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NEWS NOTES

Commissary survey goes live

The Defense Commissary Agency is conducting a survey through Aug. 1.

The online survey will be available at www.commissaries.com by clicking on the "take our survey" link or accessing the survey directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DeCA-Shopping-Survey>. Regular shoppers, occasional shoppers and non-shoppers are asked to participate; the survey takes only 8-12 minutes to complete.

Correction

John Paszko, Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Electronic Services Division, was incorrectly listed in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program column printed in the April 21 issue of *The Reporter*. He is not participating in the program at this time.

Find furlough info on intranet

Information regarding planning for the furlough can be found on the depot intranet page. The link, titled "Administrative Furlough Reference Documents," is on the right side of the intranet home page.



Left, electronics mechanics Anthony Dennis and Robert Slater conduct a system performance check on a Air Force Unmanned Threat Emitter (UMTE) training system after it was overhauled and reassembled. Site acceptance testing for the first overhaul was performed at a remote training range in the Alaska wilderness. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

Tobyhanna overhauls Air Force training tool

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

It was 20 degrees below zero when personnel fielded Tobyhanna Army Depot's first overhauled Unmanned Threat Emitter (UMTE) training system at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Overhaul work on the Air Force UMTE systems began in November 2011, with the first system being completed in February. Personnel are working on three more systems, each at different phases of the repair process, in the Tactical End Item Repair Facility.

The UMTE is an U.S. Air Force aircrew training system that is environmentally rugged, unmanned and remotely operable. It is capable of radiating threat signals that simulate surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery radar, and can be airlifted to various training sites. There are 35 systems in the inventory, 16 of which reside on

the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC). The JPARC is the world's largest instrumented air combat training range with over 67,000 square miles of airspace and is the venue for RED FLAG-Alaska.

The UMTE and other systems overhauled by Tobyhanna are an important part of providing realistic Electronic Warfare (EW) training to all branches of the U.S. military and our Allies, according to John Karish, range engineer assigned to Eielson's 353 Combat Training Squadron.

Overhaul has two main components – electrical and mechanical. Electrical repairs include diagnosing equipment failures and replacing defective components. Mechanical repairs include full restoration to like-new condition. The repair process includes sandblasting, cleaning, priming and repainting of an asset.

Employees also remove all the system components and test and repair all internal wiring and cable harnesses.

"The overhauled system must not just transmit signals," Karish said. "The system must transmit very closely defined signals in order to provide aircrews a realistic EW environment."

According to Frank Wanat, the support from a number of depot shops has been "outstanding." He explained that the new workload started with a repair cycle time of 365 days with the goal of decreasing it to 200 days. In addition, projected figures indicate the Air Force will cut their overhaul costs considerably by transitioning from the original equipment manufacturer to organic sustainment at Tobyhanna.

Teamwork is the key to the continuing success of this program, Wanat explained.

"If the work performed on this first system is any indication of what we can expect in the future, we'll be able to reach our goal in no time," he said, adding that

See UMTE on Page 8

Moving repair line stabilizes process

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Around the Depot spotlights employees, mission

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HAZMAT packaging wins award

Page 7



Data thieves see smartphones as way to get personal info

by Nick Pollarine
Information Technology Specialist

Smartphones are big sellers in the cell-phone market. They can perform many of the functions of a personal computer, and like the computer, you need to keep the phone secure. Here are a few tips to keep the device safe from data thieves:

- Set your pin and password to prevent unauthorized access to the phone's home screen. Setting up a password or pin that only you know, will prevent others from using your phone without your knowledge. Set your smartphone to lock after five minutes when it is idle.
- Do not modify the smartphone's security setting. Modifying the built-in security setting is called "jail breaking." This undermines the phone's security and it

makes the phone easier to attack.

- Back up and secure your data. You should back up all the data stored on your phone such as your contacts, documents and photos. These files can be stored on your computer, a removal storage card or in the Cloud, and can easily be restored if the phone is lost, stolen or erased.
- Only install applications (apps) from trusted sources. Before downloading an app, make sure it is legitimate. Check with the apps store to make sure the software you're downloading is from a trusted source. Remember that apps downloaded from unreliable sources may contain malware that can and will steal personal information.
- Understand an apps permissions before accepting them. Be very cautious about granting an app access to personal information or allowing it to perform

functions on your phone. Check your phone's privacy settings for each app.

- Install security apps that enable remote location and wiping in the event your phone is lost or stolen. A good security feature available on smartphones is the ability to remotely locate and erase all the data stored on the phone, even if it's GPS is off. These apps can also help you find your phone.
- Accept updates and patches to your smartphone's software. Your smartphone is like a computer, it needs to be updated and patched to keep it secure and working correctly. Always let your phone provider update your phone.
- Be smart on Wi-Fi networks. Your phone is an easy target for cybercriminals on public hotspots. Use a trusted Wi-Fi source from your phone provider to reduce the chance of putting your data at risk.

Never provide any login or personal account information on public Wi-Fi networks.

- Wipe the data on your old phone before you donate, resell or recycle it. Your smartphone contains personal data that you want to protect. When you get a new phone return the old one its original factory setting before you donate or sell your phone.
 - Report a stolen smartphone. The wireless service providers have a stolen phone database. If your phone is stolen, you should report the theft to your local law enforcement authorities and then register the stolen phone with your wireless provider. This will allow the wireless provider to prevent the phone from being reactivated and placed back on the cell network.
- For more informaton, contact me, X59392 or Charles.N.Pollarine.civ@mail.mil.

Spa Day pampers military spouses

Military spouses representing nearly every branch of the service attended Tobyhanna Army Depot's Military Spouse Appreciation Spa Day at The Landing May 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The goal of the day's activities is to help participating spouses deal with separations, schedules and stress. "I want to thank Nicole Nelson and the base commander for extending an invitation to the Marine spouses of India 3/14 [3rd Battalion, 14th Marines Battery II]" said Kimberly Hall, wife of Gunnery Sgt. Jason Hall. "An event like this is exactly what military spouses need to get through tough deployments, crazy training schedules and everyday stress that this wonderful life we live can throw at us." Service providers from several local businesses offered a variety of spa treatments to the 32 spouses attending the seventh annual event. Below, Tihara Brooks unwinds during her manicure while new mom Laura McMann relaxes during a facial. Individuals from the Bon-Ton, Empire Beauty Schools, McCann School of Business and Technology, Pocono Medical Center and Geisinger Health Systems provided makeovers, facials, manicures, foot reflexology, massages, and health and wellness consults. The day concluded with a luncheon. Spa Day, according to Nicole Nelson, is designed to provide a respite for the spouses; even complimentary childcare is provided by the depot's Child Youth and School Services. Nelson, the Community Services Directorate's Army Family Team Building program manager, dubbed the event a huge success based on the comments of several of the spouses. Christina Salisbury said she "relaxed away her worries." Sandra Doyle took part in last year's event and said this year's affair was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. "This is a wonderful experience," said Charlene Sterner whose husband is a member of the Coast Guard Reserve. And Mary Lou O'Hara's spoke for the group when she said, "as always, a great time." (Photos by Tony Medici)



TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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TEAM TOBYHANNA

EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONICS®

Work force improves AN/TRC-190 radio repair process

by Amanda Spock
Productivity, Improvement and Innovation Directorate

Lean improvements made to an Army radio system's repair process are becoming the model for all shelter system repair methods used at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

As part of the depot's overall Lean strategy, the Shelter Enterprise Value Stream's moving repair line was established to stabilize and standardize the AN/TRC-190 High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) Radio Terminal Reset process. The moving line is made up of a series of sites each shelter progresses through until the process is completed. The moving line has the shelter moving to the employee rather than the employee moving to the shelter.

The movement of the line establishes a choreographed work flow that sends a powerful visual signal regarding the progress of the repairs, according to Lorraine Henry-Hunt, Communications Systems director.

The AN/TRC-190 is a multi-channel radio that has the capability to link point-to-point ultra high frequencies with nodes of the Mobile Subscriber Equipment communication system. When paired with the AN/TRC-170 Tropospheric Scatter Microwave Radio Terminal, it can be used in over-the-horizon voice and data communications.

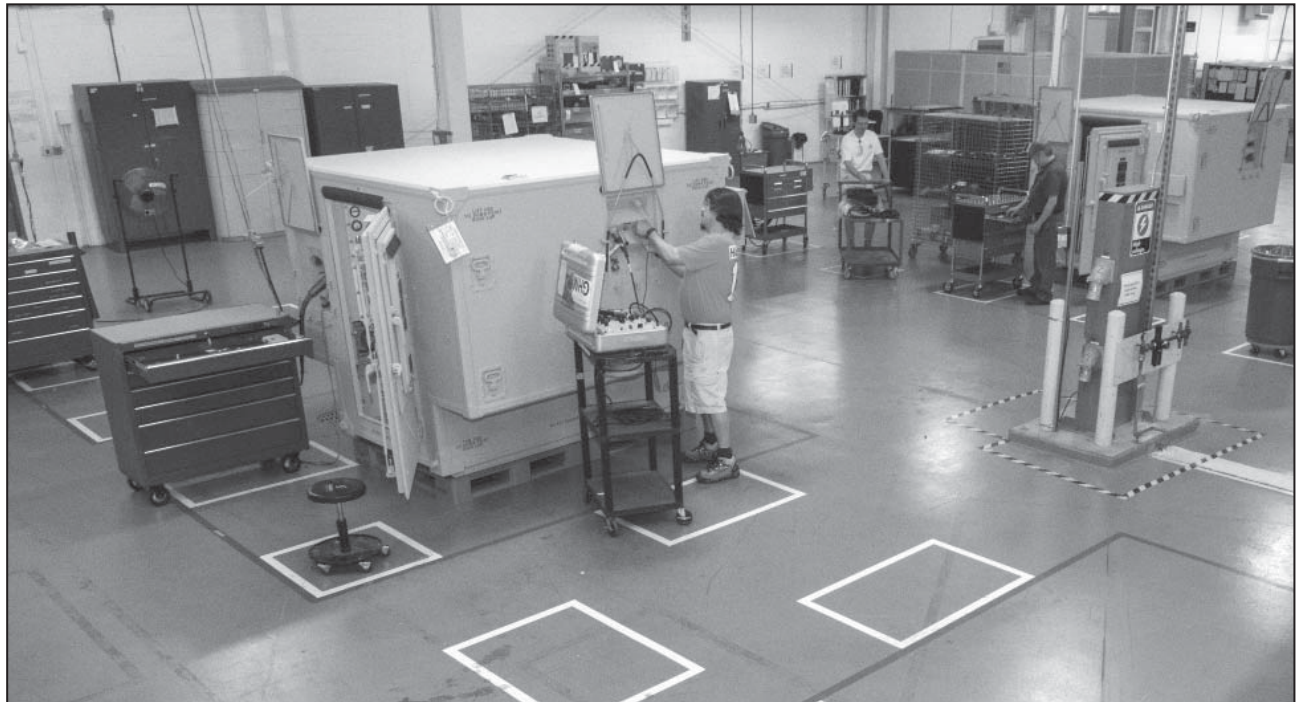
Various improvements were implemented to stabilize and standardize the AN/TRC-190 Reset processes, including standard work/key point sheets, standardized inspection checklists, a central kitting area and kit cages, point-of-use material, process tool boxes, visual management, and production control board.

First-hand observations of the work showed opportunities to balance the workload among each major step in the process. A standard work checklist for the inspection of the system helped eliminate variations in the inspection process and ensured both the shop and quality were on the same page.

The changes were welcomed by employees, noted Henry-Hunt. "Without their teamwork and cooperation none of these improvements would have been possible."

"The entire shop was involved in the development of the process from cradle to grave," said John Morcom, electronics worker in the Communications Systems (CS) Directorate's Digital Group Multiplexor/Mobile Subscriber Equipment Branch. "Prior to the improvements, the overhaul process was unorganized and contained no standardization; everyone was doing their own thing."

Morcom pointed out that a lack of standards resulted in high queue times, excess material and long distance travel between the shops. By introducing point-of-use materials,



Tobyhanna Army Depot employees have created a moving repair line to balance workload among each major step in the AN/TRC-190 High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) Radio Terminal Reset process. These Lean improvements will stabilize and standardize repairs made to the Army radio system and become a model for all shelter system repair methods at the depot. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

excess inventory decreased and a cost avoidance of \$205,225 was achieved.

The improvements allow the workforce to respond quickly to process constraints and produce high-quality products faster and at a lower cost, added Morcom. "The biggest improvement is the quality of the product going out the door," he said, "and that is one of the greatest achievements we could ask for."

A new strategy led the repair team to deliver [or pull] shelters based on demand instead of scheduling production [day-to-day] to meet anticipated demand and then pushing them through the process.

Shortly after the moving line was set up in the Tactical End Item Repair Facility, direct labor hours decreased by more than 20 percent and travel distances were cut by 75 percent. In some cases, in-process queue times were reduced by as much as 10 days, which reduced work-in-progress.

Employees have processed 60 systems so far this year and are seeing vital improvements already, noted Morcom. Tobyhanna has been working on the AN/TRC-190 Reset mission since 2007.

"Streamlining the organization made things easier and reduced non-value added work," said Frank Wallick,

electronics mechanic, Voice Communications Division. For example, he noted that before the process improvements, all parts came in one large box, with smaller parts (typically used first) on the bottom. "Time was wasted sorting through all the parts."

Tom Styer agreed. "I was happy to see other organizations become more involved in the parts process. It definitely made the process faster by not having to sort through all the parts." Styer is an electronics mechanic leader in the Voice Communications Division.

Overall, employee dedication to continuous improvement has cut costs for the depot's AN/TRC-190 radio support mission.

"Making this vision a reality would have never been possible if it wasn't for the dedication and experience of the technicians involved," said John Scott, process improvement specialist, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

"This team of dedicated individuals constantly looks for the best ways to support Tobyhanna Army Depot, the customer and the Soldiers in the field," said Henry-Hunt. "Success with this system shows the moving repair line is an improvement we should apply to all sheltered systems. That's what an enterprise approach is all about."



The Defense Imagery Management Operations Center Visual Services Center team at Tobyhanna Army Depot. Front row left to right: Janet Richline, Kathy Hawk, Jo-Ann DeLibero, Terri Clark, Maureen Kelly, and Dr. Shelly Reynolds. Second Row left to right: Vince Rotell, Maureen Marchak, JoAnne Zelinka, Lisa Wesneski, Donna Dudley, and Charles Bell. (Courtesy photo)

Tenant organization takes 1st place for teamwork

The Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC) Visual Information (VI) Service Center, a tenant activity here, won first place in the 2013 Government Customer Contact Services Excellence Awards, Team Excellence Category.

The annual awards are presented on behalf of the Cgov Community of Practice, which has a global base of participation of about 5,000 across federal, state and local governments, including the military.

Defense Visual Information (DVI) operates the DIMOC to support the Department of Defense and other federal agencies with visual information products and services, receiving, processing and managing customer requests.

The DIMOC Visual Information (VI) Service Center processed 10,104 customer requests, received and processed 77 new VI production multimedia programs, and duplicated and distributed 41,346 media products.

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/ABOUT/NEWS/REPORTER.HTML](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/about/news/reporter.html)

Depot, DLA target excess, dormant materiel for disposal

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

For years, military assets have moved in and out of Tobyhanna Army Depot at the direction of customers from every branch of the service.

Tobyhanna has partnered with DLA Distribution Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, a tenant organization here, since the early 1990s to receive, store and issue a wide range of military systems. Over time, materiel has accumulated in outside storage areas, resulting in rows of excess equipment and dormant stock taking up space that could be used to store new revenue-generating workload.

Members of a Lean team, representing the depot and DLA, conducted a rapid improvement event (RIE) and earmarked over 100 items for disposal — an effort that will clear more than 48,000 square feet of space [about the size of a football field].

Military systems are normally repaired and returned to the customer or placed in storage until needed to meet mission requirements.

“We’re pleased with the outcome of the event,” said Kimberly Appel, process improvement specialist, Productivity, Improvement, and Innovation Directorate. “We’ve got the support of the services buying in and getting rid of dormant stock.”

Within three years, the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) has reduced stock stored here by nearly 40 percent, according to Bryant Anderson, CECOM Field Office chief.

“This was a long overdue event,” Anderson said. “Accurate property accountability records are vitally important in order to make appropriate disposition decisions.”

He explained that some of the assets targeted by the team were not on record, which made it more difficult to determine disposition.

The removal of items from the installation is a complex and lengthy process, and it could take up to 18 months to complete. Part of the process even includes other services bidding on the items before disposal.

Item managers direct the disposition of materiel by submitting a disposal requisition, which DLA Distribution Tobyhanna and DLA Disposition will execute upon receipt. Tobyhanna manages special handling requirements, i.e. hazardous materiel and demilitarization (DEMIL) efforts. All funding is provided by the customer, according to Appel.

Anderson pointed out that despite everything involved in divesting assets, eliminating unneeded stock from storage is a relatively easy way to avoid extraneous costs.

Officials here have provided written requests for disposition instructions, along with photographs showing the condition of the assets, to individual item managers. Included in the correspondence is a report listing projected storage costs for the next 10 years, estimated costs of disposal, plus the amount of money already spent on storage fees.

“We’re hoping the customers will agree with what we’re trying to accomplish,” said Arlene Scutt, distribution facility specialist for warehousing for DLA. She noted that the assets identified for disposal are considered major end items — shelters, humvees, vans and cargo trailers.

The goal of the RIE was to reduce dormant stock and assets found on the installation by 25 percent. The team identified assets for disposal, resulting in a



Henry Klimek, rigger worker, DLA Distribution Tobyhanna, checks the readiness condition of military assets held in storage at Tobyhanna Army Depot. (Photo by Kimberly Appel)

cost avoidance of \$255,509.

“CECOM and DLA Disposition were immediately able to dispose of 7,699 square feet during the Lean event,” Appel said.

Supply condition codes are used to classify materiel in terms of readiness for issue and use, or to identify actions underway to change the status of materiel. When materiel is determined to be in excess of approved stock levels or no longer serviceable, supply condition codes A through H and S are used to reflect

materiel condition prior to turn-in to DLA Disposition.

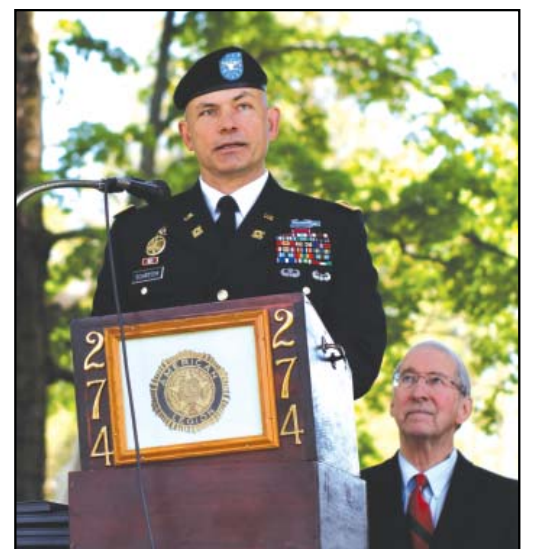
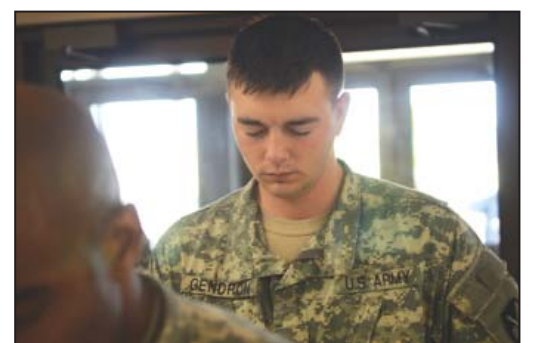
In addition, DEMIL codes are assigned to an item by the item manager when all military presence or function needs be removed from a system.

“It was great to see the partnership of the two agencies working hard to provide better support to the warfighter,” said Keith Weinschenk, lead process improvement specialist. “Problems were identified as a team and solved as a team.”



Honoring those who died in the Nation’s service

Clockwise, Tony Ferreira, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1647 (left), and Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki place a wreath honoring deceased Tobyhanna Army Depot employees and their family members during a Memorial Day observance ceremony May 23. Soldiers assigned to the High Tech Regional Training Site-Maintenance, located at the depot, also participated in the ceremony. Of the three wreaths displayed during the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Juan Rocha and Kelvin Spencer placed the wreath in remembrance of the nation’s war dead, and Joe Homza and Adam Chase placed a wreath honoring veterans. A detail of depot police officers led by Lt. Jim Vones provided a rifle volley salute to all those honored and Shelly Sherman played Taps to close the event. Col. Gerhard P.R. Schröter, depot commander, spoke to hundreds of spectators during Gouldsboro’s Memorial Day event on May 27. (Photos by Tony Medici and Kelly Schröter)



Satellite Data Cable Branch

Systems Integration and Support Directorate

The branch's 41 employees fabricate cables — simple data cables to complex wire harnesses. They also build test sets like the Versatile Data Automated Test Station (VDATS), and complete test kits, which include cables, adaptors and identification boxes, for the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS). Last year, employees built over 150,000 Blue Force Tracking cables.



EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

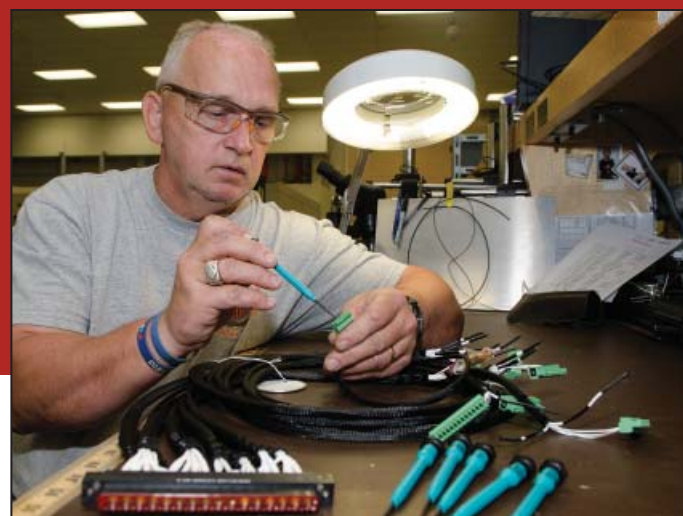
AROUND THE DEPOT



Brian Schultz, electronic mechanic, installs cables in the Versatile Data Automated Test Station (VDATS) test set. VDATS is the Air Force member of the Defense Department's Families-of-Testers.



Anthony Tolerico, electronics technician, tests a SATCOM cable using the Drive In Theater Manufacturing Company (DITMCO) test set.



Ken Kurilla, electronic mechanic, fabricates a VDATS cable assembly.



Matt Check, electronics technician, sets up the Schleuniger Crimp Center to mark and strip wires for the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS) identification box.



Scott Capman, electronics technician, bundles CROWS cables.



Kurilla fabricates a VDATS test set.

Photos by
Steve Grzezdinski

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 to jacqueline.r.boucher.civ@mail.mil, 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 Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



VAN/CAR POOLS

Lansdale/Quakertown/Mahoning Valley: 3 openings, 8 passenger van, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., nonsmoking, stops along I-80 and I-380, call Dave Siegle, X57210.

Stroudsburg/Bartonville/Delaware Water Gap/New Jersey: openings for a new van pool or existing carpool, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift; nonsmoking, call Robin, X57345.

Scranton: 1 opening, 6 passenger van, 5/4/9, runs both Fridays, A-Placard, non-smoking, house-to-house pickup, call Bob, X58867.

Whitehall/William Penn Hwy/Wind Gap: 3 openings, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., non-smoking, 8 passenger van, call Chris or Nathan, X58834.

Lakeville/Ledgedale/Greentown/Newfoundland: 5/4/9, first Friday off, call Shep, X58947.

Dupont/Avoca/Moosic: 2 openings, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., call Kay, X56805.

Clarks Summit/Dickson City: 3 openings, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, call Leo, X57416.

Olyphant/Peckville/Jessup: 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., possible house-to-house pick up, call Lisa, X57438.

Hawley/Greentown/Newfoundland: 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, call Bruce, X58360, or Rose, X55123.

Allentown: 2 openings, 5/4/9, runs both Fridays, nonsmoking, south mall area, call Eduardo Estrada, X58751.

Exeter/Wyoming/West Pittston/Pittston: 1 opening, 5/4/9, runs both Fridays, nonsmoking, call Denise, X57314, or Jeff, X56635.

Meshoppen/Tunkhannock/Factoryville/Dalton: 1 opening, A placard, 5/4/9, second Friday, nonsmoking, call Tom, X58736.



A proud tradition of service

Tobyhanna Army Depot personnel participated in Scranton's annual Armed Forces Day Parade. Also representing Tobyhanna in the parade were members of the children and youth services group, Tobyhanna chapter of the Association of the United States Army, Tobyhanna Veterans Council, plus retirees, and depot employees and family members. (Photo by Jennifer Roberson)

MilUniversity adds to Army online learning opportunities

by Argie Sarantinos-Perrin
PEO C3T MilTech Solutions

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — A new learning portal provides enhanced training and access to Department of Defense professional networking tools.

Developed by the Army's Military Technical (MilTech) Solutions Office, milUniversity bridges the gap between how people prefer to learn — those who enjoy attending training classes, but may have questions afterward, and those who prefer to learn at their own pace by reading text and viewing videos.

"At the end of the day, people want to learn how to use each of these tools to make their jobs easier and better," said Claudia DeCarlo, deputy director of MilTech, which is assigned to the Program Executive Office Command, Control and Communications-Tactical.

Within the first 10 days of its release, 1,000 unique visitors had logged onto milUniversity.

The portal is hosted on milSuite, a group of secure, professional social media tools. MilSuite is issued throughout the DOD community to collaborate and build awareness on projects, policies and other initiatives. It is available to most DOD employees with Common Access Card authentication.

Bill Gledhill, a human resource specialist in the Army Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., uses SharePoint and Defense Connect Online (DCO) to communicate and train employees at satellite locations around the world. When Gledhill has questions about SharePoint and DCO, project management and web-conferencing tools, he uses MilUniversity to find answers.

"Through milUniversity, I have learned that there are many more features of DCO and SharePoint than I was even aware of," he said.

"These two programs were my incentive to go to milUniversity for information and help that enables me to communicate better."

MilUniversity's homepage design mimics the layout of applications on a smart phone. Each icon on the first row links to the procedures for frequently-used tools in the DOD. These tools include Microsoft SharePoint, a project management tool with about 800,000 Army users; Green Force Tracker, an instant messaging system that has nearly 15,000 active Army users; and DCO, a web-conferencing tool with 862,000 registered users.

Other icons link to the four milSuite tools, which include milWiki, a living military encyclopedia; milBook, a professional networking tool; milWire, a micro-blogging application for sharing content across milSuite and external sites; and milTube, a video-sharing platform.

Since milUniversity supports the idea that people learn differently, there are downloadable reference guides, text and video tutorials available for all the tools. The portal also features three curriculum levels — 100 (getting started), 200 (intermediate) and 300 (advanced) — so users can find the right fit for their level of expertise.

By using milUniversity to build courses, travel to traditional training classes could also eventually be reduced.

The portal will continue to grow, supporting the idea that learning is an ongoing process, as more video tutorials and procedures are added to round out the three curriculum levels.

Other upcoming changes include: updated information on other tools; displaying recent content and what's new on the homepage; and offering a visible way for users to give feedback.

"MilUniversity is not only about building a SharePoint site; it's having the employees understand how they can use that tool in their day-to-day jobs," DeCarlo said.



HOW ARE WE DOING?

www.tobyhanna.army.mil

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Click on the customer service link to rate depot support, services

Packaging liquid HAZMAT — not the same as it used to be

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Assistant Editor

Employees at LOGSA's Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center (PSCC) here have devised an award-winning method for packaging liquid hazardous materials (HAZMAT) that's better for the environment, less expensive and reusable.

The new configuration eliminates typical loose-fill materials such as vermiculite [a mineral known for its absorbency and insulation properties] and replaces it with readily-available fiberboard and sheets of commercially-available absorbent material that comes in a roll.

The innovative use of fiberboard and absorbent materials earned first place in the 2012 Packaging Design Competition, Short-Life Packaging category.

The award was presented to Logistics Support Activity PSCC team members Charlotte Lent, industrial engineer, and Jim Mott, systems engineer, who are responsible for designing the sustainable packaging configurations. The competition was sponsored by the National Institute of Packaging, Handling and Logistics Engineers (NIPHLE).

According to Lent, the PSCC Packaging Applications Testing Facility has had a long-standing partnership with DLA to provide a family of internationally certified packaging for all elements of the Defense Department. Packaging that supports the shipping of cans, bottles and jars of every size, shape and material, she added.

"In the early 1990s, the most practical method was to center the containers in a box or drum full of vermiculite," Lent said. "In later years, cellulosic materials (ground paper) were used."

The loose-fill materials, especially vermiculite, are dusty, creating a housekeeping nightmare for both packers and units receiving and unpacking the HAZMAT, noted Mott. Furthermore, in some locations this was considered a breathing hazard.

"Achieving a level whereby the loose-fill

materials were compressed uniformly and consistently across all DoD was problematic," Mott said. "Additionally, lab samples and other articles were often contaminated when containers were opened."

Besides the mess, shipping facilities have to maintain storage space to keep the bags and quantities of loose fill material dry. "After all, it was an absorbent and was likely to absorb the moisture in the air," said Mott. "Once unpacked, the loose fill was destined for the landfill."

The good news is that the fiberboard and absorbent sheet components are all reusable and recyclable. The team tested designs in open-head steel drums and fiberboard boxes. Mott and Lent explained that standard components can be determined for each drum size and in conjunction with DLA and the General Services Administration, can easily be made available, possibly by National Stock Number.

Items are placed inside the drum and surrounded by stacked fiberboard cartons and enough pads to cushion and absorb the liquid contents if damaged.

"The design process is in its infancy," Lent said. "Plans are underway to design an entire family of configurations without loose fill."

So far, six designs have been successfully tested to the performance standards required by federal and international regulations. These and other available internationally-certified HAZMAT designs for Department of Defense (DoD) use can be found on the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution Performance Oriented Packaging Program website.

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Jim Mott, systems engineer, demonstrates how new packaging methods can save money and protect the environment when shipping liquid hazardous materials.



Cadet Zachary Fabi discusses the West Point Green Belt project — Improving Tobyhanna Army Depot Materiel Induction Process Lead Time — during the outreach meeting. The project was conducted as part of a Black Belt Project led by Industrial Engineer Brian Rawhouser, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate. (Photo by Tony Medici)



The Lean Six Sigma Capstone team of West Point Cadets (from left) Andrew Theising, Fabi, Aaron Jacobson, and Benjamin Gutz won Best Presentation in the "Process Modeling and Analysis" track during the 2013 Gen. Donald R. Keith Memorial Cadet Capstone Conference. The cadets are joined by Col. Donna Korycinski, West Point instructor, Dr. Dave Carey, ATE Development and Support Branch chief (far left), and Lt. Col. Elizabeth Schott, assistant professor of Systems Engineering (far right). (Courtesy photo)

West Point cadets surpass goals to improve equipment flow here

by **Anthony Ricchiazzi**
Public Affairs Office, acting chief

Five U.S. Military Academy (West Point) cadets working with Tobyhanna Army Depot and Defense Logistics Agency Distribution-Tobyhanna personnel here have exceeded the goals to improve equipment flow here.

The cadets, all seniors, applied what they learned about Lean Six Sigma to assist Tobyhanna and DLA to improve delivery time of assets from DLA to depot repair shops. Their goal was to help the depot shorten delivery time and reduce variability in delivery time.

"We far exceeded our goals," said Cadet Zachary Fabi. "The goal was to reduce shipping time from three days to 1.67 days. We got that down to 0.8 days. We also reduced the standard deviation from 1.4 days to .4 days."

The improvements resulted in a projected savings of more than \$450,000 over three years.

The cadets said depot and DLA employees worked well together to improve the shipping process, especially after they realized it would make their jobs easier.

The project involves several steps: define the problem; stakeholder analysis, or who wants what; mapping out the process; measure the process to see where it is now; and use all the Lean tools the cadets have learned to make recommendations for improvement.

"They had full buy in and cooperated well," said Cadet Andrew Theising. "The most difficult aspect of this project was the statistical analysis. We had classroom instruction, but the data here was different from what is taught at West Point. It was a challenging project."

The Lean Six Sigma Capstone team of West Point Cadets Theising, Fabi, Aaron Jacobson, and Benjamin Gutz won Best Presentation in the "Process Modeling and Analysis" track during the 2013 Gen. Donald R. Keith Memorial Cadet Capstone Conference.

Commissaries prepare for Monday furloughs

When furloughs are implemented, most military commissaries will close one day a week on Mondays, said the director and CEO of the Defense Commissary Agency. The closures will be for up to 11 days between July 8 and Sept. 30.

Closing commissaries on Mondays would be in addition to days when stores are routinely closed. The Tobyhanna Army Depot location and other stores that routinely close on Mondays will also close the next normal day of operation. Other than the furlough day, there are no other changes planned for store operation hours.

Store hours at Tobyhanna will be Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Like most Department of Defense activities, DeCA is mandated by the department to furlough its civil service employees. Furlough notices were delivered to DeCA employees between May 28 and June 5.

“We know that any disruption in commissary operations will impact our patrons,” said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA’s director and CEO. “We determined that Monday closures would present the least pain for our patrons, employees and industry partners.”

Patrons are reminded that because sequestration is so fluid, DeCA’s plan for this budget-cutting measure is subject to change.



Members of Team Tobyhanna worked in frigid temperatures at a remote location in the Alaska wilderness while completing the final phase of the first overhaul of the Air Force UMTE training system. (Photo by Sean Bovier)



Air Force personnel move the overhauled UMTE training system into position prior to the site acceptance test. (Photo by Bill Moser)

UMTE from Page 1

the shops are working well together getting things through the process quickly and efficiently. Wanat is a logistics management specialist in the Production Management Directorate’s Surveillance, Threat Emitter Branch.

Charles Bartleson, former Threat Simulation and Analysis Systems Branch chief, took the lead on this program until retiring, according to Joe Lynott, chief of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate’s Range Threat Systems Division. He tasked two depot employees to become UMTE subject matter experts; they joined forces with Tobyhanna’s engineering representatives to develop this new depot-level capability. Electronic Integrated Systems Mechanic Eduardo Estrada and Electronics Mechanic Robert Slater played a vital role in each phase of this program, Lynott said.

“Training received by the manufacturer to operate the system remotely was useful in performing the first sight acceptance test,” Slater said.

Depot employees have received positive feedback from Air Force personnel supporting the fielding event.

Staff Sgt. Derek McCarty, 353rd Combat Training Squadron quality assurance evaluator, remarked that Team Tobyhanna members were very knowledgeable. In addition, if they didn’t

know something, they looked it up and worked diligently to correct the issue, he added.

Personnel here faced a few challenges while working on the aircrew training system. It was necessary to design new test fixtures and test boxes used to check different components, plus deal with a software problem.

“Each radar system typically has different test fixtures and test boxes,” said Bill Moser, electronics engineer, Production Engineering Directorate’s Surveillance/Range Systems Engineering Branch. “It’s been a learning experience working on the UMTE, and everyone stepped up to the challenge.”

Software issues came to light near the end of the overhaul process. A testing device called the jammer emulator needed reprogramming so the UMTE would operate properly prior to final acceptance testing. Unable to acquire necessary software, through combined requests from the Special Program Office, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and Tobyhanna, depot engineers resolved the problem by programming the software to meet customer requirements, according to Wanat.

Karish explained that the jammer emulator tests the Electronic Attack Receiver (EAR) on the training system. It measures jamming signals employed by combat aircraft in defense against surface-to-air missiles being simulated by the UMTE.

“If the EAR doesn’t work, we cannot use the UMTE during RED FLAG-Alaska exercises,” said Karish. “There would be no way to determine if the aircrew responded correctly, therefore we couldn’t include the jamming effects when calculating the outcome of the missile engagement.”

The employees, who worked in Alaska’s frigid temperatures to conduct the site acceptance tests, spoke highly of everyone who assisted with the final stage of the process. Air Force personnel received, delivered and set up the system at a remote location, miles from the installation prior to final testing.

“Everyone provided excellent support during the entire process,” said Sean Bovier, electronics technician. “The system performed flawlessly and the Air Force was very happy with the results of our work.”

The UMTE joins Tobyhanna’s growing mission of radar support.



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