



The Bullet'n



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U.S. Army photo by Rachel Newton

Spc. Stephen Ivy makes his way over a barrier during urban assault training.



U.S. Army photo by Rachel Newton

(From left) Sgt. 1st Class Michael McDonel, Sgt. Britton Scritchfield and Warrant Officer Brennan King watch for simulated sniper attacks as they make their way around the Pine Bluff's training tower. Members of what was the former 212th Signal Brigade, now the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducted urban assault and land navigational training at Pine Bluff Arsenal in August.

National Guard unit conducts training at Pine Bluff Arsenal

By Rachel Newton
Pine Bluff Arsenal Public Affairs

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, Ark. -- On a hot, sticky day in August, Soldiers from the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas National Guard, descended on Pine Bluff Arsenal to conduct some much needed "Warrior Task" training prior to their expected mobilization and deployment back to the Middle East. The training included urban assault and land navigational skills.

"This is really unusual for us," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael McDonel. "We are a comms (communications) unit and we don't do a lot of infantry training. This next whole mission is pretty much going to be infantry so we are rolling over to our basic skills – things we are all suppose to know."

McDonel, who works for the installation's Directorate of Information Management, said the entire experience has been eye-opening. "Normally, we do radios and push and twist knobs," he said. "All of a sudden we have to retrain ourselves to use weapons and ammo, and do all those things we haven't done in a while or haven't done at all like run

into a blocked building."

The 39th IBCT, headquartered in Little Rock, Ark., is the largest combat command in Arkansas. The upcoming mobilization of the 39th will be the unit's second in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit may deploy as early as January 2008. The entire unit was last called up in October 2003 for an 18-month deployment.

"In an effort to reduce the mobilization timeline and the 18-month deployment experienced last time, the approach has been taken that the units need to show up at the (mobilization) session with a higher level of training," said Steve Redman, battalion commander of the 39th BCT Special Troops Battalion. Redman is also the chief of safety for the Directorate of Risk Management and Regulatory Affairs at PBA.

The Soldiers were given a walk-through for the urban assault portion of the training during the morning at the arsenal's training tower. Groups of four were then deployed over a barrier, dodging simulated fire from insurgents, until they were able to maneuver up to the side of the building, thus gaining entry into the building. Simulated smoke was

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Army News

Army Chief of Staff addresses AUSA attendees

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- In his keynote address at the Association of the United States Army annual meeting's Eisenhower Luncheon, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, said he foresees decades of persistent conflict, but expects the Army to rise to the challenge.

Terrorists, he said, will continue to attack America, and the Army will remain central in defending our values and way of life.

"We will be unlikely to predict the time, location or the scope of coming conflicts, and looking back over history, the one thing we know when it comes to predicting the future is that we usually get it wrong," he said. "The Army has a vision to build those forces and we're already executing it. We intend to transform the current force into a campaign-quality, expeditionary Army capable of supporting our commanders across the spectrum of conflict of the 21st century. We're about half-way there in completing the transformation of our force."

He said it is still the best Army in the world, but he acknowledged it is stressed and stretched by six years of war.

"Today's Army is out-of-balance," said Casey. "The current demand on our forces exceeds the sustainable supply. We are consumed with meeting the demands of the current fight and unable to provide ready forces as rapidly as we would like for other contingencies. Overall, we are consuming our readiness as fast as we are building it."

Casey said four imperatives will rebalance the force.

First, the Army must improve sustainment, not only by recruiting, retaining and training Soldiers, but especially by caring for their Families and for wounded warriors. Casey also pointed out that Army civilians are an important part of the force.

"Our warriors are our ultimate asymmetric advantage, the one thing that no enemy can duplicate now or in the future and we need to keep them with us," he said. "We're

committed to ensuring that the quality of life of our Soldiers, Families and civilians is commensurate with their magnificent service."

His second imperative was preparation for success. The Army, he said, is committed to providing Soldiers with the best-possible equipment so they can maintain the advantage over the enemy, as well as intensive training opportunities.

An important part of preparation is Casey's third imperative: reset. He stressed the importance of giving Soldiers and their Families the time and opportunity to recover from repeated deployments. He also mentioned that since 2003, equipment has been used at over five times its normal rate and in harsh environments. He cautioned that reset must last several years after deployments end.

The final imperative is transforming the Army to meet the demands of the 21st century. According to Casey, transformation is a holistic effort encompassing how the Army fights, trains, modernizes, develops leaders, bases forces and supports Soldiers, Families and civilians.

It includes growing and modernizing the Army, developing agile, adaptive leaders and especially adapting the Reserve Components, which Casey said are "performing magnificently, but in an operational roll for which they were neither designed nor resourced.

"They are no longer a strategic reserve mobilized only in national emergencies," he said. "They are now an operational reserve, deployed on a cyclical basis to allow us to sustain extended operations. Operationalizing the Reserve Components will require national and state consensus as well as continued commitment from employers, Soldiers and Families. It will require changes to the way we train and equip, resource and mobilize, and also administrative policies. We owe it to them to make this transition rapidly."

Casey remained hopeful, however, reminding the audience that the Army has faced and overcome challenges for 232 years, bringing strength and freedom to the nation and the world.

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The editorial content of The Bullet'n is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office at Joint Munitions Command headquarters. Contributions to The Bullet'n are welcome; contact information follows.

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A well-rounded career

JMC employee presented with first Raaen Achievement Award

By Maggie Browne
JMC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- David A. Harris, strategic planning officer, Strategic Plans and Initiatives Office, Joint Munitions Command, received the Maj. Gen. John C. Raaen Jr. Achievement Award on Oct. 4 from Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, JMC commanding general.

Harris is the first person to receive this award. The award will be given on an annual basis to the JMC employee who best demonstrates a well-rounded career, extraordinary accomplishments and service to the warfighter.

The nomination of Harris cited his demonstrated excellence in the field of logistics throughout his career. "He has been instrumental in the inception, coordination and integration of Integrated Logistics Strategy. With his expertise, he has a comprehensive understanding of where we have been and where we need to go in the future," read the nomination.

Harris was pleased at having received the award. "I was both honored and surprised," he said. But he gave credit for his success to his colleagues. "There are so many incredible people JMC-wide who help make it happen," he said. "We all contribute to supporting the warfighter."

"I think he is the most deserving of this award," said Ronald Herter, deputy chief of staff, Strategic Plans and Initiatives and supervisor of Harris. "He has become the



U.S. Army photo by Rhonda Brunning/EL Hamm

David Harris received the Maj. Gen. John C. Raaen Jr. Achievement Award from JMC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers.

strategic planning guru and people have come to rely on his guidance and expertise," he said.

The award is named for Maj. Gen. John C. Raaen, Jr., who had a long and distinguished career in the Army, especially in regard to ammunition. He was deeply involved in the development of the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition. He experienced the full spectrum of the ammunition profession having commanded ammunition units at every level. He worked in research and development, procurement, production, maintenance and storage, and stockpile management, never forgetting the Soldier in the field.

National quality award examiners to visit ARDEC

By Picatinny Arsenal
Public Affairs Office

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. — The U. S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center is one of 13 organizations chosen to receive site visits from a Malcolm Baldrige national quality award team of examiners this year, the National Institute of Standards and Technology announced Sept. 19.

ARDEC is a contender for the 2007 Baldrige award in the nonprofit category. The center is one of four remaining non-profit organizations still under consideration.

According to a June NIST press release, the 84 applications received in 2007 included 13 nonprofits. This is the first year in the award's 20-year history that nonprofit organizations are eligible for the award.

Ten other organizations in three other categories also

will receive site visits, NIST announced.

The national quality or Baldrige award is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive.

ARDEC Director Dr. Joseph A. Lannon learned of the center's selection for a site visit on Sept. 19 during a phone call he received from NIST.

"Our receipt of a site visit is an enormous accomplishment and a tribute to the exceptional work by you – our workforce," Lannon said in an email to ARDEC employees.

He asked the ARDEC workforce for its continued support as the organization prepares for the site visit during the week of Oct. 22.

"I am confident your dedication to continuous improvement will shine through," he said. "Thank you for your part in this tremendous team effort!"

ARDEC is the only remaining Department of Defense applicant of the four that applied.

A better ammo sorter

Improvement tools enhance small arms ammunition inspection system



U.S. Army photo submitted by Defense Ammunition Center

A photograph of the Broadband Global Area Network System (BGAN).

By Jaime Thompson
DAC Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- The Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System, developed by the Defense Ammunition Center and supporting contactor, Cybernet, has undergone Value Engineering and Lean Six Sigma analysis. Currently, there are two units in the Army located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and Fort Irwin, Calif.

The ATACS development in 2004 was initiated due to the significant requirement of manpower that was necessary for the small arms ammunition reclamation process. The manual sorting/inspecting of SAA removed warfighters from operational and training commitments and accounted for approximately 50 percent of serviceable ammunition being identified as unserviceable.

"The solution to manual sorting was the ATACS," said Adrian Wells, DAC equipment specialist. "The ATACS removed 90 percent of the manpower component from the identification, inspection, and sorting process of SAA reclamation and

caught over 95 percent of the serviceable ammunition that was labeled as unserviceable by manual sorting."

Currently, the ATACS is capable of classifying, inspecting, and sorting ammunition ranging from 9 mm to .50 caliber. The ATACS is capable of an average production rate of 52,000 rounds of 5.56 mm rounds per eight hours of operation and has processed five million rounds since initial integration.

Wells points out that "ATACS provides for a continuous eight hours or more of operation per workday, compared to manual sorting where Soldiers or civilian personnel require lunch and numerous rest breaks during the same period." Under most conditions, ATACS only requires the assignment of one person for its total operation, which includes feeding ammunition, emptying ammunition collection containers, and monitoring system operation. Outside of those functions, ATACS does everything else. The processes of classification, inspection,



U.S. Army photo submitted by Defense Ammunition Center

A photograph of a Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT).

and sorting by the ATACS are achieved through computer software and hardware that employ sophisticated machine vision (photonics) algorithms operating on data collected from visual cameras, laser projectors, and laser sensors. The system is capable of detecting foreign and non-standard ammunition, as well as non-serviceable ammunition (such as bad chambering, dimensions, dents, and corrosion). The ATACS has been validated through Value Engineering to show a savings of \$15 million over a three-year period along with reducing manpower requirements by more than 90 percent.

Along with an ATACS VE project, a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt project was initiated to reduce the ATACS' Mean-Time-To-Repair and increase Mean-Time-Between-Failure. The primary goals for the project were to

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Lean Six Sigma Corner



JMC first Master Black Belts

By Darryl Howlett

Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. - Twelve Joint Munitions Command employees have made it to the top of the Lean Six Sigma process.

The first Master Black Belts at JMC received their certificates on Oct. 5 from Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general of JMC. The students, who previously completed their Green Belt and Black Belt requirements, took a difficult, four-hour test before the presentations.

Rogers complimented the employees on completing the final task.

“(Having our own Master Black Belts) is going to be ground breaking for the Army,” he said. “They’re watching us. What you all are doing is huge and in many ways historical.”

Rogers said he expected the Master Black Belts to be leaders.

“Your job is to get people to ask every time they come into work, ‘I wonder what I can improve today?’ If we can get everyone to think that way, we’ve won.”

Rogers said the Master Black Belts’ job is to educate the workforce that LSS is the way to go and a better way to do business.

Rick Rodriguez, one of the new Master Black Belts, felt relieved the test was over.

“I feel exhausted, but it was worth going through the effort, the work and testing,” he said.

Mary Rus said the enormity of being a Master Black Belt has not registered yet.

“Successful completion of the exam is only step one,” she said. “Now we have to transfer that knowledge and balance it with project realization. Sometimes that is not always a smooth process. I just want to do the best job I can for JMC and for the Army.”



U.S. Army photo by Darryl Howlett

The Joint Munitions Command first Master Black Belts.

Walt Songaila, executive director of Lean Six Sigma at JMC, said the Master Black Belts are ready to bring the command to the next level.

“JMC Master Black Belts will start teaching Green Belt classes in October at Crane Army Ammunition Activity and November at JMC headquarters. They will start teaching Black Belt classes as soon as January,” he said.

Songaila said the Master Black Belts will also teach the Black Belt classes at JMC installations, which entails teaching the full, four-week class at each location.

“Classes are designed to be co-taught, so we are looking at the belts to do eight weeks of teaching this fiscal year,” he said. “Each week of teaching generally requires a week of preparation, so Master Black Belts will be dedicating 16 weeks to teach Black Belt classes.”

Songaila said there are benefits in JMC teaching its own classes.

JMC Master Black Belts

Jeffrey Hurst	Richard Rodriguez
Paul Allswede	Pat McIllece
Lara Zilafro	John Campbell
John Pelzel	Steve Tutt
Mary Rus	Holly Price
Cindy Medinger	Robert Anderson

“Teaching our own classes allows us flexibility to improve how we teach classes. We can teach smaller classes versus the Department of the Army 30-person class size,” he said. “We can teach it two days a week over five weeks versus how the DA model of five days over two weeks. This really allows us the needed flexibility to do what works best for JMC.”

Songaila said the George Group, a contractor that originally taught the Green Belt and Black Belt classes at JMC, is funded by the command through January 2008.



Lean Six Sigma Corner



Vessel documents improved through LSS Black Belt project

By Pat McIllece
JMC Lean Six Sigma Office

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- The Joint Munitions Command headquarters has completed a Black Belt Lean Six Sigma project designed to improve the accuracy of the vessel documentation prepared by JMC and its installations.

The goal of the project was originally to attain 100 percent accuracy in critical vessel documents provided to the port and to eliminate all defects. The scope of the project addressed the accuracy of those vessel documents prepared by JMC and its installations for JMC coordinated surface shipments of ammunition from Military Ocean Terminal Sunnypoint, N.C.

A team utilized a wide array of LSS tools during the project to analyze and identify viable solutions. A pilot was conducted and the results were analyzed, control charts developed and hypothesis test conducted to verify that the improvements were real and significant.

The 17-member team carried out the project. Personnel from JMC headquarters, Surface Deployment and

Distribution Command, MOTSU, Anniston Defense Munitions Center, Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Blue Grass Army Depot, Letterkenny Munitions Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and Tooele Army Depot made up the team.

Several of the improvements included: the automating of the Multimodal Hazardous Goods Declaration (DD Form 2890), eliminating the manual input and opportunities for input errors; providing for the transmission of dunnage as part of the advanced transportation control movement document; and providing guidance on how the installation can challenge hazardous classification data in the JMC database.

While the project did not attain the original goal of 100 percent accuracy, it realized a significant reduction in the number of defective documents and an even greater reduction in the number of defects generated, according to team members.

The greatest barrier to attaining 100 percent accuracy was the significant number of manual entries that have to be made at the installations creating opportunities for input errors. The project did accomplish a significant reduction in errors between the baseline and the pilot. The baseline showed percentage of 8.61 percent for defective documents and 12.3 percent for defects. The pilot found the percent for both defectives and defects to be 2.49 percent with special cause and 1.76 percent without special cause. The project also realized a validated Type II cost avoidance of \$32,000 at the installations from the automation of the DD Form 2890.

Project improving Lean Six Sigma projects

By Chad DeWitte
JMC Lean Six Sigma Office

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- A recent Lean Six Sigma Green Belt project resulted in the improvement of the accuracy of projected benefits and streamlined the project validation process.

This project resulted in a \$36,927 cost saving due to automating all the savings reports and entering the financial data into the Power Steering database. Manual effort has been greatly decreased according to audits.

The goal of the project was to decrease the research time of projected benefit savings and to increase the savings percentage of LSS projected savings by streamlining the project validation process.

Four JMC team members worked on the project, using the define, manage, analyze, improve and control process. Throughout the entire DMAIC process for the project, numerous "quick win" initiatives were established to enhance the overall effectiveness of the projected savings. Financial guidance was established on the LSS Web page to calculate baselines and final cost validations. LSS now has automated benefit savings reports for JMC headquarters and its installations. The JMC LSS office also has assigned a Black Belt to work with all Green Belts. All financial benefits have been entered into Power Steering.

The goals for the project were met and kept on schedule. The team established procedures for the capturing of all financial benefits and actual savings from the charter estimate to the final control phase and savings as a result have increased by 70 percent.

Iowa AAP uses new x-ray technology

By Maggie Browne
JMC Public Affairs

MIDDLETON, Iowa -- The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, like all other Joint Munitions Command ammunition plants, is in the business of supporting the military services who rely on dependable ammunition.

The reliability of quality assurance methods is important.

Installed in 2003, the new digital x-ray system, officially called the Projectile High Explosives Non-destructive Imaging X-ray System or PHENIXS, helps the quality assurance inspectors for American Ordnance do their jobs more efficiently and accurately.

American Ordnance is the operating contractor at IAAAP, a government-owned, contractor-operated facility.

The new system allows for inspection as soon as the round passes through the machine. That way, any imperfections, such as base separations, can be detected and the product can be sent back to the manufacturing area. The ammunition, before it is sent through the machine, is barcoded and scanned, with the code appearing on the screen.

Previously, the x-rays had to be printed and inspected by hand. This resulted in an inefficient way of doing inspections and delayed remedial action, according to team members.

"The advantage of digital over film is the clarity and resolution of the image," said Roger Cooper, a member of the LSS project team. "The old x-ray was too labor intensive with the printing of the film."

The digital x-ray makes for a more thorough inspection of ammunition. The reason is simple: The digital image of the round of ammunition appears on a screen and the inspector has many options to view. The operator can zoom and view the image from many different angles.

Not only is the digital machine more efficient, it is also environmentally friendly because there is no film to dispose. Since traditional x-ray film contains silver, its drainage systems had the potential to leave deposits in wastewater.

To get to the x-ray the ammunition has to pass through what is called the "pre x-ray tunnel."

The problem with the tunnel was that the rollers on the conveyor sometimes malfunctioned.

The rollers in the tunnel were not parallel and became



Photo submitted by American Ordnance

Iowa Army Ammunition Plant now uses a digital X-ray system, officially called the Projectile High Explosives Non-destructive Imaging X-ray System, or PHENIXS, as shown above.

misaligned, causing poor transmission and causing the piece of ammunition to become lodged in the conveyor. When this happened, the entire operation had to be stopped to fix the rollers. Because of the confined space and limited access to the rollers, the entire top of the conveyor had to be removed to correct the misalignment. The overall result was that the lodged ammunition resulted in downtime and in a factory setting, downtime is unproductive time.

"Since the majority of the problem was in the pre-x-ray tunnel, whenever there was a problem, having to remove the top was time-consuming," said Vince Villont, production engineer, American Ordnance, and a member of the LSS project team. "The rollers required constant adjustment. We had to figure out what to do to alleviate downtime."

A new system was developed that involved the use of adjustable rollers and provided additional roller contact.

"We basically redesigned the roller drive transmission system so the transfer rollers were "floating" and able to run parallel between the conveyor rollers," said Villont. "The new design has made them easier to adjust, and we haven't needed to adjust them nearly as often."

The result of the project reduced the downtime 80 percent, according to data produced by the LSS team.

The digital x-ray provides a "window" into the tunnel area. When a conveyor roller causes a piece of ammunition to become lodged, the operator knows right where it is because it is tracked on a computer screen in the inspection area. At the same time, the new roller configuration also makes the x-ray more efficient because the ammunition is passed through easier.

Radford AAP wildlife feels right at...

Home on the Range



U.S. Army photo submitted by Radford Army Ammunition Plant

Radford AAP is responsible for protecting natural resources inside its borders including this 2,800-acre grassland community.

Radford AAP vibrant natural resource program serves state and local populations

By Darryl Howlett
Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs

RADFORD, Va. — Protecting wildlife is as important a mission to leaders at Radford Army Ammunition Plant as providing the right munitions and material for warfighters.

The plant covers 6,900 acres, including a 2,800-acre grassland community, home to both common and rare wildlife.

Len Diloia, Jr., who works as an environmental and natural resources employee at Radford, says the plant is a center of activity for wildlife.

“The grassland habitat, unique to Virginia, provides habitat to species

(henslow sparrow, loggerhead shrike, prairie warbler, bobwhite quail) not normally found in this portion of the state,” said Diloia. “Also the Regal Fritillary butterfly is found in this habitat and found only one other place east of the Mississippi (River), Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania.”

The installation is home to more than 30 species of butterflies and also deer, turkeys, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, black bears, bobcats and 65 bird species.

“There’s a deer hunt every season just for people who work (at Radford),” he said. “We also have a deer hunt through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fishery that’s open to the general



“WILDLIFE” continued on page 9



U.S. Army photo submitted by Radford Army Ammunition Plant

Deer are numerous throughout Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Here these three deer travel inside the plant's border.



U.S. Army photo submitted by Radford Army Ammunition Plant

Natural resource engineers created a water reservoir for deer and other wildlife.



U.S. Army photo submitted by Radford Army Ammunition Plant

A group of wild turkeys travel along a border fence.

Wildlife *Continued from page 8*

public through a lottery system. We had over 1,000 applicants last year. Some people came from Florida, Ohio and North Carolina. The deer hunts are allowed in order to manage the deer population to reduce vehicle collisions."

Diloia's background includes a forestry degree from the State University of New York-Syracuse, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

New projects are constant in providing a better environment for the animals, said Diloia.

"We constructed a pond two years ago to provide an additional water source for firefighters here at the plant and at the same time

serve as a water source for our deer population," he said.

Other projects include a butterfly DNA study conducted by the Virginia's State Department of Conservation and Recreation and the rotation of 200 acres for a mowing regime to maintain a negative grassland habitat.

"We also sponsor two fishing rodeos — one in the spring time for employees and their children and one in the fall for Leisure Direct, an organization for physically and mentally disabled children and adults, through the ATK Conservation Club.

"I also believe the state record for large mouth bass and muskie

was caught in the New River within our installation area."

Lt. Col. Jon R. Drushal, commander at Radford AAP, said he believes in maintaining a vital, positive, and proactive relationship between the plant and the environment.

"We are very active and environmentally aware at Radford," he said. "It's important for the installation to preserve the New River area and work with the Virginia Department of Gaming and Interior Fishing on several policies. It is our responsibility to manage our wildlife and make sure our policies within the installation are environmentally sound."

McAlester employee is "excellent" in range management

By Mark Hughes
McAAP Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- Bill Starry, natural resource manager for McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, has been recognized by the Oklahoma Society for Range Management for excellence in range management. He was presented with a plaque by the organization.

With 26 years experience at the ammunition plant in natural resources, Starry has successfully managed 35,531 acres of rangeland out of the 45,000 acres of property at the ammunition plant.

His vision, recognized by the group, is to have many of the rangeland and wildlife attributes mimic pre-European settlement conditions. Starry is accomplishing this through a variety of means. He has re-introduced Eastern Gamagrass to many of the hay meadows, improving their production and quality.

To ensure additional native grasses are re-introduced, Starry hopes to purchase equipment that will allow him to harvest native grass seed such as Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Little Bluestem and Big Bluestem and reintroduce them to the fields and meadows at the plant.

Another Starry accomplishment is managing the deer population, achieving a one-to-two buck-to-doe ratio in 2006, down from one to five in 1981. He has also increased the turkey hunting population.

An extensively managed hay meadow program has generated at least five species of native grasses to be planted and now harvested through five-year hay meadow leases. In some cases, Starry requires lessees to perform land management improvements in lieu of cash rent, allowing him to complete many of his range improvement projects without a large capital outlay.

Starry even manages the tiniest of creatures at the plant, which has as an endangered species the American Burying Beetle. When construction takes place at the plant,



U.S. Army photo submitted by McAlester Army Ammunition Plant

Bill Starry (right), natural resource manager for MCAAP, received an Excellence in Rangeland Management Award.

Starry sets traps for the beetles and relocates them if caught.

Part of natural resource management is taking care of those aspects of nature that are not conducive to returning the land to its original state. Invasive species, like the Eastern Red Cedar tree and feral (wild) hogs, complicate proven land management practices, he said.

One group of feral hogs can destroy up to two acres a night and Eastern Red Cedar trees, if unchecked, can choke out native grasses and trees. And because of their oily base, Eastern Red Cedar trees are especially prone to fires, Starry said.

An extensive prescribed burning program started in 1995, which has averaged about 3,000 acres per year since then. At this rate, Starry estimates it will take 15 years to finish burning the more than 35,000 acres of rangeland. He would like to implement a five-year fire return interval, which means certain areas are burned every five years to improve native grass meadows.

"One of the most important elements in eco-system management is fire. And the ability to perform prescribed burns safely and annually is what I am most proud of," Starry said. And keeping the ammunition plant open to the public to enjoy its natural habitat is something he would like to see continue, as long as it doesn't interfere with the military mission, he said.

The Bullet'n is looking for interesting stories and features. Email rock-amsjm-pa@conus.army.mil with possible stories and ideas.

Warrior *Continued from page 1*

used to make maneuvers in the building more difficult.

One unique facet of the land navigational skills training involved the services of the arsenal's fire department. A simulation was set up in which a Soldier was taken to a compass point on the map, presumed injured, and needed help getting out of the woods. This scenario allowed PBA firefighters to hone their skills in this area, according to PBA Fire Chief Tom Braumuller. "This Soldier-down simulation gives my guys a grid point and then they have to go find him," he said. Six-wheelers from PBA Fire and Emergency Services were used during the simulated rescue.

During a briefing about the land navigational course by Sgt. 1st Class William Kale, the Soldiers were told that the starting and ending points were the same. "This is not a bad course and it has actually been cut down some. Part of it can be really long – trust me," said Kale. "I went through it and almost went down. Like a fool I went out there without any water. I don't want you leaving without water." Temperatures during the afternoon exercises reached into the high 90s, with heat indices in the 106-110 degree range.

Kale said the main reason for the trainings held at the base was to familiarize the troops with basic soldiering skills. "We have focused so much in the past year training



U.S. Army photo by Rachel Newton

Pine Bluff firefighter Jerry West assists Sgt. Britton Scritchfield during the land navigational field exercise. A Soldier-down scenario was incorporated into the training.

on signal missions," he said. "Our basic skills have diminished greatly. We are just trying to get everyone back to where they need to be. Our next mission is not going to be a typical mission for us. We are going to try to get them ready to do what they need to do."

ATACS *Continued from page 4*

reduce travel costs associated with on-site non-routine repair/maintenance of the system and to increase reliability. "We needed a way to remotely perform diagnostics, analysis, troubleshooting, and in most cases the repair of the ATACS, so that the extensive travel performed by DAC and Cybernet's system specialists and engineers could be reduced," said Wells, who served as the Green Belt candidate for this project. Therefore, the concept for remote connectivity with the ATACS from DAC via an ATACS Very Small Aperture Terminal Network was developed.

"The VSAT is basically a satellite-based network communications system, which serves as the gateway via two-way secure (encrypted) data transmission to the ATACS machines, no matter where they are located," said Bruce Ramm, DAC Senior Project Engineer. "This new capability allows for remote diagnostics and analysis of the ATACS from anywhere in the world." The VSAT network is monitored by the U.S. Army Network Operations Center at Fort Monmouth, N.J. and allows for voice as well as data communications from anywhere in the world.

The future requirements that the ATACS be more transportable and mobile led to the integration of the Broad Band Global Area Network to the ATACS VSAT Network. The BGAN is a mobile satellite system that when integrated with DAC's fixed VSAT satellite system enhances DAC's remote connectivity capabilities through improved mobility and interoperability. Also, the BGAN hardware compo-

nents are substantially smaller (approximately the size of a laptop computer) than the VSAT and can be powered by a variety of methods, including solar power. "The BGAN system is now being integrated with every ATACS as a communication system component. "So, now wherever ATACS goes, DAC's expertise and support goes with it," said Wells. Wells also emphasized that if not for the leadership and forward-thinking of DAC's Engineering Directorate and Equipment Engineering Division, and the contributions and support from his Non-Destructive Testing teammates, comprised of Bruce Ramm, Jimmy Medley, and Don Kisling, the implementation and success of this innovative and leading-edge technology would not have been possible.

Another initiative for the ATACS includes modifying the system to make it more transportable and smaller, so it can be used as a spent brass sorter allowing this modified ATACS to be used solely for separating live ammunition from fired.

The LSS Green Belt project demonstrated cost avoidance for the first year of \$178,000 with two ATACS in place. In the next three years, with six proposed ATACS in place, the estimated savings could be over \$1.6 million.

"Future plans see ATACS as part of desert optimized equipment, where mobilized workshops can be transported anywhere in the world on short notice to support the warfighter," said Ramm.