known as the "Eye in the Sky." It is a simple balloon with a very high powered camera used for surveillance. It can see from great distances, and it can observe all kinds of things. It is Orwellian in a manner of speaking - big brother is indeed watching. That being said, looking through the eye in the sky was one of the most fascinating experiences I have had in the entire time I have been in Southwest Asia, which now spans roughly two years and encompasses three major conflicts over the course of the last two plus decades (Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom 1, and Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan).

Upon my first glance though the proverbial eye in the sky, I immediately thought of the classic movie, "1776", when founding father John Adams cried, "Is anybody there?! Does anybody care?! Does anybody see what I see?!" I couldn't help but to think, "Who else sees this? Does anybody see what I see? And if they do see it, do they care?" What I saw kept me positively transfixed for the entire time I was inside the command center of the Eye in the Sky. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and in this case it was completely true. In 1995-1996, I participated in a residency course for ministers called CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education). We studied and discussed "the living human document" and for as long as I can remember I have been a people watcher. So I am also a man of faith who finds human behavior fascinating. Thus, I can't help but wonder about the great sea of humanity, the struggle for survival, and the watchful eye of God.

"Does anybody see what I see? Is anybody there? Does anybody care?" I wondered. What did I see? Nothing that could be described as scintillating or other worldly, but what I saw kept my undivided attention for the entire time was this: I saw the struggle for survival up close and personal. I saw families and children living in various forms of squalor in a war torn country (if it could really be called a country). Afghanistan is more a compilation of ancient, disjointed villages than it is what we in the west would think of as a traditional "country." It is mostly a nomadic and tribal society, with different regions of the country having their own tradition (reference Wikipedia). Huts, or houses, in much of Afghanistan are traditionally made out of mud, clay and straw. The "rich families" have a series of rooms located around a private rectangular courtyard where women and children work, play and live.

Does anybody see what I see? I saw children playing with sticks because they didn't have anything else to play with. I saw a mother lay her baby in the sun, outside and alone on her back porch (made of mud and clay) with two other small children (toddlers probably ages 5 and under), and walk about a half mile away, alone, to draw water from a well. She returned about a half hour later with a huge vase like container of water on her head. I saw a mother and two sons with a donkey and a small cart gathering nasty, semi dead desert weeds that they would bundle and eventually burn to heat their huts. I saw another family in a "rich" house that had a walled/ fenced court yard, and small children playing with sticks and wandering seemingly aimlessly among chickens and goats and other animals. Who else sees this? I wondered. What does the Creator think about Afghanistan and her masses? Does anybody see what I see?

At the ripe old age of 94 American elder statesman Bernard Baruch, was asked who he thought, was the greatest personality of our age. He said, "The fellow who does his job every day; the mother who has children and gets up to get them breakfast, keep them clean, and sends them off to school. The fellow who keeps the streets clean ... the unknown soldiers - millions of them." Who then, is really a "hero." What defines heroism? What is the big deal about people living in mud/ clay houses just existing day to day? Why should anyone find that fascinating?

Perhaps the greatest war mankind wages is the war against fallenness, the very struggle for survival. And we all fight this war to one degree or another. G.K. Chesterton was right when he observed, "I marvel at the modern's rejection of the Christian doctrine of fallenness, when it is the only Christian doctrine that is empirically verifiable." Since the days when Cain killed Abel the ground has yielded thorns and thistles and I watched that fallen world literally from a bird's eye view. I watched those children; children who are born into squalor and I thought about their future. What would they do with their lives? What would their lives look like 20 years from now? What would become of the boys? What would become of the girls? Would they marry, have children, experience freedom? Would they live in houses of mud and clay like their parents before them? What kind of jobs would they have? How would they ever survive without iPods and MTV (sorry, had to throw that in)? What is it about this sight that captures my attention so keenly?

Perhaps because it was a direct look through, if you will forgive the expression, the eye of God. It was a glance at the sea of humanity, the fallen nature of mankind and the struggle for survival. It was like looking at Genesis chapter 3. The most basic, fundamental war mankind fights is the struggle to live and the struggle to live free. We all struggle to have not just physical life, but abundant life - a life lived with freedom and joy. And our fallen world wars against that struggle every day. Are we fighting an uphill battle? Are prosperity, abundant living and freedom just temporary illusions? The battle is indeed uphill and to some it may seem impossible, but freedom has never been an illusion. Every cell, every atom and every particle of human existence cries for it. God gave us freedom and He made us for it; it is His great gift to mankind. It is a significant part of what was lost in the fall. It is ultimately why we are in nations like Afghanistan in the first place, because there are spiritual and physical forces in this world that despise and abhor true freedom.

All human government, for all realistic purposes, takes on one of two possible forms: either democracy (or one of its many forms) or tyranny (and one of its many forms). The central issue of the American Revolution is one that has come up time and again in human history and it is this: Is man the free moral agent before God or is man subject to the dominion of human government? The whole Constitutional experiment sprang forth in a revolution that had a rallying cry of "No King but King Jesus." A large part of war that mankind has fought since the dawn of time boils down to that simple question: Is man a free moral agent before God and thus entitled to the freedom of godly self government, or not? What does this have to do with the war over fallenness? Fallenness is a doctrine without which, the entire Christian religion and the doctrine of redemption collapses. When Adam fell, he left the whole world in the power of the evil one. And all of creation has been at war (at least spiritually speaking) ever since. Our war is indeed the war against fallenness, the struggle to regain what was lost in Eden. I saw a glimpse of the result of that war, that day, and that is why I was transfixed. Scripture makes it clear that what was lost will not be fully redeemed until the return of the conquering Messiah. Scripture also makes it clear that we are called to be actively engaged in the world around us, fighting that war ... fighting the good fight of faith and doing our gut level best to redeem that which can be redeemed.



# *Farewell, COL Michel M. Russell, Sr.*



## 401st Army Field Support Brigade

Col. Orlando D. Critzer  
Commander

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## Trust and Loyalty

### Ayvazian awarded ARCOM

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer



Lt. Col. David S. Pierce, Commander 3/319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, awards an Army Commendation Medal to Maj. Brett A. Ayvazian, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, support operations officer for retrograde, Aug. 7 in recognition for Ayvazian's work in the preparation for and execution of the 1/82 return of equipment process that began Aug. 3.

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Maj. Brett A. Ayvazian, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, support operations officer for retrograde, was awarded an Army Commendation Medal by the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Aug. 7 in recognition for his work in the preparation for and execution of the 1/82 return of equipment process that began Aug. 3.

Lt. Col. David S. Pierce, Commander 3/319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, presented the award and said Ayvazian is "the muscle behind the mission" and thanked him on behalf of all the Soldiers of the 1/82 who will be redeploying soon.

### Working around the clock

For most of the 54,000 people working under the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, the regularly scheduled work day begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m. However, there are some sections that work around the clock, and there are times when mission dictates that the day starts when the Soldiers roll in and continues until the Soldier or unit is served.

The current mission to receive equipment from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division revolves around the Soldier's schedule. The unit is bringing equipment to Bagram from outlying areas and the 401st is ready whenever the Soldiers roll in.

While the day began before 5 a.m. for those receiving equipment on Aug. 7, it began much earlier for the Soldiers who drove from their operating base. Bottom line—we're ready when Soldiers need us to be ready!

