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Hard working teams making critical SATCOM upgrade reality



Left to right, John Flaherty, lead electronics technician, Thomas Lewis, electronic integrated systems mechanic, Ryan Yzeik, electronics system mechanic, and Adam Sabatell, electronics technician, secure a communications dish to an Air Force Wideband Enterprise Terminal. Flaherty and Sabatell work for the Production Engineering Directorate, and Lewis and Yzeik are assigned to the C4ISR Directorate.

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Public Affairs Specialist

Tobyhanna continues to move the military's worldwide communications closer to real time via installation of state-of-the-art satellite communications terminals.

Technicians are installing AN/GSC-52B terminals, which are part of the Department of Defense's Modernization of Enterprise Terminals acquisition program. These terminals allow U.S. forces worldwide communications in as close to real-time as possible.

The terminals provide increased data capabilities through Ka-band Wideband Global SATCOM satellites. The WGS are much more stable and have the ability to operate on both the Ka-band and X-band instead of just the less-capable X-band.

Each new terminal is comprised of a fixed

12.2-meter antenna reflector assembly and associated SATCOM equipment such as modems and routers, and transmit and receive subsystems.

The new technology is replacing an aging fleet of terminals and is currently being installed in Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; and Fort Meade, Maryland.

"We are installing two AN/GSC-52B(v)3s at Fort Meade for Program Lead-Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems," said Logistics Management Specialist David Iverson. "Teams de-installed the legacy (AN/GSC-52A) terminals there in November. Two teams of 16 people are at Fort Meade performing the installations of the new terminals for the 327th Signal Company. They should be done by late April."

Iverson works in the Production Management Directorate's Satellite and Secure Communications Project Management Branch.

Team members at Offutt installing the new SATCOM terminals say the work is hard, but rewarding.

"The warfighter needs and deserves our full support, as they are Mission 1," said Electronics Mechanic Bob Kowalczyk. "I'm most proud of helping the warfighter. We have a very high caliber of people working in [our shop] and I enjoy meeting new people and working with them from place to place."

Tobyhanna personnel have traveled to various locations worldwide to install modular terminals for the MET program since the new satellites began launching in 2007.

Kowalczyk, and several of the other team members, has worked missions in Germany, Japan, Alaska, California, Colorado and Maryland. His favorite mission was to Germany for the first MET work. "Virginia was the worst, the traffic," he said.

Thomas Lewis, an integrated systems mechanic, said that he is proud of building complete, functional MET terminals, but the work is not easy. In some locations, technicians

See SATCOM on Page 8



Left, Paul Goetz, electrician, holds a guy line as a communications dish is positioned on an Air Force Wideband Enterprise Terminal located at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. These terminals are among more than 80 joint systems used worldwide to communicate and transfer information across the Global Information Grid. Goetz works for the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Electronics Fabrication Division. (U.S. Air Force photos by Zachary Hada)

Donations exceed expectations

Page 3

DCO marks milestone

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Around the Depot spotlights mission capabilities

Page 5

NEWS NOTES

Photo studio moves

The Installation Services Directorate's Information Management Division photo studio will be located in the Founders Room at The Landing during the multi-million dollar modernization of Tobyhanna's administration building. To make an appointment, call X57205.

Depot posts delays, closures

Public announcements regarding depot closings or starting time delays will be recorded on a toll free information hotline and provided to local television stations WYOU, WBRE and WNEP.

Employees are encouraged to call 1-800-429-4496 to hear the depot's recorded announcement or tune in to these media outlets. Announcements will also be posted to the depot's Facebook page and Twitter as early as possible.

Scholarship forms available

Army Emergency Relief offers a scholarship to eligible dependent children and military spouses.

The deadline to submit an application is April 1. Instructions and applications are available on the AER website, www.aerhq.org.

AER maintains two scholarship programs – Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program and the Spouse Education Assistance Program. Both scholarships provide financial assistance for students who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree.

For more information, call X56682.

Spend the day in New York City

Tickets for two day trips to New York City — April 22 and June 17 — are available at the One Stop Shop for \$27 each.

Transportation will leave the depot parking lot at 7 a.m. and depart the city at 6:30 p.m.

People traveling in April can attend the International Car Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center; tickets sold separately.

For reservations and payment, call X58851. Payment is due at the time of reservation. The trip is sponsored by the Civilian Welfare Fund.

Well done!

"It was a pleasure working with Bruce Barrese and his team — Alan Shaulis, Michael Marcinko and Colin Kulp. They were very professional and executed their tasks in a timely manner. Having the same team to come back for our next visit would be awesome!" The team, which is assigned to Systems Integration and Support Directorate, performed Mobile Depot Maintenance while on site.

James Brown
Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada

Variety of factors influence stress levels

by Heather Fiedler
Employee Services Center

Stress levels are on the rise according to a recent online survey conducted by the American Psychological Association. The survey was designed to assess political stressors and their associated long-term effects.

Survey responses revealed that 57 percent of Americans feel the current political climate is of significant concern and a source of stress. Overall stress levels rose from 4.8 to 5.1 — on a scale where 1 means little to no stress and 10 means significant stress — between August and January.

How does the uncertainty of the future create stress? Most individuals are resistant to change because it creates an unknown.

As human beings we are more

comfortable with what and who we know. If we are unable to predict and control certain things such as the reactions of others or the outcome of a situation, we experience a level of stress.

Some individuals are more resilient than others and are better able to cope with uncertainty. For those who are less resilient and struggle with coping, uncertainty can create a level of stress that soon becomes unbearable.

Another factor that can increase stress levels is social media. Social media can influence how people respond to stress and how they label a stressor. An individual can feel stress as quickly as someone can create a post about the current political climate. The multitude of responses to a social media post can influence individual perception, mood and ability to cope.

What can decrease the amount of stress

an individual experiences? Resiliency is born from practicing positive social skills with others. When employees walk into my office and ask, "What good comes out of me talking about this?" I respond with, "So much good."

When we share (and sharing is the key element), we not only have the benefit of someone who cares listening, but also our brains engage in mirror neurons. Mirror neurons are what is at play when a person finches when they see someone get slapped.

When people share life stories with a trusted other, we create the capacity to learn and empathize. (Empathy is described as care and compassion for others, while sympathy is characterized as pity or feeling sorry.)

People interested in discussing this or other aspects of stress, uncertainty or empathy can call X59689.

Tobyhanna preps for transition to new appraisal system

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

Team Tobyhanna will join more than 200,000 Army civilians this year as the transition to a new, standardized performance appraisal program gets underway.

The Department of Defense will implement the Performance Management and Appraisal Program in phases from April through June 2018. The program is called the New Beginnings initiative and employees here can expect to be enrolled in the system starting in July.

"It will be a three-tier rating system," said Max Wyche, Army Materiel Command principal deputy for human resources. "Right now across the Department of Defense, we have several different rating systems and different rating cycles."

The appraisal cycle starts April 1 and ends March 31 of the following year. Employees who have performed under an approved performance plan for a minimum of 90 calendar days during the rating period will receive a performance rating according to a three-level rating pattern: Level 5-Outstanding, Level 3-Fully Successful, and Level 1-Unacceptable.

"Employees will have a performance discussion at the beginning, midpoint and end of the rating cycle," said Wyche. "The intent of the system is that communication is occurring throughout the cycle."

What is key in New Beginnings is that employee and supervisor engagement is continuous — to understand expectations, to understand changes, to understand how you'll support the mission, according to Lisha Adams, AMC executive deputy to the commanding general.

The program provides an automated appraisal tool called My Performance to help with performance planning, communications and the rating cycle process.

Human Resource Specialist Kathleen Powell explained that some aspects of the new system are similar to the Total Army Performance Evaluation System, while other aspects

differ. Powell works in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center's Management Employee Relations Division.

"The main differences are a minimum rating cycle of 90 days, as opposed to the current 120 days, and everyone will fall under one system rather than two (base and senior) under TAPES," she said. "For supervisors the number of supervisory critical performance elements will equal or exceed the number of non-supervisory (technical) critical performance elements."

New Beginnings requires a minimum of three documented performance reviews; however, more are being negotiated with American Federation of Government Employees Local 1647 to provide Tobyhanna employees the best opportunities for success, Powell said.

She also noted that the system emphasizes accountability, increased employee engagement, transparent processes, and improved capabilities in recruiting, developing and rewarding the workforce.

Depot and union officials are also discussing employee access to computers, and other issues of impact and implementation that apply to Tobyhanna and its covered tenants, according to Powell.

"The new system strongly encourages more feedback during the rating cycle. Employees are not required to provide input; however, they are strongly encouraged to do so," she said. "In addition, individual development plans are not required under the new system, but are always a good tool."

The phased implementation schedule is based on employee pay plans and grades. Training, which is required, will be provided to employees before being implemented into the new system.

Tobyhanna employees at the GS-13 through GS-15 pay grade will join the system in July 2017, GS-12 and below, and Federal Wage System supervisors will join in November 2017, and non-supervisor FWS employees will join by June 2018.

Additional information regarding DoD's New Beginnings initiative will be announced as it becomes available.

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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DONATIONS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

Team Tobyhanna contributes \$131,262 to local charities during annual CFC fund drive

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

Change proved profitable for Tobyhanna's annual Combined Federal Campaign.

Generous donations by depot employees exceeded the 2016 fundraising goal by more than \$31,000. Once the dust settled, campaign chairs announced a grand total of \$131,262 was raised to support favorite charities between Sept. 26 and Dec. 15. Online donations were extended to Dec. 31.

The differences in this year's lineup of events were met with positive feedback from participants, according to co-chair Lori Smotryski. New events included a kickball tournament, ice cream float social and pumpkin decorating contest.

Activities were scheduled to include day and night shift employees.

"Our goal was to keep overhead low and raise as much money as possible for charity," Smotryski said. "I'm also thrilled that some organizations took it upon themselves to do their own internal fundraisers."

All three CFC co-chairs recognized the Systems Integration and Support Directorate and Civilian Human Resources Agency for going above and beyond to support selected charities.

Smotryski, Anthony Ceccacci and Beverly Foster joined forces with an army of volunteers to plan and execute a number of activities. Based on the money raised, Team Tobyhanna favored the CFC kickoff event combined with the Post Restaurant Appreciation Day and 5K Fun Run/Walk over the kickball tournament and pumpkin decorating contest.

"We are grateful for everyone who volunteered to assist at our various events," Foster said. "I was delighted to meet so many employees and am thankful to have gained new friendships throughout the campaign."

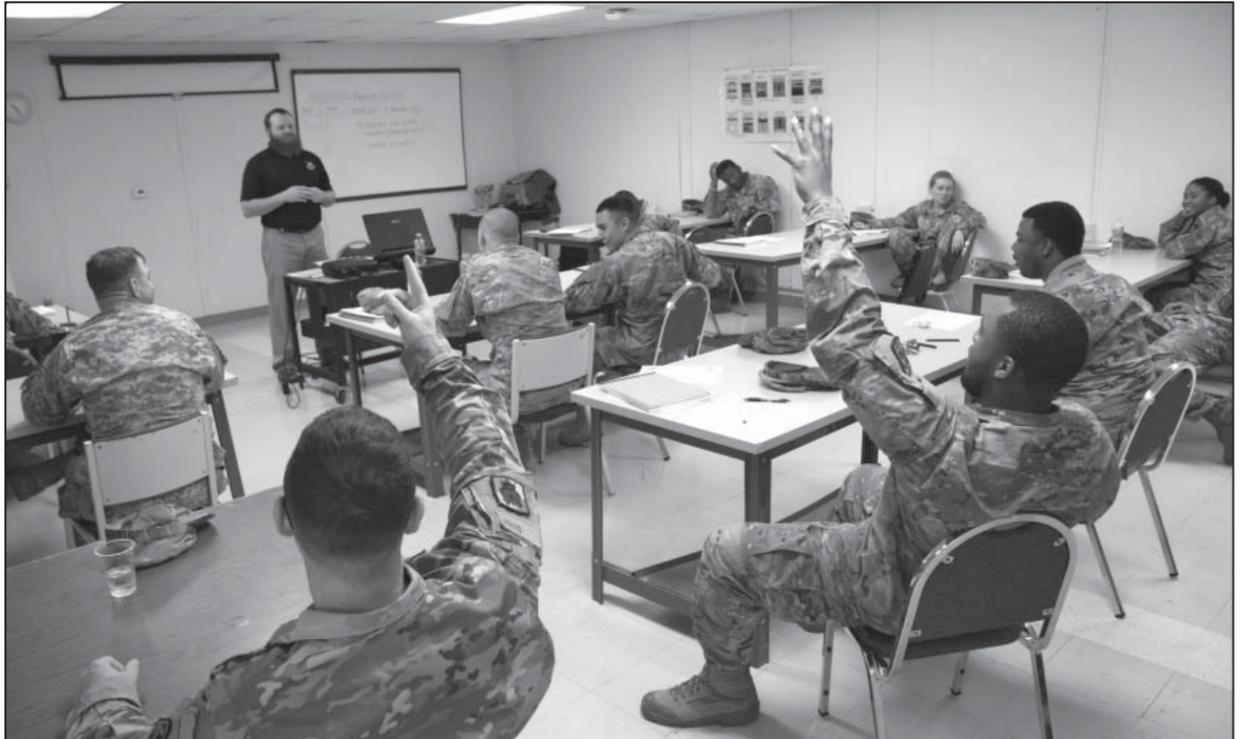
The keys to a successful campaign is to start planning early and establish a robust advertising strategy, according to Ceccacci. He also recommends trying new things and asking for help when needed.

"These annual fundraisers not only raise money for worthy causes, but awareness of CFC," Ceccacci said. "I'm proud so many employees came out to events to show their support."

Read the
TOBYHANNA REPORTER
on the depot's
Internet site.
Current and
archived issues
of the monthly
publication can be
viewed at



[HTTP://WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL/
LEFTNAV/REPORTER/REPORTER.HTML](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/leftnav/reporter/reporter.html)



Scott Teder, instructor, reviews topics with Soldiers in an ETA Fiber class. Soldiers and civilians across the Army can attain various certifications related to information technology through Signal University courses. (Photo by Justin Eimers)

Signal University provides mission-critical knowledge

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Over the past 12 years, Tobyhanna Army Depot personnel have taken advantage of a program providing Soldiers and civilians mission-critical knowledge, skills and certifications needed to carry out their jobs.

Managed by the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, the Signal University concept has grown from a small division of 10 personnel to a network of locations around the globe. Since the university's inception, tens of thousands of students have gone through courses ranging from A+ and Network+ Certification to Project Management Institute and Project Management Professional training.

Beginning in 2005 as the CECOM Training Support Division, several logistics assistance representatives at Fort Gordon, Georgia, developed an introductory information technology networking course. Signal Universities in 11 locations, including Hawaii, Kuwait and Fort Hood, Texas, were created four years later to expand the division's mission and enable greater access to certificate programs at major operational unit locations.

Chris Eckerman, information technology specialist in the C4ISR Directorate's Central Software Support Section at Fort Hood recently completed the CompTIA certification prep courses for Network+ and CASP (CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner). His experiences have provided invaluable and instant benefits.

"As an IT specialist assigned as a field software engineer, I can apply what I learned at Fort Hood Signal University directly to what I do on a daily basis to assist in securing the Army's networks," he said. Eckerman also completed the A+ Certification prep course in 2013.

Each university location is run by a Department of the Army civilian and a number of contracted instructors from several defense industry partners. Fort Hood Signal University supports all Army III Armored Corps units and is the largest site, comprised of five classrooms and dock space at a training facility where equipment can be hooked up for hands-on training. With all Signal Universities, as network technology matures and new capability is added, curriculum adapts so Signal Soldiers and civilians can receive up to date certifications and expertise on capability ranging from routers to wireless technology and cabling.

IT Specialist John Roberts said the program has brought him up to speed on critical programs and systems.

"The course I took at Fort Hood has allowed me to thoroughly understand our current page and operations," said Roberts, who completed the Microsoft SharePoint Designers Certification course in January. "I left the class with a feeling of accomplishment and competency thanks to clear and precise instruction." Roberts works in the C4ISR Directorate's Central Reset Section.

Signal University is shifting its focus as the Army continues its ever-growing cyber emphasis. The cyber network defender military occupational specialty plays a crucial role in cyber security and requires classes not currently offered at Signal University. To provide the necessary courses, mobile training teams are deployed to various university locations to meet demands. One of the required courses is the Cyber Digital Master Gunner course, a three-week program that focuses on the increasingly important fields of offensive and defensive network activity, such as hacking and scanning for enemy vulnerabilities.

"This is something we've really got to be on point with," said FHSU Commandant Jeffery Foraker, adding that the Army is looking to maintain a certain number of cyber DMGs.

Vendors have made certification tests more difficult in recent years to ensure Soldiers stay ahead of the technology curve. Foraker said this has effectively increased the significance of each certification.

"It has been a challenge for us to teach each class more effectively in preparation for the tests, but it has always been our mission to help Soldier's do their jobs," he said. "The Army values what we are doing and is starting to allocate more resources for Signal University," said Foraker.

Jonathan Jenney, a former 25N tactical systems operator with the 62nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, can speak first hand to the benefits Signal University provides. Jenney was working his way through the Senior Level Military Transition Assistance Program and was notified of an internship opportunity under Foraker at FHSU.

"There was an agreement between him and my unit commander to release me for six months to teach at FHSU as a Soldier-instructor," said Jenney. "It gave me an introduction to civilian life while providing the opportunity to take some classes while I was teaching." Jenney received his A+ Certification through FHSU and speaks highly of the experience.

Two additional Signal University locations are set to open this year at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and in the Republic of Korea.

Tobyhanna rewards Marine reservist for job well done

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

A Pennsylvania reservist recently received an Army award as a tribute to his accomplishments. He's a decorated Marine, family man and community service advocate.

Marine Sgt. Christopher Schell was named Tobyhanna's Warfighter of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2017 during a ceremony at a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey game last month. Schell is the shop chief in the Marine Forces Reserve's Motor Transport Maintenance Section, Marine Wing Support Squadron, 472 Detachment A in Wyoming.

Schell attributes his success to the motivated Marines who passionately care about performing their duties to the best of their abilities.

"The dedicated and outstanding Marines that I have had

the pleasure of serving with have endlessly pushed me to be a better leader and mentor," the sergeant said.

Schell is a diesel automotive mechanic by trade, but he also supervises the maintenance operations on the unit's tactical equipment. His duties remain the same whether performed here or abroad – ensure procedures are performed safely and properly in an efficient and timely manner.

The seven-year veteran is very proud of what he does for the U.S. Marine Corps.

"I serve in a critical role in ensuring the unit has available resources needed to accomplish the mission," he said. "It is an honor to provide this service to the Marines and units that I have supported throughout my career."

Coworkers say Schell consistently performs his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. For instance, the seasoned mechanic smoothly stepped in to fill the

supervisory role while still performing his regularly assigned duties, according to the unit's first sergeant.

"His [Schell's] actions ensure the motor transport equipment, valued at more than \$7 million, is kept in a constant state of mission readiness," said 1st Sgt. Shawn Kelly, adding that Schell is always taking advantage of opportunities to excel.

It won't be long before Schell adds certified High Intensity Tactical Training Instructor credentials to his list of accomplishments, along with the Combat Marksmanship Trainer and Coach certification.

A lot of hard work went into learning to be a proficient automotive mechanic and leader of Marines, according to Schell. "During my career I've gained knowledge and experience on managing the repair of tactical equipment and effectively employing mechanics to perform their duties in order to accomplish tasks and objectives."

While his performance within the scope of his military duties is nothing short of exemplary, Schell also serves his community selflessly, Kelly added.

It's not uncommon to see him organize, train and coordinate color guards and community events throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. Quite often he serves as the lead noncommissioned officer while detailed to provide honors during military funerals. Last year, the sergeant volunteered to support the Toys for Tots program and organized more than 40 events, which resulted in the distribution of more than 50,000 toys to families and nonprofit organizations.

"I love being a Marine and working in the motor transport maintenance community," Schell said. "My family is my primary means of support and my motivation to keep pushing myself to be a better Marine, father and husband."

Schell encourages all rookie warfighters to take pride in the work they perform. Even when no one is watching.

"I perform my daily duties to the best of my ability for the mission and the Marine Corps," he said, adding that someone took notice and nominated him for this award. "I honestly was just doing my job and whatever else I was tasked to accomplish."



Marine Sgt. Christopher Schell (third from left) was named Tobyhanna Army Depot's Warfighter of the Quarter during a ceremony at a Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey game. Depot commander Col. Gregory Peterson, far right, presided. (Photo by KDP Media)

Zardecki marks 55 years of service to country

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

What do you say about a man who has spent more than 55 years of his life in federal service and is now the longest-tenured employee in depot history?

"We're here to toast him but we're also here to roast him a little," said depot commander Col. Gregory Peterson during Frank Zardecki's 55-year Length of Service ceremony.

Zardecki, Tobyhanna's deputy commander since 1991, began his federal service in August 1960 as an airborne navigation equipment repairman in the U.S. Air Force. He served until July 1964 and joined the depot workforce in January 1966 as an electronic test equipment repairman.

Peterson recognized Frank's ascension through the ranks and his indelible impact on the depot.

"Frank has survived through 22 depot commanders, 13 since becoming deputy commander. Given his propensity to say what's on his

CAREER MILESTONE

mind, perhaps it's more appropriate to say that 22 commanders have survived him," said Peterson. "Frank is the continuity that the depot needs to succeed."

Zardecki, who has surpassed former depot employee George McClure's 55 years and two weeks of service, has a career highlighted with prestigious Department of Defense accolades. Perhaps most notable is the Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest civilian award given by the Secretary of Defense, which he received in 2013.

Zardecki's expertise in depot maintenance and operations makes him a sought-after resource for special assignments, task forces and panels throughout the Defense Department. Some of these assignments include serving as the avionics representative for the Army on Inter-Service studies, the U.S. Army representative to the Joint Depot Maintenance Analysis Group,

which analyzed DoD mobilization maintenance requirements, and a tour at the former Depot Systems Command to participate in the Logistics 81 study, resulting in the creation of the Center for Industrial Technical Excellence, or CITE, designations.

While he appreciated the recognition from Peterson and other depot employees during the event's special presentations, his remarks focused on the mission and the future of the depot.

"I like what we do and I like coming to work every day," he said, "but there's a lot to be done in the next few years."

He noted the challenges facing the depot and recognized the requirements for long-term success.

"This has become an extremely complex business, but two things I've always tried to maintain are modernization of the facilities and education of the workforce," said Zardecki. "I tend not to look back, I always look forward. I'm committed to this place."



Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki talks about his career, modernization of Tobyhanna Army Depot and his hopes for the future during a Length of Service ceremony at The Landing. (Photo by Jim Lentz)



If Tobyhanna Army Depot wants rain, it gets rain with the flip of a switch. Equipment being repaired or overhauled here will undergo water tightness testing at the rain test facility. The structure is adjacent to Building 9 and can simulate types of rainfall found anywhere in the world, from mist and gentle rain to downpour, to meet varying requirements of depot customers. The building boasts high-tech controls and pumps capable of producing the equivalent of 10 feet of water per hour. There are two 20-horsepower pumps and one 50-horsepower pump. Employees use a series of rack systems fitted with different-size nozzles to create precise conditions for each test. The facility is 82 feet long, 25 feet wide and 18 feet high; plenty of room for the Miniaturized Multiple Threat Emitter System, AN/TPS-75 Mobile Tactical Radar Systems, MPS-TI Radar Training Control vans, or AN/TRC-170 Tropospheric Scatter Microwave Radio Terminal. (Photos by Jim Lentz)



E X C E L L E N C E I N E L E C T R O N I C S

RAIN TEST FACILITY

AROUND THE DEPOT



Clockwise: Edward Pitcavage, finish inspector, makes sure nozzles are the correct distance from a shelter before it starts to rain in the depot's rain test facility (top right), which is used to check the water tightness of equipment repaired or overhauled here. Right, Pitcavage confirms specific nozzles are selected according to customer requirements. Pitcavage works in the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate's Quality Control Division.

NEW SUPERVISORS

Stephen Audritsh is chief of the Installation Services Directorate's Law Enforcement Branch. As chief he supervises police and security guards responsible for the security of Tobyhanna Army Depot. Prior to his current position, Audritsh was the director for plans, training, mobilization and security for the U.S. Army Garrison, Okinawa, Japan. He began his depot career in December 2016.



Audritsh

Audritsh served on active duty in the Army for 20 years, retiring in 1995. He spent nearly 29 years in Germany before taking an assignment at the former Fort McPherson/Gillem, Georgia, in 2004, and then assumed duties as director of operations in Japan in 2010.

His awards and decorations include the Commendation Medal, Achievement Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Superior Civilian Service Award, two Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and Civilian Achievement Medal.

Audritsh is a graduate of Pascagoula High School, Pascagoula, Mississippi. He received an Associate Degree in Sales and Marketing from Palm Beach College, Florida, and the University of Maryland Campus, Bamberg, Germany, in 1977. He is a member of Order of Saint Michael. Audritsh enjoys spending time with his fiancé and dog, golfing, fishing, and working in the yard.



CECOM rewards skills, abilities

One of Tobyhanna's former employees of the quarter took top honors at the Army Communications-Electronics Command-level. Coworkers agree Joan Hardenstine is a dedicated member of Team Tobyhanna. The secretary, known for taking on various additional duties, keeps the Production Management Directorate's Business Development Division running smoothly. According to the nomination package, Hardenstine is a critical support mechanism for the entire team, ensuring that everyone is aware of where they need to be and when they need to be there. Leaders and peers praise her ability to provide critical support to special events. She played a significant role during last year's Industry Day and Secretary of Defense co-sponsored Technology Showcase; most notably, seeing to the needs of hundreds of guests attending or participating in the events. Hardenstine is the division's last line of defense when it comes to ensuring documents are error free. Hardenstine will receive a CECOM Certificate of Achievement and her name will be engraved on the plaque displayed in the CECOM Headquarters office area. Her nomination was forwarded to CECOM when she won at the depot-level. (Photo by Jim Lentz)

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted. Information must be submitted via e-mail or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076. Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Voluntary submission of items constitutes individual's consent to publish personal information in all versions of the *Tobyhanna Reporter*. Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin. For information, call X58073.



CAR/VAN POOLS

Whitehall, Belfast, Windgap: 2 openings, van, contact Mark, X58944 or X57184, mark.t.glose.civ@mail.mil.

Jessup: 2 openings, nonsmoking, Jessup Park N Ride, contact Mel, X59178, melvin.g.roberts.civ@mail.mil.

Jim Thorpe/Albrightsville: 1 opening, nonsmoking, contact Brian, X55049, brian.g.hydro.civ@mail.mil.

NEW DIVISION CHIEF

Christopher Brooks is chief of the Installation Services Directorate's Information Management Division. He supervises employees who provide information management/information technology services for the depot.



Brooks

Prior to his current position, Brooks was the chief information officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Division in Virginia. He began his depot career in November.

Brooks served more than five years in the Air Force

performing air transportation duties while stationed at installations in New Jersey, Saudi Arabia and Germany. His decorations include the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

He graduated from Waynesville High School, Missouri, in 1992 and is working toward a degree in Information Management-Security. A proponent of education, Brooks took advantage of opportunities to attend classes at Abilene Christian University in Texas, North Central Texas College, Troy University in Alabama, and Utah's Western Governors University during his career.

Brooks enjoys basketball officiating, motivational speaking and history.

VLTP

The voluntary leave transfer program (VLTP) allows federal employees to donate annual leave to employees who have exhausted annual and sick leave because of a personal or family medical emergency. For details, call Rose Reppert, X55202. There are 24 active cases with eligible employees in need of leave donations. Employees who elected to have their names released are listed below.

Sarah Antonacci-Behrend, Risk Management Division, Installation Services (IS) Directorate.

Harvey Auten, C4 Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Leonard Bieble, C4 Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Robert Dusseault, Avionics and Sensors Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Marianne Fezza, C4ISR Maintenance Engineering Division, Production Engineering Directorate

Tina Fornwald, Business Development Division, Production Management (PM) Directorate.

Laura Gaudiano, Employee Development Division, Resource Management Directorate.

Hiram Gillyard, Integration Support Division, Systems Integration and Support (SIS) Directorate.

Christopher Hudson, Avionics and Sensors Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Jonathon Leek, C4 Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Thomas Littman, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Michael Lucia, Avionics and Sensors Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Charles Middleton, Field Logistics Support Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Thomas Minich, Avionics and Sensors Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Michael Murray, C4 Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Alicia Piercy, SIS Operations Division, PM Directorate.

Robin Pypiak, Purchasing Section, Army Contracting Command-APG.

Michael Rac, Quality Control Division, Continuous Process Improvement Directorate.

Michael Rand, Fabrication and Assembly Division, SIS Directorate.

Shep Shelden, C4 Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Michael Wartella, Avionics and Sensors Division, C4ISR Directorate.

Laura White, Community Services Division, IS Directorate.

Mark Williams, Program Management Division, PM Directorate.

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Adolfo Dojer	Industrial worker	D/SIS

RETIREES

Name	Retirement date	Organization
Abdeslem Houmina	Feb. 28	D/SIS

The Pearl Harbor attack, as remembered by the nurses who were there

by Katie Lange
Defense Media Activity

Teresa Stauffer Foster was strolling through a garden near Hawaii's Tripler Hospital on a quiet Sunday morning when a low-flying plane approached. The pilot waved in her direction, so naturally, the Army nurse waved back.

A few minutes later, the attack on Pearl Harbor began. Foster didn't realize it at the time, but that plane was one of the many Japanese bombers that pulverized U.S. battleships and aircraft.

Foster's is just one of many stories of military nurses who survived the attacks on Dec. 7, 1941, although you probably haven't heard them.

"You hear stories about Pearl Harbor, and they're all about the men. You hear very few stories about the women," said Winnie Woll, Foster's daughter.

Woll, 73, is actually named for two of her mom's best friends from Pearl Harbor, who were also nurses. She now gives lectures to spread the stories of how they were pioneers of their time, having joined the services long before the Women's Army Corps and the Navy's Women's Reserve program were established in 1942.

Rules for military women

When Woll's mother joined, there were stringent rules for the women who wanted to enlist.

"The women had to be single. The minute they were married, they were out the door," Woll said, noting that the need for more nurses eventually led to a rule change. "In 1943, that was the first time you could marry and still legally be in the military — until you had your first child. Then you're out again."

Foster was sent to Pearl Harbor six months before the attacks. On the morning of Dec. 7, she was walking with other nurses who had finished their shifts when that plane flew past.

"The man was waving at them. And you know what you do in a situation like that — you wave back, because you don't really realize what's happening," Woll said. They realized soon after that, though, and were ordered back to their units.

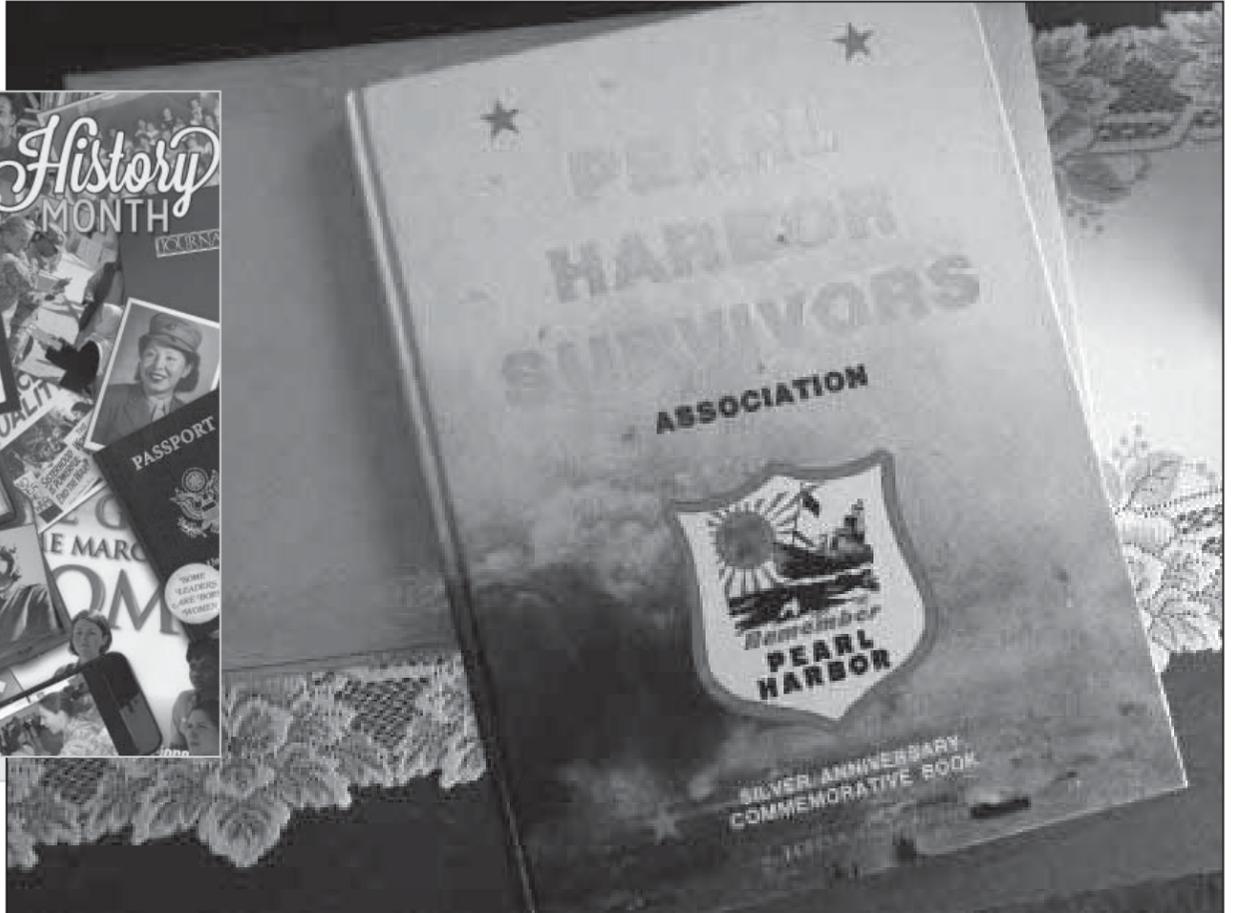
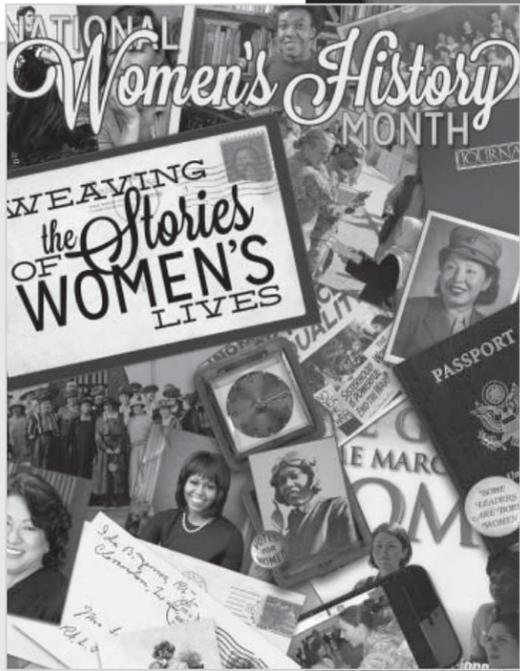
Woll said the nurses got to work helping patients who were carted in, often marking their foreheads with lipstick to help with triage. "If it was somebody they couldn't save, they had to put them off to the side and go on and work with whoever they could," she remembered.

Keeping the past in the past

In today's era of connectivity, when people constantly post their experiences on social media, it's hard to imagine a time when people were more reserved about their thoughts and feelings. But the World War II generation is well known for that kind of stoicism, with many of them never discussing what they went through.

"It traumatized them to the point where they didn't want to share what happened. They just wanted to forget it," Woll said.

She has made it her mission to give a voice to the stories of the Pearl Harbor nurses, one of which was uncovered only by accident.



Nurse Teresa Stauffer in her formal Army attire in the early 1940s. (Photo credit: Courtesy of Winnie Woll)



An unexpected discovery

Ann Danyo Willgrube joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1940. She was an operating room nurse on the newly commissioned hospital ship USS Solace when the war began.

But she never shared anything about her military life with her family. Her brother, Joe Danyo, who was 8 when Pearl Harbor was bombed, said he didn't even know she had been there until the late 1950s.

"She never talked about anything regarding her career," Danyo said. "She was a dynamo ... but she just plain refused to talk about the past."

So needless to say, he never expected to find a letter detailing what had happened to her that day. But he did, as he was cleaning out her house in the mid-1980s.

The letter was addressed to a high school student who was doing a report on Pearl Harbor and had discovered she was there during the attack. The teen wanted to hear her story, so it was then — in 1981 — that she finally decided to tell it.

Smoke, explosions, shaking ships

In the letter, Willgrube talked about being "the envy of all the nurses" because she was assigned to the Solace — a cushy assignment — only 18 months after enlisting. The ship arrived in Pearl Harbor in late October 1941 and was docked at Ford Island near several of the battleships. All was going well until 7:55 a.m. on Dec. 7, when Willgrube was jarred awake by what she initially thought was a boiler explosion.

"The ship shook, and everyone ran out on deck to see what happened. I looked out the porthole in my room and saw smoke pouring out of the [USS] Arizona," Willgrube wrote. "The next minute, our chief nurse burst into the room and told me to dress quickly and report to the quarterdeck for duty because the Japs were bombing us."



Ann Danyo (Willgrube) during her Navy Nurse Corps days. (Photo credit: Courtesy of Joe Danyo)

The Solace's nurses worked around the clock that day to care for more than 130 patients who were brought aboard, 70 percent of whom were burn victims. The nurses were too busy to worry about the roar of the guns, the shaking of the ship and the planes flying overhead.

The surprise attack destroyed the Arizona, the Oklahoma and the Utah, and damaged several other U.S. ships and aircraft. More than 2,400 people were killed, half of whom had been on the Arizona, which still sits at the bottom of Pearl Harbor.

It was the worst attack America had ever seen, but Willgrube said it took days to realize how bad it actually was.

"We were so thankful that the Japanese did not realize how they crippled us, because they could have taken over the islands had they known the truth," Willgrube wrote.

Passing the memories on

"We never had disaster drills, yet when we realized that we were actually at war, every person on board that ship seemed to know instinctively what to do," Willgrube said. "It simply proves how important discipline in the military is. It not only saves lives but wins wars, too."

Willgrube was one of the first women to become a Navy shellback, one of many firsts for her over the years.

"When I entered the Navy, nurses had no specific rank but enjoyed the privileges of officers. In 1942, we received relative rank, and in 1947, we were classified as Nurse Corps with the same rank and privileges as the other officers," Willgrube wrote.

After 27 years of service, she retired as a commander and married retired Medical Services Corps Cmdr. Wayne Willgrube, who was also aboard the Solace during the Pearl Harbor attacks.

Willgrube died in 1988 after a battle with Parkinson's disease.

President Trump vows to 'extinguish' ISIS, rebuild U.S. military

by Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump told a joint session of Congress that the United States will work with a coalition to “extinguish” the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria from the planet.

Trump also told Congress he will forward a fiscal 2018 budget request that will increase defense spending by \$54 billion and eliminate sequestration.

Carryn Owens, the widow of fallen Navy SEAL Senior Chief Petty Officer William “Ryan” Owens, received a standing ovation from Congress. Carryn sat in the gallery with First Lady Melania Trump.

“Ryan died as he lived: a warrior, and a hero — battling against terrorism and securing our nation,” Trump said during his address. The nation will never forget Owens’ sacrifice for the United States as he fought terrorists in Yemen, the president said.

In his address, Trump listed actions he has taken since taking office just over a month ago, including directing the Defense Department to work with other agencies to develop a plan to destroy ISIS. Defense officials delivered that plan to the White

House this week.

The president also imposed new sanctions on entities and individuals who support Iran’s ballistic missile program, ordered a review of military readiness and pledged to rebuild the armed forces.

“To keep America safe we must provide the men and women of the United States military with the tools they need to prevent war and — if they must — to fight and to win,” Trump said.

The fiscal 2018 defense budget request will rebuild the military and eliminate sequester, he said, and contains one of the largest defense spending increases in American history.

“The challenges we face as a nation are great, but our people are even greater,” he said. “And none are greater or braver than those who fight for America in uniform. To those allies who wonder what kind of friend America will be, look no further than the heroes who wear our uniform.”

America will lead based on the vital national interests of the United States and its partners around the world, Trump said.

“Our foreign policy calls for a direct, robust and meaningful engagement with the world,” he said.



President Donald Trump and Army Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, spend a few minutes with troops on their way to a news briefing at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Trump visited Centcom headquarters to discuss issues relevant to the command’s area of responsibility. (Photo by Sgt. Alan Belsler, U.S. Marine Corps)

The United States strongly supports the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other allies in the Middle East and the Pacific, the president said.

“But our partners must meet their financial obligations,” he added.

“We expect our partners ... to take a direct and meaningful role in both strategic and military operations, and pay their fair share of the cost,” Trump said. “We will respect historic institutions, but we will also respect the sovereign rights of nations.”

The United States will reach out to other

nations to find new friends and forge new partnerships, the president said. “We want harmony and stability, not war and conflict,” he said. “We want peace, wherever peace can be found.”

Trump noted that Germany and Japan — now among America’s closest allies — fought the U.S. during World War II.

“This history should give us all faith in the possibilities for a better world,” the president said. “Hopefully, the 250th year for America will see a world that is more peaceful, more just, and more free.”



Employees test assets that send signals, save lives

Ronald Pokorney, electronics mechanic, loads Duke primary assets into a Hanse Environmental Test Station for testing. The assets are part of an AN/VLQ-12 Counter Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare Duke System, which is a vehicle-mounted, lightweight system that neutralizes RCIED threats and gives U.S. troops a tactical advantage across the full spectrum of operations. The primary and secondary pieces of the Duke system contain components that produce and transmit a jamming signal needed to defeat an IED. Pokorney works in the C4ISR Directorate’s Avionics and Sensors Division. (Photo by Jim Lentz)

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had to work in subzero temperatures.

“But you get to see some new places and learn some new skills,” he said. “We have a very strong team; everybody knows what to do and when.”

Electronics Mechanic Ryan Yzeik echoed the weather challenge, but said he is “proud to give back to our military men and women”.

“The most rewarding part of this job is the end result,” he added.

Upgrades will significantly reduce operating space and improve the terminal’s power. The new 52B systems will support internet protocol and dedicated circuit connectivity within the DOD information network providing critical command, control, communication, computer, collaboration and intelligence capabilities. Installation of a fixed terminal here will let depot personnel recreate faults and failures of terminals around the globe and provide rapid solutions without having to send a team into the field.

Tobyhanna teams are installing AN/GSC-52B terminals and de-installing legacy systems in support of the fielding schedule for Product Director Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

John Flaherty, the Tobyhanna MET Installation Lead, says he is proud to lead an outstanding team and set new records in install times and quality.

“It is hard work, but I enjoy the team camaraderie,” he said. “The people I work with or work for me on site are outstanding. This work is strenuous labor, but the people assigned to me are outstanding. It is most rewarding to complete a system knowing we are supporting the warfighter.”

Fieldings are planned through fiscal 2023 at several other sites, including: Landstuhl, Germany, Camp Carroll, South Korea, Misawa, Japan and Wahiawa, Hawaii.

Editor’s Note: Parts of this story were taken from a MET article written by Justin Eimers and published in the July 22, 2016 Reporter. The C4ISR Directorate is recruiting volunteers to support the MET missions. For details, call John Nicholoff; X57272.