



OUTPOST

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Readiness Power, Forward

May 2011

402nd AFSB fielding H-AAB equipment set

Story and photo by Galen Putnam
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is often called upon to fulfill unique missions.

The organization's latest endeavor to "fit a square peg into a round hole" involves fielding a Heavy Advise and Assist Brigade equipment set. Typically, units rotating into Iraq will fall in on the equipment left behind by the unit they are replacing. In this instance, however, an H-AAB is taking over for a Stryker AAB, which is configured much differently, and more lightly.

For this mission the 402nd AFSB has been charged to "make up the difference" in equipment between the two brigades by taking vehicles identified by U.S. Forces – Iraq that have been retrograded from Iraq to Kuwait and prepare them for return to Iraq as part of the new brigade set.

"The 402nd AFSB planned this operation from its infancy as a result of shortfalls identified during our internal mission analysis of replacing a Stryker brigade with a Heavy brigade," said Maj. Pierre A. Spratt, 402nd AFSB Support Operations officer. "The 402nd as a whole, both Kuwait and Iraq, have forged this concept into reality. The execution of this mission has been flawless."

Spratt went on to praise those working behind the scenes.

"It is truly amazing to see the results of all the hard work and dedication associated with this mission accomplishment," he said. "The Materiel Enterprise has again provided unsurpassed logistical support to the Warfighter. The best part is, the Warfighter will never know it."

Rather than rely on Strykers as their primary vehicle, the H-AAB relies on MRAPs, M115 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, M977 HEMMETS and other vehicles that are found in lesser numbers, or are not used by S-AABs.

The 402nd AFSB's task is to receive, inspect, and repair the incoming vehicles identified to make up the new set, then maintain them until they reach their ultimate destination in Iraq.



Personnel from the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, conduct a joint inventory with Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, RPAT Yard May 20. The 3/197th was tasked to provide transportation support for the H-AAB mission.

Once vehicles have been prepared in Kuwait, they are convoyed to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, where they are segregated according to their final destination, inventoried, and inspected.

"This is the first time we have ever done something like this," said Jean Hansen, 402nd AFSB deputy SPO. "There were many little things to manage, but the 402nd has done a magnificent job."

The 402nd AFSB is now in the "issue" phase of the mission. After vehicles are checked and prepped at JBB, they are convoyed to their final destinations to await the incoming troops. In the meantime, representatives from the H-AAB are on hand to sign for the vehicles and relieve the 402nd AFSB of responsibility for the equipment.

"The Soldiers are depending on us to make sure their equipment is ready to go when they get here," said Fredrick Smith, 402nd AFSB maintenance manager. "The important thing is that it will be transparent to the Soldiers."

*Power 6 Perspective***Don't be lulled into a false sense of security**

We are now on the downhill slope regarding the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade's service in Iraq. But that doesn't mean things are getting easier, it means we are picking up speed!

Even though it might be tempting to look ahead to the end of our mission in Iraq, we need to remain focused on what is directly in front of us – today. It is imperative that we all remain vigilant and don't lapse into complacency.

We are not free from danger. We are still in a combat zone. All it takes is one mistake or one moment of hesitation to lose your life here.

How many times have you seen a runner slow down before crossing the finish line, only to be passed at the last second?



Col. Lawrence W. Fuller

How many times have you seen a football player begin celebrating before getting into the end zone, only to have the ball stripped away?

That's complacency – and those athletes should have known better. You KNOW they will never let it happen again.

We don't have that luxury though. They are playing a game. We are playing for keeps. You don't get a "do over" if a round takes you out in a moment of complacency. When you hear the warnings – RESPOND IMMEDIATELY, DECISIVELY, AND WITH URGENCY.

Just because we are on the downhill slope, doesn't mean we are safe. Here are a couple of sobering reminders:

Pfc. Harold B. Smith, B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, stepped on a land mine at 9:44 p.m. July 27, 1953 – 16 minutes prior to the armistice taking effect. He was the last hostile American fatality of the Korean War.

Army Pfc. Charles Havlat, 803rd Tank Destroyer Battalion, 5th Infantry Division, was killed by German troops in Volary, Czechoslovakia – nine minutes before the cease fire went into effect on May 7, 1945. He was the last American Soldier to die by hostile fire in the European Theater of Operations.

While it is a tragedy any time we lose one of our own, it all the more heart-wrenching when someone makes it so close to safety, but doesn't make it back home.

You might have seen on the sports highlights a bicycle racer who had a big lead heading to the finish line. He raised his arms in victory and began waving to the crowd. Then, he lost control — and crashed. While he struggled to get back on his bike, several other racers whizzed by him to finish the race.

The moral of the story is: Don't celebrate until AFTER you have won the race or scored the touchdown, or in our case, we've successfully completed our mission and returned home safely.

We are getting close to the end of our mission in Iraq, but we aren't home-free yet. In the meantime I need each and every one of you to remain focused and alert. You should all be proud of your efforts and accomplishments here in theater. Just save the celebration for when you "get into the end zone" and are safe back home.

Power 6 Out!

LAWRENCE W. FULLER
COL, LG
Commanding

402nd AFSB**OUTPOST****Commander:**

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Chaplain's Corner

How do we cope with change and deprivation?

Imagine this domestic exchange, freely adapted from Genesis 11 and 12:

Husband: "Honey, pack your bags. We're moving."

Wife: "Where?"

Husband: "I don't know for sure."

Wife: "Then why are we moving?"

Husband: "Because God told me to."

Wife: "Which god?"

Husband: "A new one; He's the real thing."

Sounds farfetched, but that (or something like it) must have taken place about 4,000 years ago in our area when Abram went home to tell his wife Sarai that they were leaving Mesopotamia to go to a new land. I'll bet the rest of the evening was pretty animated. You see, this area had lots of gods, and for Abram to choose to leave home to follow a single God was a very big deal, and his decision was probably not understood or appreciated by most of his neighbors or family.

But he had to move. Every move is a challenge. You have to decide what to take, what to leave, and for the left behind items, who will be the lucky recipients. And that's where the 21st Century B.C. meets the 21st Century A.D. We, like Abram, have orders to move. Like him, we won't be coming back. So we're being forced to say goodbye to familiar comforts like Burger King, Green Bean Coffee, private wet CHUs, and unlimited water and electricity. While all of this is going on, we still have a mission to do. How can we cope successfully with



Chaplain (Col.) Howard Lucas

All these changes and deprivations?

First, remember that we are leaving a legacy of goodwill behind. Wars are always tragic and ugly, but American warriors have always left a legacy of goodwill that goes beyond politics. Smiles given to third country national workers, gifts distributed to Iraqi children, and the consistent example of a military force that runs on loyalty and self-discipline, rather than on fear and intimidation, will all pay results in the future. We may not see some of those results, but be assured that they do exist.

Second, take satisfaction in the successful mission we've done. Logistics is the real backbone of any military campaign. It is seldom noticed unless it fails. We have been largely unnoticed, but that very lack of attention signifies that we have accomplished the mission and that we have done

it well. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines throughout our theater of operations have benefited every day from our work. They may have never heard of the 402nd AFSB, but they have succeeded because we have given them the necessary resources. Be proud of that.

Third, focus on where we're going rather than on what we're leaving. This was never intended to be our home, so the temporary comforts we enjoyed only made it home-like. While nobody can predict the future, we have families and futures waiting for us back in the United States. So let's endure the short-term deprivations and look forward to going back to the people and places that make us what we are.

Abram's move from Ur in ancient Mesopotamia (now Iraq) meant that he would be a nomad for the rest of his life. He never again was able to settle down and relax. Fortunately we won't have to share that experience with him. Our move, hectic as it is, has more definite outcomes and stopping points. Let's maintain our standards of work and cooperation and make our exit from Iraq as successful as our stay has been.



402nd AFSB provides retrograde support

By Maj. Pierre A. Spratt
402nd AFSB SPO

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is the premiere single face to the field for theater property accountability, RESET, and responsible drawdown of equipment in Iraq. The 402nd accomplishes its core mission in Iraq from end-to-end integration across the Materiel Enterprise for joint and coalition forces in support of Operation New Dawn.

Posed with the current problem set in Iraq of how to responsibly support Operation New Dawn and project responsible equipment drawdown in order to provide predictability throughout the retrograde process while simultaneously minimizing transportation friction and frustrated equipment within the Iraqi Joint Operations Area and Kuwait, the 402nd AFSB will rely heavily on its core tenants, ensuring the drawdown of equipment is done in a manner that is founded on property accountability, velocity and transparent visibility.

The 402nd AFSB will remain the single face to the field for sustainment logistics, acquisition and technology to protect equipment and sustain joint and coalition forces supporting Operation New Dawn.

The 402nd AFSB will overcome this strategic challenge by keeping in line with its core vision, which is to support the Warfighter as their premiere Materiel Enterprise partner on the battlefield and maintaining its position as the single face to the field for Army Materiel Command sustainment logistics forming a Materiel Enterprise in



An MRAP is processed at the Joint Base Balad, Iraq, RPAT Yard.

Galen Putnam

Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar that integrates acquisition, logistics and technology to protect, equip, and sustain joint/coalition forces supporting Operations New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The key task for the 402nd AFSB is to provide retrograde support in support of Operation New Dawn, in order to relive supported units of accountability of Theater Property Equipment and Automatic Reset Induction equipment enabling units to redeploy from Iraq no later than Dec. 31, or end of mission. The 402nd AFSB purpose is to support United States Forces Iraq complete transition out of the IJOA.

The 402nd AFSB views Retrograde Requirements over Time as the Enemy (R/T=E) for the duration of the execution phases of Transition 2011. A significant challenge is meeting our retrograde of property requirements within the time

constraints modeled within the transition process. The 402nd AFSB does not anticipate a culminating point during the transition process, and will remain flexible and fully capable to support drawdown requirements and most importantly the Warfighter.

The foundation of responsible retrograde is anticipation coordination and deliberate execution. The 402nd AFSB has developed a synchronization matrix that links the entire transition process to current capabilities and is the most essential planning tool we have to mitigate and anticipate equipment retrograde as we launch Transition 2011. The synchronization matrix provides a deliberate level of transition execution which mirrors the USF-I Knowledge Management Tool systems database currently integrating within the IJOA.

The way ahead is to synchronize the windows of

opportunities for theater property turn-in by unit, location, density of equipment and method of turn-in from beginning to end, utilizing of our most valuable theater asset, Redistribution Property Assistance Team static sites, and our Mobile Redistribution Property assistance Teams. The RPAT and MRPAT functions within the 402nd AFSB is the single arm of execution for the Materiel Enterprise and has the capability to process and retrograde more than 7,000 pieces of rolling stock equipment per month. With eight enduring RPAT sites throughout the IJOA located at Al Asad, Joint Base Balad, Victory Base Center, Tallil, Taji, Kalsu, Marez and Speicher, the primary focus of RPAT yards is class VII supply items, TPE retrograde and ARI support. The RPAT yards are joint operations staffed by Soldiers, Airmen and Department of the Army civilians and contractors.

We further anticipate utilizing the Door-to-Door process for more than 40 percent of the current on hand theater property in Iraq. This is based on current mission analysis and historical comparisons of the more than 200,000 pieces of retrograde equipment from Waterfall 2010. The door-to-door transportation method allows for commercial retrograde out of Iraq through east and west port corridors of Um Qasar, Iraq, and Aqaba, Jordan, as opposed to utilizing our southern ports via Kuwait. The D2D process further utilizes the Iraqi Transportation Network, which eases stress on our Army transportation assets and further multiplies velocity thorough our RPAT yards and the retrograde process in its entirety.

Brigade Combat Teams, Advisory and Assistance Brigades are the Army's premiere maneuver force and the 402nd AFSB's largest Class VII customer in Iraq. To mitigate maximizing RPAT yard capacities during the transition process, we plan to execute the MRPAT to BCT/AAB first option. Our current MRPAT density of 12 teams throughout the IJOA will increase to 16, making our MRPATs expeditionary and self-reliant, able to have internal communications systems thus, enabling the ability to operate in austere conditions.

Expeditionary MRPATs bring the full might of the Materiel Enterprise to the front door of the maneuver commander. This will additionally provide the 402nd AFSB with the fidelity needed within the transition process at the BCT/AAB level. This linking of MRPAT to BCT/AAB model is twofold and additionally compensates for RPAT yard capacity limitations. Providing predictability and making the turn-in process a more deliberate scheme of maneuver for the maneuver commander.



The tactical road march self redeployment option plays a significant role during the final transition months, specifically after July 2011. The 402nd is currently developing RPAT Kuwait, which will be a full-spectrum redeployment center located at Camp Virginia.

The strategic timeline remains our foundational business model for successful drawdown within the IJOA, identifying key milestones which remain cyclic throughout the Transition 2011 process. At the 180 day mark, the 402nd AFSB provides supported units with its initial TPE briefing which continue to set the stage and tone for responsible transition. Within the 120-day window, units have the responsibility to identify excess equipment, scrub the assets visibility listing and perform internal excess management analysis within the 90-day window. The 402nd AFSB facilitates units' 90-day window coordination of transportation assets for turn-in and obtain appropriate turn-in documentation and inspection of equipment. This is also when units turn-in unserviceable equipment to Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service. On or about thirty days out, units actually execute RPAT turn-in followed by unit movement and redeployment.

As we proceed with the transition of forces out of Iraq, we will continue to execute - keeping in mind the Army Materiel Command's four imperatives: Early Triage, Property Accountability, Total Assets Visibility, and Early Disposition. What the 402nd AFSB is doing today is significant to the success of executing a smooth Transition 2011. Early Triage is the key, identifying key friction points and mitigation projected frustrations, in addition to remaining transparent both laterally and vertically throughout the transition process, the 402nd AFSB will provide hold a significant advantage over our worst enemy during the Transition 2011 execution — Time.



Galen Putnam

Helping Japan

(from left) Capt. (Chaplain) Charlene Cheney, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command; Staff Sgt. Kristin Harris, CRAM Detachment; Karessa Luke, 160th Signal Brigade; and Lorese Dudley, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade safety officer, display some of the items collected by member of Stars of Light #178, Order of Eastern Star, Oklahoma Jurisdiction, District #11, for distribution to victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami. The non-profit organization supports people in need around the world through charitable works. The effort, supported by the 402nd AFSB, netted more than 7,500 items of clothing and footwear.

Sharing the Message

Galen Putnam, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs officer, speaks to seventh-grade students and shares a video from Soldiers stationed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, with students at the John F. Kennedy Catholic School in Davenport, Iowa, March 24. The students along with Gold Star mother Teri Johnson, put together care packages, called Jason's Boxes, that were sent to the 276th Ordnance (Maintenance Support) Company. Jason's Box is a charity honoring Corporal Jason Pautsch, Johnson's son, who was killed in 2009 in a suicide bombing in Mosul, Iraq. While home on leave, Putnam shared a video of the Soldiers thanking the students for the packages they sent.



Megan Marie McIntyre (ASC PAO)

Personality Spotlight: Barry L. Henry

Age: Not quite a senior citizen

Hometown: Birmingham, Ala.

Duty Position: Transportation specialist (COR)

Duty Section: Supply-Transportation, 1st Battalion, 401st AFSB

Duty Station: Qatar, UAE

Home Station and Organization: Army Sustainment Command (ASC), Rock Island, Ill.

How long have you been in this position? 182 days

How long have you been working for the U.S. Army? Four years as a DoD civilian

Have you served in the military? I am an Army retiree.

My primary job in the military was transportation. I have worked all facets of transportation as a driver, unit movement NCO, Movement Control Team member, rail operations supervisor, air load planner, hazmat certifier, MCT supervisor, corps G3 operations NCO and plans specialist for the USAG in Mannheim, Germany. I also served as a forward observer.



Barry L. Henry

Have you had other civilian jobs with the military? My previous assignment was with the Defense Logistics Agency as a traffic management specialist. I have also worked as a deployment specialist at the USAG in Mannheim.

What is the best part of your job? The freedom to make intelligent transportation decisions with an understanding of how to best support military forces worldwide.

Why do you like working here? It allows me to be a teacher, coach and mentor while providing contract oversight.

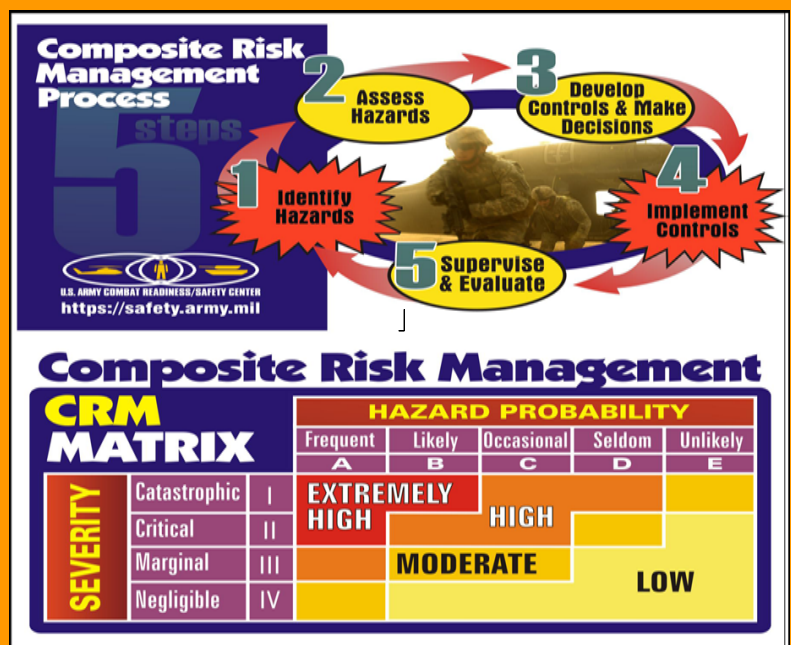
What do you do to make a difference for the Warfighter? I provide timely responsiveness to our staff in support of the mission workload.

What do you like to do in your spare time? While deployed, I spend a great deal of time watching the news to stay abreast of the current global situation. When I'm in the US ... spending time with my family, doing outdoors activities.

What is your personal philosophy? Work hard, play hard, be accountable and know your job to avoid being in positions where you must compromise your integrity.

Accident Prevention Through Composite Risk Management

After an accident on the job, people often wonder what they could have done to have prevented it. That, of course, can help avoid similar accidents in the future. The best way to prevent job accidents is to think about prevention **before** an accident happens, **not after**. Do this by applying CRM



402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller
Commander

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Where can I find those photos?

Photos are posted to the Mini 5 shared drive. To locate the photos, open the shared drive and look for the folder named "402nd Photos." It is at the *bottom* of the folders list because it is a link!

If you do not have access to the Mini 5 shared drive, direct photo requests to Galen Putnam, **OUTPOST** editor.





FROM THE FIELD

402ND ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BRIGADE, IRAQ



Volume 2 Issue 3

Readiness Power, Forward

May 2011

APS-5 CONDUCTS SITE SURVEY IN JAPAN

By Bill M. Oakley
WES-K site manager

The 2nd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, sent two personnel from Army Prepositioned Stocks-5 in Kuwait to conduct a site survey of APS-4 operations in Korea and to visit Watercraft Equipment Base, Yohohoma North Dock, Japan, in March.

Bill M. Oakley, watercraft site manager, and Capt. Amy Cory, 2/401st supply officer, toured facilities and discussed best practices with key APS-4 personnel from Watercraft operations in Japan and with APS-4 management in Korea. APS-4 personnel included Dave Wilder, site manager, WEB-YND; Lt. Col. Doug Pietrowski, commander, Army Field Support Battalion – Northeast Asia; Gary A. Marquez, deputy to the commander, AFSBn-NEA; and Department of the Army civilians manning the APS-4 warehouses in both Japan and Korea.

The sites visited included the Watercraft Site, located on North Dock in Yohohoma, Japan, the AFSBn-NEA, located at Camp Carroll, Korea, and multiple APS-4 warehouses located in Japan and Korea.

The primary focus for the Watercraft Equipment Site, Kuwait site manager was to develop a “teaming” relationship with the sister unit in Japan, which is structured with nearly identical boating equipment. The visit focused on command and control operations at each site, warehouse management, and how the unit’s respective contracts are structured. Review of C2 revealed that both Watercraft elements are structured similarly. Two major differences noted between the two watercraft sites were in manning of the staffs, both for the government oversight team and for the contractor team. The WEB-YND in Japan has an Alternate Contracting Officer’s Representative on staff and the contractor Supply Cell has four highly trained personnel working supply issues. Two are expert Army War Reserve Deployment System technicians and two are U.S. Army trained warehousemen.



Courtesy photo

Author Bill M. Oakley poses with an APS-4 Large Tug at Yokohama North Dock, Japan.

Although some Contract Line Item Numbers in the WEB-YND contract were deemed beneficial in areas that address supply management and in the makeup of the contractor Supply Cell, a complete analysis revealed that the current contract structure in Kuwait has advantages in respect to maintenance support.

The visit to WEB-YND and to AFSBn-NEA in Korea proved very beneficial as best practices at each site were shared. Upon return to Kuwait, the best practices obtained from WEB-YND were passed down to the WES-K contractor, incorporated into the WES-K PWS and re-write recommendations for the upcoming 2012 contract, and placed into all standard operating procedures that were applicable.

Best practices discussed between WES-K and WEB-YND will help improve operations at each site. If the best practices concerning supply management are approved and implemented into the contract by Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Fort Eustis, Va., the recommended changes will enhance WES-K site operations for many years to come.

This story is part 1 of a two part series. Part 2, appearing in the June issue of the Outpost, will focus on “Best Practices” concerning APS warehouse storage and management.

FROM THE FIELD is a special supplement to the 402nd AFSB OUTPOST. It is written by the service members, DoD civilians and contractors who comprise the Army’s largest brigade.

BLST SUPPORT: HYDRAULIC FLUID AIN'T SEXY

By CW5 Henry Richardson
2/25 AAB BLST Chief

Diyala, Iraq – Sometimes the Army's technical manuals just don't tell the whole story. There are times when a unit has conducted all the trouble shooting subscribed in the equipment's TM and they just can't get to the root of the problem.

When that is the case on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, the "go to guy" is Curtis Hardy, Tank and Automotive Command automotive logistics assistance representative.

The TACOM automotive LAR adds a long list of resources in the unit maintainer's tool box. He has direct reach-back capability to the Life Cycle Management Commands who field and support the unit's equipment. He has access to the Collaborative Readiness Problem Solving System, a world-wide based LAR information sharing portal that provides lessons learned and fault isolation and corrections procedures other LARS have identified. He also brings years of military and LAR experience to the table.

"I was deployed with the brigade during the last six months of their last deployment on Taji in 2008," said Hardy who extended his six month deployment to one year. "During that time I built up a great working relationship with the Soldiers. Many of them are currently on this deployment. I enjoy working with the new Soldiers in the brigade and teaching them about performing the proper and safe maintenance techniques."

The TACOM LAR's mission is to assist the unit with maintenance issues with emphasis on training the unit's operators, maintainers, and leaders.

Hardy is a native of North Carolina, a retired noncommissioned officer with 22 years of military experience, and has been with TACOM as a LAR for the past four years. In those four years he has completed three deployments, and is now on his fourth supporting



CW5 Henry Richardson

TACOM Automotive LAR Curtis Hardy troubleshoots a vehicle.

the 2/25 AAB out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Although his job is to "provide assistance" to the unit's maintainers, it doesn't mean he won't be found under the hood or tucked up under the axle of a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck wrecker if that's where the issue is. Most days the sign-out board in the Brigade Logistics Assistance Teams office reads "Mr. Hardy OAB" which stands for Out Around Base. Every day you will find him, coveralls in tow, making his rounds through the organizational and support maintenance shops offering assistance where he can.

Soldiers in the field praise Hardy's efforts and skill.

"Mr. Hardy's extensive background in both wheeled and track vehicle maintenance has proven itself to be extremely valuable to the 225th BSB Task Force here on FOB Warhorse," said CRT Team Chief CW3 Anthony Canale. "His vast knowledge in both

both hydraulic and electrical troubleshooting has helped save the automotive section hundreds of man hours that would have otherwise been lost due to inexperience. His ability to reach out to various logistical support agencies Army wide has proven to be a critical enabler and has significantly improved the maintenance posture of every organization in which he has supported".

Others agreed.

"Mr. Hardy has been an integral part of the 1/21st Infantry Battalion Combat Repair Team here at FOB Warhorse," said CW3 Edil Gonzalez, CRT chief for the 1/21 Inf. Bn. "He has helped us resolve a variety of maintenance, supply and other logistical issues. His expertise troubleshooting and expediting parts have made a great impact on the vehicle readiness of the battalion."

Hardy has provided technical advises and instruction on the equipment operation, test equipment, repairs, modifications, overhauls and calibration of electrical control systems. He also provided us help with the acquisitions of listed tools for our Forward Repair System and non-listed tools through the Program Manager Sets, Kits, Outfits and Tools channels and other sources.

As the BLST chief, I gained a whole new level of respect for the LAR system as I observed Hardy in action one day in a unit's motor pool. He sauntered up under a truck, coveralls soaked in hydraulic fluid and shouting out instructions to the mechanic he was assisting. My thought right then was "what a nasty and sometimes thankless job, I hope the command realizes what these guys bring to the fight."

These are seasoned veterans with ample experience and skills they could be using in the civilian market, but are instead contributing to the fight, supporting the Soldiers who protect our country and way of life

JBW TAJI – CREATING A LASTING PARTNERSHIP

By Rita K. Cucchiara
JBW Taji

The next time the U.S. State Department needs experts in diplomacy to establish partnerships in a foreign country, they might consider using Army Materiel Command subject matter experts from U.S. Army depots. Since September 2009, Anniston and Red River Army Depots have deployed approximately 40 SMEs on six to 12 months tours to the Joint Base Workshop (previously called Taji National Depot), Taji, Iraq.

The SMEs are an integral part of the AMC goal to build an enduring partnership between the U.S. and the Government of Iraq in maintenance, repair and overhaul capabilities. Under command of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, JBW supports United States Forces – Iraq. JBW provides technical and training support to enable the establishment of a permanent national-level Iraqi Security Forces Level 4 MRO capability for wheeled, small arms and component repair.

"I accepted that they are from a different culture from my own and then I broke barriers by gaining their trust with my technical expertise," said Michael Griggs, Anniston Army Depot SME in small arms operations.

In fact, his Iraqi students have grown to appreciate Griggs so much that they often call him "habibi" (an Arabic term of endearment between brothers). Griggs works with James Johnson, small arms SME, ANAD, in teaching Level 4 small arms maintenance processes to Iraqi Soldiers.

Red River Army Depot SMEs, supervised by Jason Cross, have had similar experiences teaching level 4 - 5T and M1114 (HMMWV) maintenance processes.

"Understanding cultural differences and having patience is the key to success," said SME Robert Fisher.

Confirming the success of training provided by the RRAD team, Iraqi



Courtesy photo

An Iraqi Soldier hones an engine block after receiving training from Anniston Army Depot subject matter expert Larry Simmons.

Soldier, Hakeem Hashim, was straight to the point, "We have good instructors."

ANAD SME Machinist Larry Simmons, likewise has had a very positive experience in working with Iraqi Soldiers. "In talking with them (Iraqi soldiers) every day, I have found that they want a better future for their families, just like we do," he said.

ANAD SMEs new to the JBW mission are Linda Kelley and Roderick Trammel. They, along with John Ratcliff, SME from RRAD, are teaching a Depot Planner and Controller Course, which started in April.

Future JBW SME missions will include providing training support for tracked vehicles and starting the Small Arms Facility Production Line. Both missions are scheduled for June 2011. James McKinney, ANAD SME

supervisor and JBW deputy to the deputy commanding officer, regularly uses reach back capabilities at ANAD to plan for the track mission and consequently to ensure its' success. The ANAD team of Griggs, Johnson and Steve Loggins will execute the SAF production mission. Loggins will be conducting electroplating and anodizing training for the SAF.

One area that is common to both American and Iraqi cultures is celebration of success. The Anniston Small Arms SME team has recently completed Machine and Small Arms training and will present certificates to their Iraqi students for a job well done in mastering the training.

SMEs and IA soldiers agree that this is the beginning of a great partnership.

AMC CONSOLIDATES ASSETS AT KALSU

Maj. Stacy Tomic
3rd ACR RLST

AMC brings so many assets and capabilities to the fight that it can often be a very difficult mission to manage. The brigade or regimental logistics support team is charged with being AMC's "face to the field" for customer units.

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade places myriad assets at each brigade/regiment's location to ensure that units have the right sustainment support. Those assets come from 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion, and the respective United States Division Logistics Support Elements. It is essential that each RLST chief knows, monitors and communicates with all AMC assets in his or her respective operational environment to ensure that the supported units have the right support at the right time.

Upon the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment RLST's arrival at Contingency Operating Station Kalsu in Sept. 2010, the two RLST work trailers were located near center of the COS, which was closer to the 3rd ACR headquarters. Though this set-up made it easier for headquarters personnel to access the RLST and vice versa, a bulk of the work was being done near the AMC life support and work areas (closer to the units' motor pools). The Redistribution Property Assistance Team and Theater Property Book Team from 2/402nd AFSB and numerous field support representatives from 1/402nd AFSB all worked in either the RPAT or AMC yard at one end of the COS. Based on the fact that logistics assistance representatives from the RLST have to coordinate with various FSRs, the RPAT and TPB team, the 3rd ACR RLST Chief, MAJ Stacy Tomic, made the decision to move the RLST operations to the AMC yard.

In order to move the RLST's two trailers to the AMC yard, much coordination had to be facilitated by the S7



Chris Taylor

KBR contractors load RLST trailers in old RLST area on COS Kalsu.

Facilities Engineer, Chris Taylor. He first had to set-up the location in the AMC yard where the trailers would be placed and ensure power lines were properly placed. He directed the movement and placement of protective T-walls within the yard. Taylor then coordinated with contractors for the disconnection of power and communications lines from the trailers at the old location. Finally, he coordinated for the movement and set-up of the trailers at the AMC yard, to include installation of power and communication lines. Thanks to Taylor's initiative and diligence, the entire trailer transfer took only two weeks, and there was no loss of RLST capability throughout the process.

Once the RLST transferred its operations to the AMC yard, communications and team work within all AMC assets at Kalsu greatly increased. The AMC yard essentially became a one-stop-shop for customer units. The RPAT and TPB team could easily get in contact with LARs if there were any issues with equipment being turned-in

to the RPAT yard, whether it was providing condition codes or proper equipment identification. LARs could also reach out to FSRs much easier if units required assistance.

With all AMC personnel being within walking distance, it is now much easier to get in touch with all sections in a short period of time, especially if communication systems go down. The RLST Chief can provide face-to-face sensitive information regarding current threats and force protection measures, especially since most sections do not have access to secure computer systems. Additionally, the movement of the RLST trailers greatly supports base closure operations by consolidating all AMC structures in essentially one area on Kalsu.

Overall, the movement of the 3rd ACR RLST operations to the AMC yard has worked out extremely well. The RLST now provides better and more responsive support, and all Kalsu AMC sections have turned into one highly cohesive unit.

TWA— ACCOUNTABILITY IS NAME OF THE GAME

Story and photos by Marvin Russell
2/402nd AFSB

The Theater Wholesale Accountability Department of the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, has the mission to provide command and control of wholesale accountability for Theater Provided Equipment Automatic Reset Induction, and Intensely Managed Items. This equipment is then integrated or redistributed within the Department of the Army wholesale system either in theater or in the United States.

The TWA Department has a unique and extremely challenging mission of clearing the battlefield and properly accounting for critical and sensitive items of Class VII supplies and essential War Reserves. Once these items have been vetted by HQDA, a TWA Wholesale Responsible Officer, and property accountability teams have inventoried and accepted accountability and responsibility of the equipment from a unit, the TWA WRO will then maintain accountability and asset visibility of the equipment through the entire Logistics Modernization Program and the Army



Theater Wholesale Accountability Team inventory management specialists conduct inventory to verify 100 percent accountability of government equipment.



War Reserve Deployment System until it is signed for at final destination either in Afghanistan, Kuwait, a depot in the United States, or at other overseas locations.

TWA recently completed the first-ever migration of a major property accounting system at the wholesale level in a combat zone pending retirement of a legacy system, the Standard Depot System to the Logistics Modernization Program. Schedules and training requirements were developed to meet the guidance from Army Sustainment Command and the 2/402nd

AFSB was the first to successfully migrate from SDS to LMP.

The TWA team's highly professional workforce is comprised of 31 Department of the Army Civilians and 74 contractors. It is supported by 2/402nd AFSB Redistribution Property Assistance Teams and Mobile Redistribution Property Assistance Teams.

From January 2010 to April 2011, 123 missions were conducted at 45 different locations relieving units of more than 25 million pieces of equipment with MRPAT and more than 40 million pieces at RPAT sites.



TWA, Wholesale Responsible Officer LeRoyse Tims checks to ensure equipment is serviceable and all components are present and accounted for.

**SPOT A
PROBLEM?**

**CALL THE
402ND AFSB
SAFETY TEAM**

DSN: 312-864-6679

1/401ST AFSB RECEIVES M142 HIMARS LAUNCHERS

Story and photo by CW2 Jason Word
1/401st AFSB

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – The 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, has received the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System to add to the Army Prepositioned Stock – 5 Fires Brigade in Qatar.

In a combined effort by 1/401st AFSB Soldiers, ITT Systems Corporation and Project Manager HIMARS personnel, the HIMARS systems were inspected and de-processed for care of supplies in storage in warehouses.

HIMARS is the newest member of the Multiple Launch Rocket System family that entered the Army system in June 2005. It is a C130-transportable, indirect fire, field artillery rocket system designed to fire all

MLRS family of munitions and the Army's long-range guided missile system. The launcher is mounted on the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles 5-ton chassis, allowing it to be deployed into areas inaccessible by the C-141 and C-5, which are required to move the M270 MLRS fully-tracked vehicle.

The overall HIMARS system consists of the M142 Launcher, M1084 re-supply vehicle, M1095 re-supply trailer and the M1152 integrated shelter as its command and control. The M142 Launcher is made up of an on-board fire control system, XM1140A1 FMTV wheeled vehicle chassis and the launcher module which is capable of carrying one rocket pod (six rockets) or one guided missile launching assembly. The M1152 integrated shelter provides the selected

target data via a secure data link to the HIMARS on-board fire control system.

The process for the de-processing included inspections and testing of the launcher module and the on-board fire control system. The HIMARS are currently configured with launch pod assembly trainers, which allow simulated firing of rockets to ensure proper operation of the fire control system.

PM HIMARS and ITT personnel also inventoried special tools required for the HIMARS and RSV, spare parts to maintain the vehicles, and basic issue items for all systems. Maintaining the HIMARS while in COSIS will be a joint effort by 1/401st AFSB, ITT Systems Inc. and Lockheed Martin providing field Service representative support on a rotational basis.



Personnel inspect hydraulic and electrical lines on the underside of a launcher.



Awards ceremony for outgoing Joint Expeditionary Tasked Airmen Rotation No. 9 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Courtesy photo

JET AIRMEN PROVE THEY ARE 'ARMY STRONG'

**By Support Operations Office
2/402nd AFSB**

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade continues to support Warfighters as their premiere Materiel Enterprise partner on the battlefield. 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, continues to serve as the "single face to the field" for logistic support throughout the Iraq Joint Operations Area (IJOA).

On a daily basis, eight static Redistribution Property Assistance Teams, geographically dispersed throughout the Iraq Joint Operations Area, provide seamless and uninterrupted support to redeploying forces and unit self redeployments from Iraq as well as simultaneously supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in preparation for the transition out of Iraq.

The RPATs have been the "center of gravity" for retrograding and redistributing Class VII supplies, providing commanders immediate relief of property accountability. In order to provide the full spectrum of property redistribution services, the U.S. Army formed a partnership with the 2nd Air Force

Command. The 2nd Air Force is Joint Expeditionary Tasked to provide the absolute best mission-ready Airmen to support the Army's mission. "JET" is an Air Force term used to indicate deployments under the Joint Sourcing Solution Program in support of the combatant commander. The span of career specialties includes logistics, security and medics that comprise a majority of the taskings. Typically, for the RPAT selection, the officer's career field is logistics readiness officer and the enlisted careers fields are typically supply, ammunitions, maintenance and transportation.

The selected Airmen are trained and proficient in their daily job requirements for the Air Force, but are tasked to perform duties outside their scope of work. It is critical for the selectees to receive extensive job training at home station and survival training through the Combat Skills Training or Combat Airmen Skills Training in order to prepare them for the duties of the tasking. JET Airmen attend training at various locations such

As Camp Atterbury, Ind., Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort McCoy, Wis., Fort Polk, La., and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakenhurst, N.J.

The 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, recently bade farewell to JET Airmen Rotation No. 9 and hailed the last and final JET Airmen Rotation No. 10. The team arrived mid February 2011 and will depart August 2011. The new team is ramping for the successful transition out of Iraq by leaning forward and reaching out to all customer units in the 402nd AFSB footprint. In support of this final effort, analysis and projections indicates that RPATs will process and retrograde 200 percent more equipment in comparison to what was executed during the entire "Waterfall" period in 2010.

RPATs will continue to play a vital role as our mission remains steady as we continue to relieve redeploying units of accountability of automatic reset induction and theater provided equipment in place, and ship their equipment to OEF or wherever needed.

'CEMENT SENTINELS' STAND SILENT GUARD

Story and photos by Tony Mussi
LSE USD-C

For the past several years, security barriers have been used as protection for U.S. troops and civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq. These barriers have ranged from the tried and true sandbags to HESCO barriers and now to T-walls.

Sandbags, the initial form of protection, are canvas sacks filled with sand which are then piled as high as needed for protection. HESCO barriers are large canvas structures with wire frames that are stood on end then filled with sand or dirt. Although T-walls are more expensive they offer more protection than sandbags and HESCOs as the concrete can better withstand and deflect the current weapon of choice for the terrorists, the 107MM rocket. Most T-walls, reinforced with rebar, stand 12 feet tall, are 9 inches thick, weigh more than 6 tons.

T-walls are the "cement sentinels" that stand on guard 24/7 around our bases. Placed strategically around entire complexes these "cement sentinels" protect our troops and other personnel from bomb blasts and sniper attacks. They surround the base camp as well as individual buildings within each camp such as containerized housing units, office buildings, shops, gyms, and dining facilities.

Although they offer protection, they are often symbolic of a unit's deployment. T-walls have become a medium to display unit "esprit-de-corps." Many units paint the T-walls with their corps colors, mottos, mascots, and murals. Many of the murals painted on the T-walls show the pride Soldier have in their unit. Many soldiers reflect on previous deployments when viewing the murals as they travel along different routes in theatre. So prevalent are T-walls, that miniature T-walls are routinely presented as going away gifts to remind all of the surroundings.



A Military Police T-wall display at West Liberty.

HESCO Barriers are portable, easy to erect, and you just add sand or dirt. HESCOs are well liked by Soldiers, since they are filled by machines and not with shovels.

Most of the early concrete structures were about three to five feet tall (Jersey Barriers) and built with large horizontal bases. They filled many purposes, mostly to prevent vehicles from getting close to buildings, but they were far from perfect, and they weren't ideal when it came to force protection. The military decided they wanted taller vertical concrete structures to protect as blast walls and obscure vision from potential snipers. These new structures called Texas barriers or "T-Walls" reached upwards of 12 to 18 feet or more in height. Some of the tallest reach 24 feet.

At some point T-walls outlive their utility. They are difficult to move and recycle, requiring large machinery. HESCO barriers are easy to remove; just dump the sand and then send the barrier frame to be recycled. T-walls, however, are a different problem.



HESCO barriers at Camp Victory.

They require forklifts, cranes, and large trucks to be moved.

T-walls of the larger variety have become symbols of life in Iraq, but even with the trend towards larger T-walls, there are still several variations of shapes and sizes around Iraq.

Many Soldiers and civilians have taken to decorating them. Some of the drawings are basic, but most are elaborate and painstakingly well-done. It is a well known pastime to walk the long line of barriers to take a picture of each one. At the Baghdad International Airport there is a row painted with the state flag of each of the 50 states, and signed by Soldiers and civilians from all across the United States.



An Engineer memorial with a poem for fallen comrades located at West Liberty.



Triangular T-walls.



Plain T-walls protect a West Liberty housing area.

MPH FABRICATES CRUCIAL MRAP DOOR PINS

By Ryan Robinson
1/402nd AFSB MPH

JOINT BASE BALAD, IRAQ—When Maxx Pro™ Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles began rolling onto Joint Base Balad last month with bent or missing emergency quick release pins for their rear doors, the 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Mobile Parts Hospital here went to work.

The Door Actuation Mechanism System uses on-board vehicle power to operate the rear door of these heavy vehicles. The pins act as part of the emergency quick release system. When the vehicle's own power is not available, such as during a rollover, Soldiers can pull the pin and push the door open so they can get out safely.

Originally, the DAM Systems were made with rubber bushings and had a weaker, smaller diameter pin. On Iraq's rough roads, or sometimes even just over time, the rubber would degrade and the pin would bend or break, causing the pin to stick or break.

In an attempt to rectify the issue, the next fix was to replace the rubber bushings on which the weight of the door rests with Teflon bushings. However, the weight proved to be too much for the Teflon and the pins, according to the units, were arriving bent just coming from Kuwait to Balad.

The units came to the MPH for help. Two machinists, Al Ebner and Tim Gelios, redesigned the system to be stronger and much more durable. They replaced the rubber and Teflon with brass bushings. A soft, non-ferrous metal, brass is commonly used for bushings and anything that has to slide, pivot or bear considerable weight. Ebner and Gelios redesigned the pin to be slightly thicker and it is machined from 4150 steel, a very hard, heat-treated steel. The new pin can take a tremendous amount of abuse without bending or breaking as the old pin would.



Ryan Robinson, an MPH machinist, verifies the dimensions on an MRAP door pin assembly component fabricated by the MPH team.

A Soldier said that someone left a rear door open on his vehicle and a HMMWV accidentally backed into it. Even though subjected to that amount of force, the pin did not bend.

The MPH manufactures all six individual components of the DAM System emergency release system completely on-site in its facility in the 1/402nd AFSB sustainment maintenance area. These components are

one pin, two large bushings, a smaller bushing, a nut, and a washer. The skilled machinists use a Mazak seven-ton computer numerically controlled lathe to produce the parts.

These craftsmen, who started manufacturing this upgrade three years ago, are currently finishing a lot of 150 upgraded pin sets and have an order pending for 500 more of the essential components.