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Mel Roberts, left, shows John Ross how to program radio frequencies using a laptop inside one of the Army's new AN/MSQ-135 Mobile Tower System. Roberts and Ross are electronics mechanics assigned to the C4ISR Directorate's Surveillance and Reconnaissance Division. (Photo by Jim Lentz)

Depot upgrades newest product in Army's air traffic control portfolio

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

Technicians here are working on the newest product in the Army's air traffic control portfolio that uses the latest digital technologies to better support tactical aviation. The first three AN/MSQ-135 Mobile Tower Systems (MOTS) arrived at Tobyhanna Army Depot earlier this year, launching upgrade, overhaul and repair missions. In addition, the organic industrial base facility is slated to assume system sustainment once production is complete. The next generation tower system is replacing the aging AN/TSW-7A Tactical Tower, which has been in the field since 1976. The MOTS provides the joint force commander with a highly mobile, self-contained, integrated and reliable information system platform. Its modular tactical air traffic control (ATC) tower system is mounted on an armored family of medium tactical vehicles.

"We've been working side-by-side with program officials to develop processes for integrating an upgrade to the MOTS, a standard communications system called TOCNET® (Tactical Operations Center Intercommunications System)," said Mike Lombardo, logistics management specialist in the Production Management Directorate's ISR Program Management Division. "They wanted a commonality among all of their products and since Tobyhanna was already supporting the AN/TSW-7A it was a natural transition." Of the three MOTS on the depot, one was deployed to Southwest Asia and technicians are performing an overhaul, according to Lombardo. Another system that had been damaged is being repaired prior to upgrading the communications package. Sierra Nevada Corp. in Sparks, Nevada, delivered 10 versions of the company's MOTS to the Army under terms of a low rate initial production contract nearly three years

ago. All systems are scheduled for upgrade and will cycle through the depot between December and April. The organization charged with developing and supporting the Army fixed-base and tactical systems necessary to support the ATC mission is in the Product Manager (PM) Air Traffic Control. It supports Army airfields worldwide with tactical systems that enable safe operations of Army, joint and civil aircraft. ATC facilities, systems and support must be provided both at traditional airfields and forward-deployed battlefields. Each ATC platform must be able to communicate and interact with all aircraft, regardless of where the platform is located. Army ATC controllers track and direct planes, control airborne and ground traffic and process flight data. "Depot personnel are building the upgrade kits according

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Peers, supervisors praise
depot employees

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Around the Depot spotlights
mission, personnel

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Observance recognizes
Hispanic American
contributions

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News Notes

New division oversees IAVA mission

The Production Engineering Directorate’s new Software Sustainment Division is responsible for developing and testing Information Assurance Vulnerability Assessment patches for assigned systems. The organization consists of two branches — Cyber Services and Systems Test — which will employ about 50 information technology specialists when all positions are filled. Dan Soderberg is the division chief and Donna Askew will head the Cyber Services Branch. The branch chief for the Systems Test Branch has not been selected.

Fishing Derby open to public

There will be a free fishing derby from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Barney’s Lake. Participants 16 years old and older must carry a Pennsylvania fishing license and trout stamp. Registration starts at 7 a.m. Youth ages 2-to 15 will compete in the kids derby from 8 to 10 a.m. The adult derby follows from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The day’s activities include a raffle, refreshments, bounce house, arts and crafts, and music. Plaques and awards will be presented to the derby winners. For more information, call 570-615-5782.

FEGLI open season underway

The Office of Personnel Management Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) open season ends Sept. 30. Eligible employees can elect or increase their coverage. Subject to FEGLI law and regulations, the effective date for changes will be delayed one full year to the beginning of the first full pay period on or after Oct. 1, 2017. As a reminder, retirees can’t increase their coverage, even during an open season. No action is required for employees who are satisfied with their current coverage. For details, call X55108.

Prevention fair in October

There will be a Prevention Fair on Oct. 19 from 9 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Building 1C, Bay 1. The event will feature free health screenings, information booths, door prizes and giveaways. For details contact a member of the Tobyhanna Prevention and Wellness Team: Eva Granville, Paula Mesaris, Janine Yablonski and Sheila Opsasnick.

Correction

Thomas Crusier was incorrectly listed as retiring on July 31 in the Aug. 16 issue of the Tobyhanna Reporter. His retirement date is Aug. 31.

Well done!

“I have been participating in exercises all over the world for 20-plus years and working with a number of Global Command and Control Systems — Army field service representatives. One of the best I’ve ever worked with is David Pfendler, an information technology specialist in Tobyhanna’s C4ISR Directorate’s Field Logistics Division and stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Thanks to his support Warfighter Exercise 16-5 conducted at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was highly successful. He was definitely a key resource to the Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division.”

Boyd Brooks
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas



The difference between success, failure is a great team

by Col. Gregory D. Peterson
Depot Commander

As we approach the end of fiscal 2016, it is critical that we remain steadfast in our commitment to our customers. We do this by executing our mission to increase warfighter readiness by providing high quality products on time and within budget.

Tobyhanna’s workload structure has evolved significantly over the last several years. However, it is no secret our overall workload has declined in recent years.

In response to that, you’ve all worked hard to expand Tobyhanna’s portfolio. We routinely embrace every opportunity to communicate the criticality of the organic industrial base, and specifically, what you do each day.

The diversification of our C4ISR global support and your ability to adapt as a workforce has contributed to our success as an organization.

An adaptable workforce is also an

informed workforce who understands the business and decision-making process. Most of you have probably heard a lot of talk about the issue of carryover. As the discussions continue at all levels of the Army, it is our obligation to reduce carryover wherever possible. Thank you for doing your part to accelerate the execution of the workload in your respective areas.

Looking ahead, Tobyhanna is going to be busy. The strategic plan to rejuvenate our infrastructure sets the stage for future requirements and capability with a state-of-the-art facility. The modernization projects underway are worth over \$200 million. Continued investments like these will make Tobyhanna successful for years to come.

To determine the path forward, depot leaders will look at the overall health of the business, including the net operating result, or NOR.

The NOR is something we budget for and adds to our accumulated operating

result, or AOR. A positive AOR can help stabilize rates or absorb unplanned expenses. The strategic use of the NOR ultimately helps keep us competitive, ensuring we are the best value to our customers and Tobyhanna is their support provider of choice.

Another consideration for the NOR is an employee special cash award.

This year, in response to all of your hard work, the leadership at Tobyhanna would like to express our appreciation for your commitment to the mission with a one-time cash award to eligible employees of Tobyhanna Army Depot in fiscal 2016. You can expect to receive this award in November.

Thank you for all you do each day. Let us rise to the occasion in response to the ever-changing requirements of the warfighter and our mission at Tobyhanna. Your adaptability as a workforce is an advantage as we eagerly anticipate the many challenges of the next fiscal year.

Army Strong.

THANKS


Thank you to everyone at Tobyhanna Army Depot for the prayers and support following the death of my wife. Forty-one years is a long time to be married to someone then suddenly lose her. The love and support from each of you has helped me through this difficult time.

Don Nowalk and family

OBITUARIES

James Popovich, 62, died Aug. 24. He worked as a sheet metal mechanic helper in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate. His depot career began in September 2006. Born in Scranton, son of George and Madelyn Hildebrand Popovich, he graduated from

West Scranton Technical High School. Popovich earned an associate’s degree in tool and die making from Johnson Technical Institute. He was an Air Force veteran. Popovich is survived by his wife of 28 years, Dorothy, a son, three brothers, a sister, aunts, nieces and nephews.



Popovich

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, monthly publication for members of the Department of Defense.


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Depot employees exceed expectations, earn accolades

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Editor

A willingness to do more than what is written in their job description earned two depot employees accolades from peers and supervisors.

Robert Knecht and Jennifer Oustrich were selected asTobyhanna Army Depot’s Employees of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2016.

Knecht is the last guy looking for a pat on the back, according to Doug Stevens, chief of Systems Integration and Support Directorate’s Welding Branch. “His unwavering devotion to his team exemplifies strong moral fiber and character. He would rather see someone else or the team receive the praise,” Stevens said.

As a welder leader, Knecht makes sure employees on the shop floor have everything they need to do the job. Other responsibilities include making sure safety equipment is worn, procedures and guidelines are followed, and jobs are checked for quality compliance prior to inspection.

“This award means a great deal to me,” Knecht said. “I’m proud of what we make and what we do to support the warfighter.”

Knecht’s supervisor described him as a by-the-book kind of guy, which often results in the welding team producing a high volume of work while maintaining standards for quality and accuracy. The team worked at well over 100 percent capacity to help reduce carryover and backlog during the last quarter. And, under Knecht’s leadership, the shop maintains a 98.5 percent quality metric.

“Bob’s attention to detail, superior performance and customer focus has a direct impact on the branch’s on-time delivery rate,” Stevens said. “He cultivates strong relationships with personnel outside the shop to ensure mission success and

consistently puts others ahead of himself.”

Having worked at the depot for seven years, Knecht is known for his innovative ideas that help meet production targets and reduce backlog.

Once he applied his skills to designing and fabricating a point-of-use storage fixture to help personnel access and inventory shop tooling and fixtures. To reduce work stoppages, he worked with shop planners to screen jobs to make sure all parts were on hand before starting each job.

“Life experiences and interactions with other people have taught me not to take anything for granted and to appreciate everything achieved through hard work and dedication,” Knecht said.

Oustrich said she will value this award above all others because it came from the people she works with every day.

Her responsibilities as the branch

administrative specialist include securing prompt responses to organizational suspense dates, recording the hours worked by employees, assisting with travel and training plans, and keeping a watchful eye on the unit’s budget.

“Jennifer is always a pleasure to work with,” said Michael Sherin, the Production Engineering Directorate’s Air Defense and Counterfire Systems Branch chief. “Her cheerful, positive and professional demeanor is inspiring.”

As a secretary, Oustrich has had the opportunity to work on several details and accept temporary promotions that have given her a well-rounded view of how the depot works.

While working in a variety of offices she has learned patience, the importance of being flexible, and how to prioritize tasks and work with different types of people.

“I think it’s important for everyone to know that all the directorates can work together for one purpose,” Oustrich said. “In the end we’re all here for the same reason, and that is to help the warfighter.”

It’s common knowledge around the branch that Oustrich willingly takes on additional tasks and frequently volunteers to support charitable and youth programs.

“Her files are meticulously accurate and correspondences are professional and timely,” said Sherin, noting that Oustrich is regularly praised by coworkers. “She sets the standard for administrative personnel within the directorate.”

Oustrich considers herself fortunate because she’s able to do a job she loves.

“Of all the jobs I’ve performed, this by far has been by favorite and most rewarding one,” she said. “If you enjoy what you are doing you tend to do the best job you can.”



Welder Leader Robert Knecht, left, and Secretary Jennifer Oustrich were named Tobyhanna Army Depot’s Employees of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2016. The award identifies employees who are recognized as exemplary workers by fellow employees, and demonstrate the ideals of leadership, competency and service. (Photos by Jim Lentz)



Tobyhanna promotes prevention programs, crisis assistance available

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Editor

The Army is committed to the health, safety and well-being of its Soldiers, Army civilians and families.

To emphasize this commitment, the Army is joining the nation in observing September as National Suicide Prevention Month. This year’s theme is Enhancing Resiliency — Strengthening Our Professionals.

Each one of us has a responsibility and commitment to reach out and help fellow Soldiers, civilians or family members. Together, we will make a difference by helping those at risk and prevent suicides.

The Army continues to build upon the lessons learned and potential best practices from its ongoing Ready and Resilient campaign effort to reduce the incidence of suicide while building resilience, strengthening Army professionals and sustaining readiness.

According to Heather Fiedler, people frequently struggle with suicidal thoughts, ideas or gestures — what is referred to as parasuicidal behavior. Fiedler is a licensed mental health practitioner working in Tobyhanna’s Employee Services Center.



It’s important to know 500,000 Americans attempt suicide each year, she said, adding that suicide is one of the leading causes of death among all age groups. For ages 10-34, suicide is the second leading cause of death. For ages 34-54, suicide is the fourth leading cause of death.

Fiedler noted that some people consider parasuicidal behaviors as a weakness or deficiency within the individual. Well-meaning friends and family members may say harmful things like suck it up, get over it or shake it off. It is difficult to see a friend, colleague or family member in pain; however, dismissive words could shut down a source of support for someone in pain, she added.

“You need not understand your loved one’s pain in order to provide support,” she said. “Listening and being present for a loved one in pain could be the greatest gift you could give.” Acts of comfort include offering to call a behavioral health specialist.

Fiedler urges anyone struggling with parasuicidal behaviors to reach out. If you are unsure what to do or say, or how you can help others, call 570-460-4860 or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255).

Leaders will continuously execute activities and events that build resiliency, and promote education and awareness of prevention, intervention and training that support the Army Total Force Policy.

Army senior leaders expect commanders to conduct and ensure annual suicide prevention training as required in AR 350-1, continuously execute activities and events for Soldiers, Army civilians and family members that build resiliency and promote awareness of suicide prevention and intervention. Commanders can also and challenge and empower all members of the Total Army to build resilience, and then intervene and act when necessary to save lives, in order to strengthen the individual, their units and the Army.



Team Tobyhanna members are invited to help raise money for the annual Combined Federal Campaign. This year’s campaign slogan gets to the heart of what CFC is all about —Sharing is Caring.

Individual contributions can make a significant difference for a favorite charity and change the lives of others. There are several events planned to help maximize the depot’s giving potential.

For more information on how to make a contribution, call campaign chairs, Lori Smotryski, X56310, Anthony Ceccacci , X56631, or Beverly Foster, X58118.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Monday** — CFC kickoff will be in conjunction with the Post Restaurant Appreciation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 2nd Street between Buildings 2 and 3. If it rains the event will take place in Building 2-5.
- Oct. 12** — 5K Run and Fun Walk from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mack Fitness and Recreation Center. If it rains the event will take place on Oct. 13.
- Oct. 26** — Pumpkin Decorating Contest from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 1C-1 for first shift employees. Winners will be announced on Oct. 27.
- Oct. 27** — Pumpkin Decorating Contest from 5 to 5:30 a.m. in Building 1C-1 for third shift employees. Winners will be announced on Oct. 27.
- Nov. 8, 9** — Kickball Tournament from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Legends Field behind Building 11.
- Nov. 16** — Ice Cream Float Social from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. in Building 2-5 for first shift employees.
- Nov. 17** — Ice Cream Float Social from 5 to 5:30 a.m. in Café 4 for third shift employees.



Welder Robert Knecht uses the depot’s new Miller Dynasty 350 tungsten arc welder on a Blue Force Tracking windshield mount assembly. The Systems Integration and Support Directorate plans to purchase four new Dynasty machines. (Photo by Justin Eimers)

Better, faster, stronger: Machine improves weld shop capabilities

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Welding processes here are now faster, cleaner and more efficient thanks to a state-of-the-art machine helping Tobyhanna stay on the cutting-edge.

The machine, a Miller Dynasty 350 inverter, provides functionality the aging fleet of machines are not equipped with. Welding Branch chief Douglas Stevens says the new welder will help bolster the depot’s capabilities.

“Our welding workload is constantly changing. The equipment we have had for the last 10-12 years is sufficient but we needed to shift the focus on staying ahead of the technological curve,” he said. “This piece of equipment will allow our welders to do just that.”

The Dynasty 350 is a tungsten arc welder that allows operators to set the electrode negative (EN) and positive portion of the cycle up to 99 percent. This extended balance range allows for the arc to be fine-tuned according to base metal conditions in each application. If there is a heavy-oxide layer that requires more cleaning, that EN portion of the cycle can be lowered. If the bead is too wide and etching is seen at the sides of the weld, the operator can turn the balance up to narrow the bead and direct more heat into the part for a stronger, cleaner and more penetrating weld.

“Basically, we can refine every weld we do to almost any specification using the new machine,” said Welder Robert Knecht. “There is less set-up time and rework, which allow us to work faster and more efficiently.” Knecht works in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

An additional capability of the machine includes nine programmable settings which enable operators to switch between jobs without having to reset the system controls each time.

Stevens said the current fleet of Dynasty machines are quickly falling behind current standards and that Tobyhanna’s own standards require the most modern equipment.

“Welding machines have changed an incredible amount in the last 10 years. Since we added aerospace certification to our repertoire there has been a need to produce at the highest level of quality,” he said, adding that new machines help remove unnecessary stress from having to meet such standards.

Each Dynasty 350 costs \$9,500 and there are plans to have a total of four in the Welding Branch. Looking ahead, Knecht says the potential is promising.

“The new machines can be set up for robotic [automated] welding in the event we ever go from a job shop to a high-production shop,” he said. “That could open many doors down the road.”

MOTS from Page 1

to specifications in the modification work order (MWO),” said Logistics Management Specialist Christopher Terpak, SIS Operations Division.

Terpak explained the kits include parts that come from three sources. Some will be fabricated internally at Tobyhanna. Others will be purchased off the shelf by the depot while more will come from the customer as government furnished equipment.

“Progress was slow at first while we worked through some issues relating to the work order,” Terpak said. “Now that those matters have been worked out, we can begin releasing production to our systems and integration and support shops.”

The MWO also specifies that depot personnel will upgrade the system’s Humvees in the field.

The logistics management specialists



The communications systems on the AN/MSQ-135 Mobile Tower Systems are being upgraded at Tobyhanna. (Photo by Jim Lentz)

praised everyone for stepping up to meet this challenge. The MOTS project is a success because of their diligence and expertise. According to Terpak the engineering group has done an “excellent” job of getting all the master data updated and into the system. Lombardo revealed the

technicians have completed the necessary training to aid the depot’s transition from the antiquated 7A to the state-of-the-art MOTS.

“The best thing about the new system is its new computer-driven technology,” said Rick Sincavage, electronics engineering

technicians. “The tactical tower system is transitioning from analog switches to touch screen laptops.”

Team members including Electronics Mechanic Mel Roberts completed computer networking classes so they could work on the MOTS. Roberts has been working on the AN/TSW-7A Tactical Tower since 2006 and welcomes the opportunity to support the new system. New to the tactical tower workload, Electronics Mechanic John Ross said he likes working on both systems. He admits the MOTS is less complex and more user friendly.

“Everything is more cost effective and so easier to work on,” Roberts said, noting better access to components, doors instead of panels and a modular design. “I’ve watched units conduct training missions and it seems like the Soldiers are more comfortable with the new design.”



Electronics Worker Dave Horvath bundles a cable for the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS) diagnostic kit with the help of the perforated discs created using additive manufacturing. CROWS cables are unique and need to be fabricated by Tobyhanna. Horvath works in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Strategic Systems Cable Branch.



Left, Engineering Technician Mikael Mead uses a 3D scanner to capture data for reverse engineering purposes. The information is used to create drawings, 3D prints and manufacturing data. Above, Mead removes a model from the printer. Mead works in the Production Engineering Directorate's Design Development and Fabrication Division.

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



Additive Manufacturing

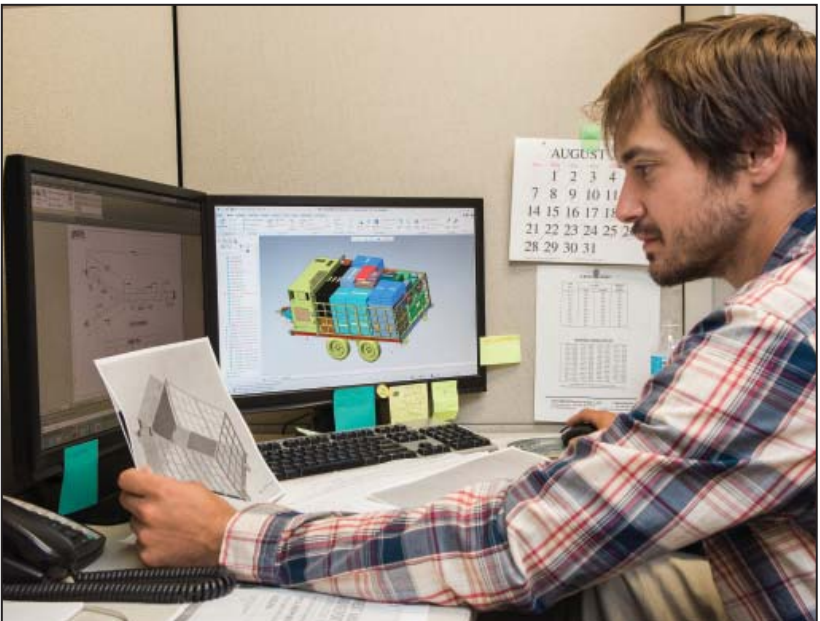
With the use of computer aided engineering, Tobyhanna Army Depot can offer additive manufacturing services. Personnel here use a variety of systems which reduces setup time, develops complex designs and creates multiple parts in one run. These services save money while encouraging modifications, new development and enhanced troubleshooting analysis. Laser scanning and 3-D printing helps design engineers produce engineering models, reverse engineer products and validate the design to manufacture products in days rather than weeks.

(Photos by Jim Lentz)

Left, Mead, uses a water pressure spray cleaning booth to remove excess material from a new 3D print.



Mechanical Engineer Brian Thomas shows how a 3D-printed replica of a power supply looks exactly like the real thing. The model was used to help personnel make design modifications while waiting for the actual components to arrive on the depot. Thomas works in the Design Development and Fabrication Division.



Engineering Technician Kyle Nepa uses a suite of computer-aided design (CAD) software to design and draw a system level assembly. The data will be used to create the 2D drawing package and drive manufacturing. Nepa works in the Design Development and Fabrication Division

New Director

Robert Haas is director of the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate.

As director, he supervises 100 people who are responsible for the creation and sustainment of a culture of continuous improvement and customer satisfaction through employee involvement and the application of innovative process engineering. Personnel also supported productivity enhancing techniques, Lean Six Sigma, best practices, preventive quality engineering and product quality control.

Prior to his current position, Haas was the chief of the Process Engineering Division. He began his depot career in June 1983.

Haas is a 1978 graduate of Scranton Central High School, received a Bachelor and Masters of science degrees in Electrical Engineering from Wilkes University in 1983 and 1999, respectively.

He is a member of the Association of the United States Army, Army Aviation Association of America, and St. John Neumann Parrish. His hobbies include fishing, gardening and running.



Haas

New Supervisor

Patrick Monahan is chief of the Installation Services Directorate's Facilities Engineering Branch.

As chief, he supervises 20 people in the Installation Planning and Maintenance Division who are responsible for repair, maintenance and modernization of depot facilities.

Prior to his current position, Monahan was a program manager in the branch. He began his depot career in August.

Monahan served on active duty in the Army for seven years and 31 years in the Reserves. He has held command and staff positions throughout the Pennsylvania and Maryland Army National Guard, including deputy director of operations for PA National Guard, and was deployed to Bosnia and Iraq.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters (OLC); Army Achievement Medal with one OLC; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two OLCs; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terror Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass, M device and numeral 2; NATO Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Air Assault Badge; Navy Unit Citation and Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal.

Monahan is a 1986 graduate of Scranton Central High School, received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1991 and is set to graduate with a Master's Degree in Strategic Security and Policy from the U.S. Army War College next July. He is a member of the Association of the United States Army, Military Officers Association of America and St. Eulalia Church in Elmhurst. His hobbies include sports and classic cars.



Monahan

Welcome to the Depot

Name	Title	Organization
Michael Aiello	Electronics engineer	D/PE
Gregory Bistran	Electrician	D/SIS
David Chang	Electronics engineer	D/PE
Mark Cuth	Secretary	D/PE
John Dalmas	Electronics engineer	D/PE
Joshua Diehl	Engineering technician	D/IS
Meghan Donohue	Electronics engineer	D/PE
Sara Dull	Program support assistant	D/C4ISR
Thomas Gerrity	Engineering technician	D/PE
Paul Grinold	IT specialist	D/C4ISR
Antonio Gutierrez	HR specialist	CPAC
William Lamond	Industrial equipment repairer	D/IS
Sara Link	Security guard	D/IS
Montelly Lopez	IT specialist	D/C4ISR
Salvatore Luzio	Civil engineer	D/PE
Jason Metzger	Electronics engineer	D/PE
Joseph Pieroni	Industrial worker helper	D/SIS
Matthew Powell	Writer-editor	D/PE
Jason Richardson	IT specialist	D/PE
Joann Shields	Secretary	D/C4ISR
Stephen Wencil	IT specialist	D/PE
Justin White	HR specialist	CPAC
Matthew Wiatt	IT specialist	D/C4ISR

RETIREES

Name	Retirement date	Organization
Thomas Cruser	Aug. 31	D/C4ISR
Chester Bogart	Sept. 3	D/PM

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 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. 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 details, call X58073.



CAR/VAN POOLS

Jim Thorpe/Albrightsville: 1 opening, nonsmoking, contact Brian, X55049.

Nanticoke/Hanover Twp: 1 opening, nonsmoking, van, leaves Tractor Supply store at 5:35 a.m., contact Ed, X55464.

Wind Gap: opening, contact Barb, X58116.

Wing Gap/Snydersville: 1 opening, nonsmoking, contact Bob, X58642 or Rich, X58905.



TRADING POST

Army Secretary Fanning: ‘We are a joint force now.’

by **Stephanie Slater**
TRADOC

Secretary of the Army Eric K. Fanning wants the nation at large to understand its Army better.

His intent is not a personal goal, but rather a mission he has directed the Army to undertake, he said during a recent visit to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Fanning's day began with keynote remarks at the Army Training and Doctrine Command Commanders' Forum.

In his remarks, he described his focus and priorities for the Army's way ahead, such as resourcing, building the budget, sequestration and hot topics on Capitol Hill, and he placed special emphasis on joint warfighting as well as transparency and communication across the Army.

“We are a joint force now. We rely on the Air Force. We rely on the Navy, but they all definitely rely on us,” said Fanning. “Where that joint fight comes together in so many ways is on the ground with the Army. We need to think about that and talk about that differently than we do and really embrace what we do in support of the joint force that nobody else can do in our military or any of the militaries in the world.”

Fanning discussed cultural strategies he has observed that could benefit the Army in the future as well as potential risks and opportunities that may arise from the upcoming presidential election, the Army's 2017 audit readiness requirement, and the merging of medical capabilities under the National Defense Authorization Act.

Addressing a question about how senior leaders can tell the Army's story as part of the Army's “Meet Your Army,” an outreach initiative, Fanning suggested that leaders tell stories “through the eyes of the Soldiers” to describe “all the amazing things that our Soldiers are doing.”

The secretary also spoke with senior leaders' spouses separately, during which he took note of and addressed

concerns that affect families. He also stressed his commitment to the Army's fight on sexual assault.

“We've done a substantial amount of work on response but not enough on prevention,” Fanning said. “I want to make the response part unnecessary and the prevention part right.”

Fanning discussed the relationship between behavioral health, suicide prevention and post-traumatic stress disorder, and he related an account of his recent medical visit to receive an elbow brace.

While many people don't hesitate to seek medical help for a physical ailment, he observed, that does not always seem to be the case when they are struggling with a mental issue.

“Most people's brains are more complicated than my elbow,” he said. “Why would we have a stigma attached in seeing a specialist for the most complex organ in the body?”

Fanning concluded his trip with a visit to the 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) located at Third Port, where he met with vessel crew members and Army divers of the “Army's Navy” to get a firsthand look at how they contribute to the fight.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Sherman explained to Fanning the capabilities of Army Vessel Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott (LT-805), a large ocean-going tug boat with the 73rd Transportation Company, .

“Recently, for the Navy we towed one of their tugs from Guantanamo Bay to Florida and we're going to tow it back in the near future,” Sherman said, noting how joint missions with the Navy provide savings for the sister service.

“We also did a barge mission for them towing equipment,” added Sherman, the most senior tug vessel master at the 73rd. “All told, we'll have saved the Navy about \$300,000 instead of using contracted civilian tugs.”

Hispanic Heritage Month : Time to pause, reflect on shared history

from the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

Commemorations such as Hispanic Heritage Month are a great opportunity to pause and reflect on our shared history as Americans, and to celebrate the rich mosaic of people and cultures who, together, built and strengthened our Army and our nation. This year’s national theme — Embracing, Enriching and Enabling America — aptly captures that spirit as we come together to celebrate all that Hispanic Americans have contributed to our nation and Army.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 50 million Americans identify as Hispanic. That’s 16 percent of the U.S. population, and a share of the population that is expected to grow. Through hard work, devotion to family, loyalty to community and country, Hispanic-Americans continue to pursue the American dream and at all times contribute to the strength, protection and diversity of our nation. They do, indeed, embrace, enrich and enable America.

Hispanic Americans also enjoy a unique and storied history in our Army — serving and fighting in every war since the nation’s birth.

Today, Hispanic Americans make up about 12 percent of the Army’s active component.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate these Soldiers, Army civilians, and family members who have contributed — and continue to contribute — to our force.

This month-long commemoration is unique because it begins in the middle of one month [Sept. 15] and ends in the middle of another [Oct. 15].

The reason for the mid-month celebration is because Sept. 15 is the day Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their independence day. Mexico celebrates its independence shortly afterwards on Sept. 16, and Chile Sept. 18.

The Day of Hispanic Heritage is celebrated across Spain and Latin America on Oct. 12.

As we celebrate this rich culture, let’s remember some of the contributions of Hispanic Americans throughout American history.

Did you know that Spain officially entered the American Revolutionary War in 1779? Under the command of Spanish Gen. Bernardo de Gálvez , the colonial

governor of Spanish Louisiana, volunteers from Cuba, Puerto Rico and Mexico defeated the British at Natchez and Baton Rouge by clearing the Mississippi River of British forces and putting the lower part of the river under Spanish control.

Baton Rouge remained in Spanish hands for the rest of the war, and Britain ceded both West and East Florida to Spain in 1783 under the Treaty of Paris.

During the Civil War, thousands of Mexican Americans volunteered to fight for the Union Army. Many of these Soldiers used their well-honed horsemanship skills to guard Union trains, chase bandits, fight Confederate raiders and defeat a Confederate invasion of New Mexico.

During Pickett’s Charge in the Battle of Gettysburg, a Union corporal named Joseph DeCastro attacked a Confederate flag bearer, seized the opposing flag and presented it to Union Gen. Alexander S. Webb.

Webb reportedly said, “...A man broke through my lines and thrust a rebel battle flag into my hands. He never said a word and darted back. It was Cpl. Joseph DeCastro, one of my color bearers. He had knocked down a color bearer in the enemy’s line with the staff of the Massachusetts State colors, seized the

falling flag and dashed it to me.” For his actions that day, DeCastro became the first Hispanic-American Soldier presented the Medal of Honor.

Since then, 45 more Hispanic-American Soldiers have been awarded the nation’s highest combat honor.

In World War I, a young Mexican-American Soldier, Pvt. David Barkley, volunteered to scout out an enemy position by swimming across the Meuse River in France. After successfully completing his mission, Barkley drowned in the river upon his return. He became the first Hispanic American posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Let’s fast-forward to the present. Congress directed a review of military records to ensure acts of heroism deserving of the Medal of Honor were not overlooked or rejected because of prejudice or discrimination. After years of review of thousands of records, 24 Army veterans

— 17 of Hispanic descent — were identified as having earned the Medal of Honor. There was evidence to show that these heroes fought for, and sometimes died for, a country that did not always regard them as equal. But that wrong was righted in 2014.

That tradition of valor and selfless service continues today. In 2011, Hispanic American Master Sergeant Leroy Petry was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service with the 75th Ranger Regiment during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.
As a weapons squad leader, Staff Sergeant Petry moved to clear the courtyard of a house that contained high-value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Petry and another Ranger were wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters.
Still under enemy fire, and wounded in both legs, Petry led the other Ranger to cover, only to have an enemy grenade land a few feet away. Without hesitating, Petry, moved forward, picked up the grenade, and threw it away from his fellow Rangers. As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, blowing off his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds. This heroic act saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed.
Despite losing his hand, Petry was one of a handful of Soldiers who returned to active duty after an amputation, where he continued to serve with distinction until retiring in 2014.

Master Sgt. Manual Mendoza served in both World War II and Korea, and earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on Oct. 2, 1944, in Mount Battaglia, Italy, where he is credited with single-handedly breaking up a German counterattack.

Pvt. Pedro Cano served in the Army during World War II. Cano was recognized for his valorous actions in the months-long battle of Hurtgen Forest. He was advancing with his company when the unit met heavy enemy resistance. During a two-day period, Cano eliminated nearly 30 enemy troops. While on patrol, Cano and his platoon were surprised by German soldiers and suffered numerous casualties. Cano lay motionless on the ground until the assailants closed in, then tossed a grenade into their midst, wounding or killing all of them.

Sgt. Victor H. Espinoza earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on Aug. 1, 1952, at Chorwon, Korea. Espinoza’s unit was pinned down by withering fire from fortified positions. Espinoza single-handedly silenced a machine-gun and its crew, discovered and destroyed a covert enemy tunnel, and wiped out two bunkers.

Master Sgt. Jose Rodela earned the Medal of Honor for his valorous actions on Sept. 1, 1969, while serving as a company commander in Phuoc Long Province, Vietnam. Rodela commanded his company throughout 18 hours of continuous contact when his battalion was attacked and taking heavy casualties. Throughout the battle, in spite of his wounds, Rodela repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to attend to the fallen and eliminate an enemy rocket position.

In a ceremony that was unique in scope - and one of the largest in history — President Obama presented our nation’s highest award for valor to three of those 24 men, and family members for 21 receiving the award posthumously.

From the American Revolution through Iraq and Afghanistan, Hispanic Americans have fought bravely for our nation. But their contribution to our Army goes beyond their time in service.

You see, our Soldiers — both past and present — are our connection to communities across the nation and to the Soldiers of the future. Most young people in our country do not know anyone who has served in the Army. They get their impression of Army service through movies and social media, and myths repeated by peers.

We need our Soldiers to go back to their communities and tell young people about their service. After all, the stories of our Soldiers are the stories of our country, and they are not limited or defined by race, religion or gender.

America’s diversity has always been one of our greatest strengths, as people of different backgrounds and cultures share their unique experiences and perspective to benefit all.

Together, we must continue to strive for equality and treat everyone with dignity and respect, no matter where they come from, what they look like or how they practice their faith. As our own Army Secretary, Eric Fanning, has said, “equality and inclusivity are not experiments. They are American values.”

This teamwork and unity contributes to Army readiness, which is the cornerstone that enables the Army to accomplish a full range of military operations in defense of our nation.

It is fitting that we pause to honor Hispanic Heritage Month and focus and reflect on how Hispanic Americans have served with distinction...how they have strengthened our Army team. This observance also gives us the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions of each of our Hispanic-American Soldiers, Army civilians and family members, who live by our core Army values every day.

Those core Army values continue to serve as a guide for the force, and in our celebration of diversity, provide a sense of common unity.

This past April, Puerto Rican Soldiers who fought with the 65th Infantry Regiment — famously known as The Borinqueneers — were presented the Congressional Gold Medal in ceremonies on Capitol Hill and in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The unit was active from 1899 to 1956. Today, the youngest of the surviving members are in their 80s and 90s.

The Borinqueneers were the first Hispanic unit, and the sole unit from the Korean War, to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The regiment is also credited with the last battalion-sized bayonet assault in Army history.

The unit is named The Borinqueneers after the original pre-Spanish word for Puerto Rico, Borinquen. Like the famed Tuskegee Airmen and other segregated U.S. military units, the Borinqueneers

were the largest, longest-standing, and only active-duty segregated Latino military unit in U.S. history.

In fact, the 65th Infantry Regiment was the last segregated unit in combat, and paved the way for the full integration of the U.S. Armed Forces. Despite the hardships of segregation and discrimination, they distinguished themselves in battle, serving with great courage, pride and distinction.

It was the Borinqueneers who fired the first defensive shots of World War I when an armed German supply ship attempted to leave the San Juan bay in Puerto Rico to resupply German submarines. The unit defended the strategic Panama Canal Zone during World War I and during World War II, the 65th again defended the canal, and saw action in North Africa and Central Europe.

During the Korean War, these Soldiers earned more than 2,700

Purple Hearts, 600 Bronze Stars, 250 Silver Stars, nine Distinguished Service Crosses and a Medal of Honor. More than 740 of them were killed in action and over 100 remain missing in action.

The first Hispanic-American four-star Army general, Richard Cavazos, a Mexican-American, got his start as a young Borinqueneer officer in Korea. There, he earned his first of two Distinguished Service Crosses, our nation’s second highest award for heroism.

As a company commander, then- Lieutenant Cavazos led his Soldiers through a raid on an entrenched enemy. They were overmatched, and ordered to withdraw, but Cavazos remained alone on the enemy outpost to search for missing American Soldiers. Despite being injured himself, he made three trips up an enemy hill to carry his wounded men to safety.



AT visit spawns unique training opportunity

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Soldiers from the 460th Quartermaster Company, Suffolk, Virginia, came to Tobyhanna Army Depot last month for annual training and left with even more than what they signed up for.

Initially, the Soldiers were scheduled to spend two weeks in the depot's Defense Logistics Agency doing supply work to satisfy annual training requirements. After taking in some of Tobyhanna's capabilities and recognizing another potential training opportunity, the unit's training non-commissioned officer asked for an on-demand class on the Trailer Mounted Support System (TMSS).

James Fina, senior instructor for the C4ISR Directorate's Readiness Training Branch, said the training reinforced the branch's purpose while providing valuable readiness for the Soldiers.

"The Readiness Training Branch was stood up for the purpose of bringing the training to Soldiers in the field, especially those operating the Army's Standard Integrated Command Post System. The only difference with this class is that it was held here," he said. "It is extremely rewarding to be able to explain the functions of the equipment and the

relationship the Soldier must have with it.

"Showing the purpose of the system and how it could affect a commander's decision emphasizes the importance of unity in a command post."

The TMSS, in cooperation with the command post platform, provide high mobility tactical operations centers that can be rapidly deployed for command, control and communications on the battlefield.

More than 10 Soldiers familiarized themselves with all aspects of the TMSS, including determining the best location for a command post, setting up the tent, proper networking and power distribution protocol, operation of the generator and various system configurations.

"Feedback from the class was extremely positive," said Fina. "The Soldiers commented that the information will be most useful when the unit is called upon for deployment."

The unit is part of the 275th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 55th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Clockwise, Training Instructor Jim Fina (center) shows Soldiers from the 460th Quartermaster Company how to set up the Trailer Mounted Support System (TMSS). Soldiers learned step-by-step how to unfold a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter, a quick-erect tent system that integrates shelter, mobility, lighting, heating and cooling into a comprehensive package. (Photos by Jim Lentz)



DLA welcomes new commander

Lt. Col. Jerome Barnard, above, assumes command of Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Tobyhanna Sept. 9 during a ceremony at the Mack Fitness and Recreation Center. Officiating the ceremony is DLA Distribution Commander Brig. Gen. John S. Laskodi. DLA Distribution Tobyhanna receives, stores and issues systems ranging from communications; command, control and computers; and intelligence/electronic warfare to satellite communications systems. Personnel also perform supply, storage, material movement and distribution responsibilities in direct support of the various missions at Tobyhanna. The organization also handles special electronics operations, such as an electrostatic discharge control program.(Photo by Jim Lentz)



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