



401st Army Field Support Brigade

Forward Deployed

“First to Make a Difference”



December 2012 Volume 2, Issue 5

401st holds retrograde rehearsal drill

By Summer Barkley
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— Battalion and logistics task force commanders, BLST chiefs and non-commissioned officers in charge from across the 401st gathered at the AFSBn-Bagram redistribution property assistance team area for two days of intense discussion and learning.

“RPAT operations are the center of everything we do,” said Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander, in his opening remarks. “We rely on processes, standards and discipline and I really want to set conditions for your success.”

A two-day rehearsal of concept drill was conducted by the 401st Army Field Support Brigade to review past practices, discuss what worked and what did not work and lastly plan for future equipment retrograde missions.

“The LTFs are all different,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez, 401st command sergeant major. “Some are larger, some have better facilities, but we need to validate retrograde SOPs [standard operating procedures] across the CJOA [combined joint operations area] so the process is the same for units everywhere.”

Processes and procedures used by AFSBn-BAF during the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and by AFSBn-Kandahar during the 4/82 off-ramp missions were discussed and evaluated for lessons learned that can be used to improve future missions.

Everyone had an opportunity to walk through each step of

the turn-in processes for both rolling stock and non-rolling stock. They also had a chance to climb all over mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles to look for brass and ammunition. Ammunition abatement is a critical step in clearing a vehicle for return to a source of repair in the United States. Failure to find all ammunition could result in serious injury to personnel who provide extensive refurbishment and upgrades at depots in the U.S.

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Above: Major Brett A. Ayvazian, AFSBn-Bagram Support Operations Officer, looks on as Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch, AFSBn-BAF commander, speaks at the 401st AFSB retrograde rehearsal of concept drill held Dec. 5-6 at the AFSBn-BAF redistribution property assistance team area.

Burnley assumes command of AFSBn-Bagram

By Summer Barkley
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Lieutenant Colonel Todd W. Burnley assumed command of AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade from Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch in a change of command ceremony Dec. 7 presided over by Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander.

Koch commanded the battalion during a year of change that saw the retrograde of equipment become a significant mission while still fielding and sustaining equipment for maneuver units. Some of his accomplishments include leading the largest logistics battalion in the United States Army supporting Warfighters, increasing redistribution of equipment throughput more than 20 times through improved processes which resulted in retrograding more than 44,000 pieces of equipment while maintaining an operational readiness rate above 90 percent for critical items across seven brigade combat teams.

While acknowledging Koch’s accomplishments, Paget took time to thank the Koch family for

See Burnley page 12



Above: Colonel Mark A. Paget passes the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade colors to Lt. Col. Todd W. Burnley, AFSBn-BAF commander during a change of command ceremony Dec. 7 in which he assumed command of the battalion from Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch.

401st Army Field Support Brigade

Col. Mark A. Paget
Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez
CSM

William H. Rutherford, III
Deputy to the Commander

Summer Barkley
Public Affairs Officer

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First to Make a Difference!



Thanksgiving 2012

for more photos visit 401st Flickr page at www.flickr.com/401stafsb



Task Force Sabre Command Group

"First to Make a Difference"



Happy Holidays to our families and friends around the world. I understand that we all have our own special traditions and know this year is different for many families with loved ones who are deployed. For most, it is a time of reflection and joy as we realize just how blessed we really are. These precious moments are paid in full by sacrifices of your 401st AFSB Soldiers, Sailors, Department of the Army Civilians, and Contractors as they serve in Afghanistan far away from home during this season of celebration.

I want to share with you what the team has accomplished this year as we take stock of where we've been and look forward to the mission ahead in 2013. Its hard sometimes to keep track of everything our team of teams is up to so here are a few of the highlights. Our mechanics have achieved and sustained an Equipment Readiness Rate of 94 percent across the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan. Our supply and transportation specialists have maintained accountability of and shipped more than 7,583 pieces of rolling stock back to the United States for RESET at depots and redistribution to combat units. Our ammo abatement teams and customs inspectors have prevented the shipment of dangerous materials on military and commercial airplanes and ships. Our logistics specialists have integrated force protection initiatives to provide upgraded armor on vehicles going outside the wire and reduce the loss of life. Our administrative specialists have kept track of 52,211 401st AFSB personnel while taking care of pay, awards evaluations and emergency leaves on a daily basis. The 401st AFSB Team performs its field sustainment mission with professionalism in support of the Warfighter. You, as family and friends, should be filled with pride because of the important role your loved one makes in this important endeavor. I am proud to serve with this team of teams and know deep down inside that we can accomplish any mission.

Thank you for your support and prayers. The coming year promises to be a time of change as the Afghan National Army builds capacity and we continue our responsible retrograde efforts. From the Brigade, Battalions and Logistics Task Forces spread across various sites in Afghanistan, rest assured your loved ones are making a difference every day with their selfless service to our nation.

COL Mark A. Paget



Thank you to Support Our American Recruits for sending the 401st a Christmas Tree and decorations!

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays!



Team Sabre -

Thank you all for your professionalism and devotion to duty for the last few months. The past few months were really busy as you all know. However this brigade seems to always come out on top and that just proves that the brigade has a great group of professionals. As we look ahead to the holiday season remind yourselves that your families are going through a rough time without you. Take time to reach out to them and tell them thank you for their sacrifices. We all love the holidays, so remember that across our Army, Families are sustaining their Soldiers, DA Civilians and Contractors and each other with the same determination that has made our career possible. As for you all that are not going home for the holidays, remember your other family is here in Afghanistan. Make sure you celebrate with each other and look after one another and safely bring in the New Year. Remember this: we have a lot of our personnel in the 401st AFSB that have never been deployed or away from their families. Look after them as they may be depressed or home sick. The responsibility lies on the supervisors of each organization to check on your team daily.

As the weather changes here, make sure we apply Composite Risk Management in everyday operations which includes walking to and from our work areas especially with the snow and ice. We cannot afford to lose any of our personnel for minor slips and falls during the rough winter months ahead of us. Also as a reminder the reflector belt goes over the top of your jacket and not underneath.

Last but not least, January-March will continue to move at a rapid pace, use the holidays to help you revamp and reset mentally and physically. The OPTEMPO will not slow down and we need everyone to be mentally ready for the next fiscal quarter. Remember this: Balance = Self-Family-Army (physical fitness is part of your daily balance).

Team SABRE, this message is to personally tell everyone to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and remember to take care of one another.

CSM Charlie G. Chavez

Koch awarded Bronze Star

By Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Lieutenant Colonel Peter J. Koch, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal by Brig. Gen. Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, in an awards ceremony held at brigade headquarters Dec. 6. He was also awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the NATO Medal.

Koch was recognized for his achievements during his year in command on the battalion. Some of his accomplishments included retrograding more than 44,000 pieces of equipment, fielding several new mission sets, establishing redistribution property assistance teams at six fixed locations and completing the first brigade off-ramp retrograde mission for the battalion.

Koch's next assignment is at Army G3, the Pentagon as an operations officer.

Editor's note: Visit 401st AFSB's Flickr page to see more photos of the awards ceremony. Go to <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>.

Also visit the brigade's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB>.



Above: Brigadier General Kristin K. French, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commanding general, awards a Bronze Star Medal to Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, Dec. 6 in recognition of his achievements during his year in command. Koch was also awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the NATO Medal.

Rivers completes PhD while deployed



Left: Maggie Rivers, a supervisory logistics management specialist with the 401st AFSB completed requirements for her PhD with a 3.75 grade point average and defended her dissertation while deployed.

By Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Maggie Rivers, a supervisory logistics management specialist deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom with 401st Army Field Support Brigade, defended her doctoral dissertation Nov. 2, at 4:30 a.m. to the Doctoral Committee. The committee members consisted of Dr. Susan Gibbon, Phoenix Arizona, Dr. Timothy White, Huntsville Al. and Dr. Robert Hockin, Washington D.C. At the conclusion of the one hour fifteen minute defense the committee approved Maggie Rivers as having completed all requirements to become a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Management at Capella University, Minneapolis, Minn. Rivers began her program while working for Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island, Ill. in March 2006.

The title of the Dissertation is "Bridging the Knowledge gap between the Baby Boomers and the Multigenerations". The primary purpose of the study was to understand whether formal (explicit) or informal (tacit) knowledge was perceived as the most effective method of knowledge transfer from the Baby Boomers to the multigenerations. The results of the study laid a theoretical foundation for future research by aiding the U.S. Department of Defense in developing better contingency plans for the transfer of knowledge across the generations.

Rivers was previously deployed for one year with the 402nd AFSB as a Contract Specialist and Deputy of the Business Management/Contract Management office. She completed course work by "getting up really early, staying up late, then completing the chapters while on my previous two R&R's." She said she had to complete 16 milestones to complete her dissertation.

She said she deployed "to enhance my career by serving as a supervisory logistics management specialist."

"My next goal is to continue adding to the body of knowledge by researching and publishing knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer methodologies in the Department of Defense," she said.

She completed her doctoral program with a 3.75 GPA.

When not deployed, Rivers works for the Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Dr. Rivers is also a college Professor at the University of Phoenix Campus in Birmingham Alabama and Athens State University in Athens Ala.

Chester promoted

By Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Chester was promoted to his current rank by Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st commander, during a promotion ceremony held at 401st AFSB headquarters Oct. 20. He is a Logistics Civil Augmentation Program liaison officer serving in Kabul.



Above: Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander pins the lieutenant colonel's rank insignia on Lt. Col. Antonio Chester.

Mark Adkins named QASAS of the Year

By Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Mark R. Adkins, Joint Munitions Command senior staff technical representative to the Logistics Support Element, 401st Army Field Support Brigade was named Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) of the year for the GS-12 grade level. Being named QASAS of the year is the highest recognition in the QASAS career program.

“The QASAS career program has a formal review or evaluation process in which each individual careerist is rated annually against a set of standards,” said Mary L. Hoy, JMC senior command representative to the 401st AFSB. “This evaluation is submitted to a panel of senior career program personnel who evaluate and rank the careerists. To be rated as the number one careerist at a grade level is quite an accomplishment. This year there were approximately 114 GS-12 QASAS considered and Mark was rated as number one out of this group. The award is primarily internal recognition within our career program and the ammunition community at large.”

“It’s quite an honor to be considered the top of the heap,” said Adkins.

He has about 12 years as a QASAS and is completing his fifth deployment. He deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom three times and is about half way through his second deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom. He volunteered for all of his deployments. This deployment is, however, quite different from all the others because his daughter, Alfreda M. Vu, who is also a QASAS is deployed to Bagram as well.



Above: Mark R. Adkins, Joint Munitions Command senior staff technical representative to the Logistics Support Element, 401st Army Field Support Brigade and Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) of the year for the GS-12 grade level, looks over paperwork at the Bagram ammunition transfer and holding point with Spc. Jordan A. Goslin, Alfreda M. Vu, QASAS and his daughter, Spc. Sam G. Wambles and Spc. Brenton J. Herbert, work on the ammunition. The Soldiers are all ammunition specialists assigned to the 60th Ordnance Company.

“Having my daughter here is nerve racking when there’s an alert or exercise,” he said. “I can’t relax until she calls and lets me know she’s all right.”

Adkins said he deploys because it provides personal satisfaction and he is making a difference in the war effort by making sure ammunition and explosives are safe for the Soldiers to use.

Vu said her parents did not really influence her decision to become a QASAS, but they were able to provide a lot of information about the career field. She called it a “great career choice” and said she enjoys working with the troops making sure the ammunition is safe for them to use.

Adkins provides technical advice to 19 QASAS, seven logistics assistance representatives and five inspectors and materiel handlers located throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan. He also spends much of his time in the office where he checks for notifications of suspension or restriction on certain lots of ammunition; sends out notices to the ammunition logistics assistance representatives and QASASs working with the units to segregate suspended or restricted lots from serviceable ammunition; and works on the mitigation strategy to dispose of unserviceable ammunition found during Operation Ammunition Clean Sweep I and II.



Mark R. Adkins, Joint Munitions Command senior staff technical representative to the Logistics Support Element, 401st Army Field Support Brigade and Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance) of the year for the GS-12 grade level, and his daughter

Alfreda M. Vu, QASAS, at the Bagram ammunition transfer and holding point. Adkins wife, Sylvia R. Adkins is also a QASAS. He joked that the family has “gunpowder in our blood.”

401st Army Field Support Brigade on the web

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the 401st AFSB and battalions by checking our Facebook and Flickr pages frequently. We’re branded as /401stAFSB on both sites. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB>. Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/401stafsb>.

You can also check Army.mil and Army Sustainment Command where we post news articles. Army.mil: Army Sustainment Command: <http://www.aschq.army.mil/home/default.aspx>

And, if all else fails, just Google us.

401st Army Field Support Brigade

401st LTF North overcomes adverse conditions to support Warfighters

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer



Above: The ever-present dust in the air at Camp John Pratt is the result of unpaved roads, construction and site preparation. LTF North personnel work in adverse conditions to support the Warfighter with sustainment and retrograde missions.

BAGRAM ARFIELD, Afghanistan—One of the first things you notice about Camp Pratt is the dust - everywhere. It hangs in the air and covers every exposed surface as the result of unpaved roads, ongoing construction and site preparation. The locals call it 'moon dust' but whatever you call it, the fine powdery dust is one of the obstacles the slightly more than

200 personnel who work for Logistics Task Force North overcome to meet mission on a daily basis.

Camp John Pratt is one of the newest 401st Army Field Support Brigade's locations, built recently to accommodate the personnel, equipment and missions previously located at Deh Dadi II which opened and closed in less than a year. That meant moving hundreds of pieces of equipment and people to the new headquarters of Logistics Task Force North while continuing to meet their retrograde of non-mission essential equipment and sustainment support for the Warfighter missions. The move strategically places the 401st Redistribution Property Assistance Team in position to leverage transportation assets in the area.

Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander, made his first visit to Camp Pratt and LTF North October 11 and 12. He and Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez, 401st ASFB command sergeant major, met a team of dedicated professionals including Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors who are determined to overcome all obstacles to provide sustainment and retrograde support in their area of operations.

"RC North [Regional Command North] is becoming very aware of what we bring to the Warfighter," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Carlos Hernandez, Logistics Support Team North chief. "They are especially aware of the LAR [Logistics Assistance Representative] support to the Warfighter."

"It's a team effort," said Lt. Col. Theodore E. Lockwood, II, LTF North officer in charge.

The teamwork continues into the living, dining and work areas. Most people live within a few hundred feet of where they work.

Work in the Redistribution Property Assistance Team yard continues as long as the light holds out for jobs being completed outside. As the sun set on the evening of Paget's visit to the yard, the team was still sorting non-rolling stock equipment and washing vehicles on a concrete pad with a portable power washer. As she escorted the commander around the RPAT yard, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tia Grier, RPAT officer-in-charge, answered questions and pointed out pieces of equipment of interest to the command team.

"Standards across RPAT yards should be the same," said Paget referring to wash racks, work spaces, gravel and connectivity.

Paget had an opportunity to meet several LARS at the LST North, the Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group and retro-sort yard.

"We do a lot of 'over the shoulder' work with the Soldiers," said John J. Pyrtle, CECOM Avionics LAR.



Above: Washing vehicles in the LTF North Redistribution Property Assistance Team yard continues as the sun sets Oct. 11. Personnel assigned to LTF North overcome adverse conditions on a daily basis to support the Warfighter.

Paget visited the Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group where he saw field level maintenance being completed on helicopter blades. The 1109th DET 4 TSMG is under the administrative control of the 401st AFSB.

Finally stopping at the Camp John Pratt retro-sort yard Paget saw CECOM IT Radio LAR Jonathan W. Rittenhouse working with Sgt. Daniel E. Horn, 427th Brigade Support Battalion operations sergeant, to sort through equipment that had been turned in by units. Useable equipment will be returned to inventory for issue to meet other requirements.

The LTF North team epitomizes the 401st AFSB motto 'First to Make a Difference' as they support the Warfighter in their area of operations.



Far left: Jonathan W. Rittenhouse, CECOM IT Radio logistics assistance representative, and Sgt. Daniel E. Horn, 427th Brigade Support Battalion operations sergeant, sort equipment turned in at the Camp John Pratt retro-sort yard Oct. 12. Useable equipment is returned to inventory for issue against other requirements. **Near left:** Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tia Grier, LTF North Redistribution Property Assistance Team officer in charge, briefs Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander, on operations in her RPAT yard at Camp John Pratt Oct. 11.

401st supports Security Force Advisory Brigades

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— A brigade set of rolling stock was issued to Soldiers from 2-7 Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, over several days in November. The Soldiers are one of the Security Force Advisory Brigades and will work closely with Afghan counterparts in their assigned battle space.

Soldiers inspected vehicles, verified serial numbers and ensured all basic issue items were in the kit before signing for the vehicles. The vehicles were refurbished by AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade mechanics to a fully mission capable plus safety status and had passed quality assurance inspections before being staged in the ready for issue area. Vehicles included several mine-



Above: Capt. Ian A. Morris, S4 officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-7 Cavalry, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, and Capt. Cale M. Bakken, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-7 Cavalry, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, check serial numbers for government furnished equipment attached to mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles before signing for the equipment Nov. 5. Each MRAP is a system of systems including communications equipment added to the basic vehicle.



Above: Staff Sergeant Sabrina Taylor, unit supply specialist for E Company 2-7 Cavalry, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, Capt. Ian A. Morris, S4 officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-7 Cavalry, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, and Capt. Cale M. Bakken, executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-7 Cavalry, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, inspect basic issue items being pointed out by Scott Ryan, operations and plans for AC First, as they prepare to sign for equipment being issued to their unit Nov. 5.

resistant ambush-protected variants including an ambulance, a 10K Atlas forklift and a maintenance truck on wheels.

"It took six to seven weeks to focus on servicing the vehicles to a FMC status," said Capt. Danielle Garza, AFSBn-BAF plans officer for sustainment operations. "They got the vehicles ready for the War-fighter and I'm confident we did the absolute best for the Soldiers."

"These are the best vehicles," said Capt. Ian A. Morris, 2/7 headquarters and headquarters company S4 officer. "And they are safe vehicles."

"Soldiers' depend on this equipment," said Capt. Cale M. Bakken, 2/7 HHC executive officer.

Should the need arise, the 401st will be ready to assist the unit with vehicle repairs at one of their maintenance support teams located at strategic locations in the battle space.

Ready for Issue Yard – "Consider it Done."

By David W. Halliday

Kandahar RFI Chief

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Great teamwork equals outstanding performance! The Ready for Issue team is a cohesive team of civilians, military, and contractors executing the Battalion's top priority of supporting Soldiers in combat. Supporting unit equipment turn-ins or unit equipment issues can be a difficult process for a Soldier; it requires the chain of command to identify a requirement and the Army to fill it. RFI Yard personnel ensure that the process works smoothly, and the Soldier is provided the best equipment in a timely manner.

The issue or turn-in process requires coordination among the RFI's primary contractors, military, and civilians, who accept, process, issue, maintain, relocate, or inspect equipment. Equipment ready for issue or turned-in is moved to an inspection area where joint inspections are conducted. These inspections ensure completeness of the equipment and ensure that the equipment is fully mission capable and equipped with the latest enablers. It is their goal to ensure all maintenance deficiencies are found in equipment being turned in, issued, and or repaired as soon as possible. This process ensures the Soldier and or the RFI Yard is able to meet mission ready standards.

Ready For Issue personnel are proactive and assist the Soldier at each step of the turn-in or issue process to complete paperwork and inventories. They provide hands-on assistance and training as required and coordinate with Project Managers responsible for equipping Soldiers with the latest equipment designed to keep them safe on the battlefield. Getting equipment in or out of the revolving door is critical to

Soldiers and the RFI team's mission. Currently, we have more than 1,200 pieces of rolling stock and 11,000 pieces of non-rolling stock available for the Soldiers.

The team provides oversight and interface with the units. These dedicated employees strive to have equipment maintained, ready for issue, or ready to receive equipment that goes to another unit or will be placed back into the Army supply system to support future missions.

Recently, we welcomed a new team of ammunition abatement personnel who inspect all vehicles entering our yard and ensuring that all vehicles and equipment are free of residue and ammunition. During their orientation tour of the yard, they were informed there was a live grenade in the area. Immediately, they proceeded to the vehicle yard and secured what turned out to be a MK19 round. This incident highlighted the processes and procedures that are required to protect personnel and equipment in the RFI Yard.

Right: AFSBn-KAF RFI ammunition abatement team. Staff Sgt. Goodwin, Sgt. Mozingo, Spc. Mozingo, Spc. Pritchard, Sgt. Kincer and Staff Sgt. Whittington.



Final 49 M1114 vehicles issued to ANA

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

Photos by Robbin Duuck

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—An historic mission for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade came to an end Nov. 12 when AFSBn-Bagram issued 49 M1114 vehicles to the Afghan National Army under a Foreign Military Sales case.

The 49 vehicles were the last of more than 950 vehicles that were involved in the program that lasted about two and one-half years. Before the vehicles were turned over to the ANA, they were completely checked and restored to a fully mission capable status at AFSBn-Bagram and Camp Lindsey near Kandahar. In some cases the vehicle was practically rebuilt from the ground up while other vehicles required only minor repair and refurbishment.

“Almost every component [of the vehicle] was touched,” said Michael A. Fiame, 401st AFSB equipment specialist. “The suspension, tires, whatever was needed.”

For approximately one year, AFSBn-BAF conducted a maintenance mentorship program in which Afghan Soldiers worked alongside battalion mechanics to learn more about the vehicles and improve their proficiency in maintaining them. They worked on the very vehicles that were turned over to the ANA under the sales case.

“The M1114 transfer was an opportunity for me to see first-hand why I volunteered to come to Afghanistan,” said Tarrance C. Fortner, AFSBn-Bagram support operations. “Working with Lieutenant Colonel Wardak was my first experience working with an Afghan military professional. I’m glad I was afforded that opportunity.”



Above top: Michael A. Fiame, 401st AFSB equipment specialist, talks to Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Ibrahim Wardak, liaison officer, as Wardak exits one of final 49 M1114 vehicles being issued under a Foreign Military Sales Case Nov. 12. **Above bottom:** Tarrance C. Fortner, supervisory logistics management specialist with AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, looks on as Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Ibrahim Wardak, liaison officer, talks to his Soldiers who will be driving M1114 vehicles to Kabul from Bagram Airfield. The vehicles were issued under a Foreign Military Sales Case.



From top: Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander and Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Ibrahim Wardak, liaison officer, verify paperwork before Wardak signs for the final 49 M1114 vehicles being issued under a Foreign Military Sales Case. The project took about 30 months to complete, but the ANA received vehicles that had been virtually rebuilt from the ground up. Wardak speaks to ANA Soldiers who will drive the vehicles from Bagram Airfield. Afghan Soldiers ready to drive M1114 vehicles from Bagram Airfield. The last 49 M1114 vehicles sold to the ANA under a Foreign Military Sales case leave Bagram Airfield Nov. 12. The program transferred more than 950 vehicles and a separate program had ANA Soldiers work on the vehicles to improve their maintenance skills and familiarization with the vehicles.

LTF Salerno supporting Task Force Rakkasan

By Summer Barkley
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Logistics Task Force Salerno is dedicated to supporting the Soldiers of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and associated units, also known as Task Force Rakkasan, in their area of operations.

The small team has or can reach back to leverage all the skill sets needed to support the Warfighters in their area. The LTF is led by Lt. Col. Betty J. Banks, commander and Sgt. 1st Class Dennis H. Spencer, noncommissioned officer in charge, and boasts a redistribution property assistance yard, theater provided equipment team and maintenance support team. The TF Rakkasan brigade logistics support team is nested within the LTF and rounds out the capabilities with logistics assistance representatives who teach, mentor and assist Soldiers on equipment provided by the four Army Materiel Command's Life Cycle Management Commands.

Recently, during his first visit to the LTF, Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander, was 'treated like a truck' as he was walked through the process units use to turn in rolling stock for redistribution or retrograde.

Brandon Moore, AC First RPAT supervisor, ticked off the steps and whenever Paget had a 'what if' question, one of the LTF staff stepped forward to answer and keep the process moving.

Paget talked to personnel who receive the equipment, enter information on the vehicle into various databases and systems, remove government furnished equipment, check for ammunition and explosives inside the vehicle, vacuum, wash, weigh and measure and finally turn the vehicle over to the transporters.



Left: Karen Y. Richards, theater property book team 4 responsible officer, explains her system to Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander, Nov. 1. Richards is responsible for government oversight and ensuring 100 percent accountability of government property.

"You have to work with people," said Karen Y. Richards, theater property team 4 responsible officer.

Richards said she ensures government oversight of the theater provided equipment teams and the RPAT teams while serving as a contracting officer's technical representative. She strives to maintain a cohesive relationship with the property book team at Salerno



Left: Staff Sgt. Andre A. Barrow with the 519th Military Police Co., a North Carolina National Guard unit from Winterville N.C. stands in front of one of his unit's vehicles that is

being repaired at the Logistics Task Force Salerno maintenance support team. The vehicle has a placard on the door identifying the unit to help maintain proper property accountability for equipment in the shop.



Left: An AC First worker at the Logistics Task Force Salerno maintenance support team works on a vehicle's electrical system.

with a shared goal of attaining 100 percent accountability of government property.

Paget also met Staff Sgt. Andre A. Barrow with the 519th Military Police Co., a North Carolina National Guard unit from Winterville N.C. Barrow is a liaison officer between his unit and the LTF maintenance support team and as such spends much of his day in the MST area while his unit's vehicles are being repaired.

"They support me with whatever I need," Barrow said. "I'm over here every day and get a lot of support. We have a good relationship."

The AC First mechanics were working under the watchful eyes of Mohamed Basal the AC First safety officer who ensures health and safety requirements are met and disposal of waste is in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations and/or host nation agreements.

"I hope I'm helping the Soldiers," said Eloy Flores, AC First lead mechanic, as he supervised work in the shop.

Work in the MST is conducted in six bays and outside when the bays are full said Kendrick Coleman, maintenance manager.

"Anything they need us to do, we're here to support the Warfighter," he said.



Above: Many of the members of Logistics Task Force Salerno pose with Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st AFSB commander, during Paget's first visit to the LTF Nov. 1. **Left:** Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez (far left) and Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Spencer, LTF Salerno non-commissioned officer in charge, stand with Spc.

Justin T. Ruiz, Petty Officer Colton J. Rendon, Petty Officer Brian D. Jonas and Spc. David P. Clark. The Soldiers and Sailors are members of the customs and ammo abatement team at Salerno.

LOGCAP assumes water production at Camp Marmal

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Logistics Civil Augmentation performance contractor Fluor recently assumed a new program work statement mission from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade to support and expand water production for Camp Marmal and Camp Pratt and within 24 hours had processed nearly 100,000 gallons of water.

Water is processed using a reverse osmosis water purification unit which processes both potable water and disinfected non-potable water. Prior to Fluor assuming the mission, water production was a troop labor task. Fluor's assumption of the mission released Soldiers from the water production mission so they are available for other missions.

"The project will increase water production and capacity for Camp Marmal and Camp Pratt," said Lt. Col. Curtis D. Blake, LOGCAP support officer. "Water is used for showers, latrines and dining facilities. Brine is used for dust abatement and construction."

Fluor is also making improvements and increasing storage capacity for greater efficiencies Blake said.

The project is scheduled to be completed in late February 2013.



Clockwise from top left: Logistics Civil Augmentation Program performance contractor Fluor workers work on the Camp Marmal water point where they are completing work to support and expand water production. Also shown is part of the reverse osmosis equipment used to purify water. Water is brought to potable and disinfected non-potable standards for use on Camps Marmal and Pratt.

Helicopter cradles facilitate repairs

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer



Left: Staff Sgt. Kenneth McDonald, an aircraft mechanic section lead originally from Wilbraham, Mass., completes repairs to a UH-60 MEDEVAC aircraft that is resting on wooden cradles fabricated by the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade's AC First wood shop.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— In the midst of a busy maintenance schedule, Connecticut National Guard Soldiers assigned to 1109th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group reached out to contractors from the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, to fabricate a solution to enable them to complete repairs on a UH-60 MEDEVAC aircraft.

"We needed the aircraft to be absolutely stable to do the necessary repairs," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher D. Jasion, a Tolland, Conn. native serving as the TASMG production control officer. "We had wooden cradles built by the AC First wood shop."

Jasion said the unit was working on a number of aircraft concurrently in early to mid-October when the UH-60 came in. Had they not been able to complete the repairs in theater, the aircraft would likely have been sent back to a depot in the United States for repairs. Keeping the aircraft in theater saved money and time and may have ultimately saved lives by getting the medical evacuation aircraft mission ready in days rather than weeks.

The cradles had to be built to strict specifications according to Jasion and the contractors responded quickly to fabricate the cradles to specs.

Jasion said the cradles worked so well, they ordered a second set to be made for the 1109th Det 4 group located at Camp Pratt.

The 1109th TASMG is one of four such units in the Army, all of which are National Guard units. While deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the citizen Soldiers of 1109th are under the administrative control of the 401st AFSB. The TASMG forward mission is to provide depot level and back-up field level maintenance, aviation logistics, and special aviation project management for units in the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Army Materiel Command's Aviation and Missile Command to sustain aviation readiness. Depot-level repairs restore an aircraft to a like-new condition which can be maintained at the organizational maintenance level. Depot-level repairs completed in forward locations keep vital aircraft mission ready at a substantial savings in time and resources.

Right: A UH-60 MEDEVAC aircraft rests on wooden cradles fabricated by the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade's AC First wood shop. Completing repairs at a forward location resulted in a savings of time and money and potentially lives by returning the medical evacuation aircraft to a mission ready state in a matter of days instead of the weeks that may have been necessary had the aircraft had to be returned to a repair depot in the U. S.



AFSBn-Kandahar fields three teams in Crossfit for Heroes competition

By Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Six Soldiers from AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade took part in the 655th Regional Support Group's Crossfit for Heroes competition honoring 100 fallen comrades Nov. 25.

The Soldiers were on two-man teams and had to complete 100 pushups, 100 air squats, 100 pull-ups, 100 box jumps, 100 kettle swings, 100 double-unders (with a jump rope), 100 sit-ups and a 200 meter buddy carry. Each exercise had to be completed before moving on to the next one and each repetition represented a fallen comrade.

Team Again Slower, comprised of Lt. Col. Michael D. Olson and Sgt. Dawn Kincer, won the mixed doubles competition with a time of 20 minutes 53 seconds. Maj. Daniel A. Lancaster and Maj. Devin Bryant, also known as Team Major Mistake, competed in the mixed doubles finishing with a time of 25 minutes 13 seconds. Team Captains Awesome, Capt. Lee W. Berry and Capt. William D. Smith, competed in the men's competition and finished with a time of 32 minutes 26 seconds.

Congratulations to all who took part in this great event.

Clockwise from top right: Captain Lee W. Berry carries Capt. William D. Smith in the 200 meter buddy carry phase of the Crossfit for Heroes completion Nov. 25. The competition featured several events and was in honor of 100 fallen comrades. Major Daniel A. Lancaster carries Maj. Devin Bryant in the 200 meter buddy carry phase of the Crossfit for Heroes completion Nov. 25. They competed in the mixed doubles and finished with a time of 25 minutes 13 seconds. Sergeant Dawn Kincer (in the black tee shirt) watches as Lt. Col. Michael D. Olson completes a box jump in the exercise phase of the Crossfit for Heroes competition Nov. 25. Team Again Slower, Olson and Kincer, won the mixed doubles competition with a time of 20 minutes 53 seconds.

Courtesy U.S. Army photos



Brigadier General Khan Afgha Amin-The Unexpected Visitor

By First Lt., Mitchell Vaughan
AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade S2

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—AFSBn-Kandahar has become the "spot to be" for General Officers of all types. On Sunday, the 11th of November, approximately 1900 hours, the 4th Battalion had an unexpected visit from Brigadier General Khan Agha, who is the Deputy Commander in the 205 Attal Corps, for the Afghan National Army headquartered at Camp Lindsay. Due to the unexpected arrival of such a ranking officer, the S-2 was notified by security and responded accordingly. Upon arrival at the BG's location it was determined by the S-2 OIC 1LT Mitchell Vaughan and Senior Intelligence Analyst Racquel Mong, that the motivation behind his visit was to visit a defense contractor, Mr. Andre Pitter, a friend from many years ago.

Both S-2 personnel then proceeded to offer to accompany Mr. Pitter and the BG to a meal that evening. However, BG Khan Agha received a phone call which did not allow for that, so he offered to host lunch at his compound for 1LT Vaughan, Ms. Mong, and Mr. Pitter, at his headquarters in Camp Lindsay. Due to the current procedures in place, a convoy to FOB Lindsey was an unnecessary risk and the group respectfully declined. The BG proposed a new plan in which would be to bring lunch to our BN HQ, a traditional Afghan meal, the following day at noon. The group made a risky proposition before providing an answer, that the BG allow us to invite the command staff to the lunch. The BG smiled and agreed happily. The only thing left to do was to anxiously await the following day.

Just as the BG promised, he arrived at noon with lunch in hand. During the next one hour and forty minutes the group consisting of BG Khan Agha, his Interpreter, his son, his Aide de Camp, LTC



AFSBn-Kandahar staff had lunch with Afghan Brig. Gen. Khan Agha Nov. 13. He came to look an old friend and make new friends among the AFSB staff. A good time was had by all.

Courtesy U.S. Army photos

of BG Khan Agha, his Interpreter, his son, his Aide de Camp, LTC Sliwinski, LTC Kubeja, SGM Roberts, Mr. Springer, 1LT Vaughan, Ms. Mong, Ms. George, and Mr. Pitter engaged in a traditional Afghan lunch.

There was no shortage of lively conversation throughout, from both parties involved. Gifts were then exchanged, LTC Sliwinski offered a 401st coin in appreciation of his visit and BG Khan Agha presented Ms. Mong with a traditional outfit worn by Afghan women. 1LT Vaughan closed the occasion with a poem, a tradition in his family for large gatherings, prepared just for this event. By the end of the gathering, all involved were more than pleased with how this last minute and unexpected event concluded.

Goodbye's and best wishes were exchanged and BG Khan Agha departed the 401st.

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Soldiers from the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the 27th Brigade, a New York National Guard unit, assisted four-person teams in locating brass and ammo on several vehicles. They used new camera systems and tools they have fabricated to meet their needs to look up and under to find 'hot spots' where ammunition and brass are frequently found lodged. All spent brass and ammunition must be cleared from vehicles prior to shipment out of theater or prior to work being done on vehicles.

The two-day drill ended with many due-outs for more information or further work and research, but the consensus was that it was a valuable experience.

Colonel Paget ended the second day by challenging the group with the question, "Are you strong?" and the group enthusiastically replied, "Army Strong, sir!"



Left: Specialist Patrick V. Claybaugh, a Pittsburg, Penn. native with 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command currently assigned to the AFSBN-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade ammunition abatement team, assists Command Sgt. Maj. Charlie G. Chavez, 401st AFSB command sergeant major in operating a camera used to locate brass and ammunition in vehicles turned in to the AFSBN-BAF redistribution property assistance team area during one of the practical exercise sessions of the retrograde rehearsal of concept drill Dec. 5.



Above left: Specialist Francis S. Villegas, 27th Brigade Combat Team, looks on as Damienne D. White, non-rolling stock primary hand receipt holder and Antioch, M. Johnson, process coordinator inspector, verify the serial number on a piece of equipment being turned in during one of the practical exercise sessions of the retrograde rehearsal of concept drill Dec. 5. **Above center:** Lieutenant Colonel Kent G. Guffy, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Director, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, uses a light to look for loose brass and ammunition in a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle during a practical exercise phase of the 401st AFSB retrograde rehearsal of concept drill held Dec. 5-6 at the AFSBN-BAF redistribution property assistance team area. **Above right:** Participants at the 401st AFSB retrograde rehearsal of concept drill held Dec. 5-6 at the AFSBN-BAF redistribution property assistance team area.

Burnley from page 1

for "sharing this great Soldier with us in Afghanistan and giving Pete the inner strength and sense of purpose to carry on day and night for the last 12 months."

Paget praised Koch's ability to lead a complex organization, work through strategic and operational issues and expertly execute his tactical mission. He said "there is a genuine sense of pride and accomplishment for all the battalion has accomplished over the past 12 months."

"It has been a tremendous year and I have been lucky enough to be in command while this collection of outstanding Soldiers, DA civilians and contactors have accomplished seemingly impossible feats and improved themselves across the board as an organization and as individuals," said Koch. "The best part of the battalion is the people and I have been truly blessed to be surrounded by a family that cares about the mission and each other and does whatever it takes to take care of both of those."

Paget welcomed Burnley to the 401st and said, "you and [your wife] Staci are up to the challenges to carry on the great work of Lt. Col. Pete Koch."

Burnley thanked Koch for posturing the battalion for future success and said he "is excited to be here ... at this critical juncture of OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom]."

"I look forward to working with everyone over the next year and continuing AFSBN-Bagram's tradition of outstanding support to our Soldiers and coalition partners," he said.

Burnley thanked his wife Staci for her tireless support and added "I'll be home before you know it."

Koch's next assignment is with Army G4, the Pentagon, as an operations officer.

TRANSCOM commander visits 401st AFSB



Col. Mark A. Paget, 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander (center) looks on as Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch, AFSBN-Bagram, 401st AFSB commander, briefs U.S. Air Force Gen. William M. Fraser, III, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, on battalion missions to retrograde non-mission essential equipment from Afghanistan Oct. 19.

By Summer Barkley

401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—U.S. Air Force Gen. William M. Fraser, III, commander U.S. Transportation Command made a brief visit to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade Oct. 19 to learn more about the processes the 401st employs to prepare equipment to be shipped from the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan.

U.S. Transportation Command is tasked with the coordination of people and transportation assets to allow the United States to project and sustain forces, whenever, wherever, and for as long as they are needed. The command is a critical partner for the 401st AFSB mission to retrograde non-mission essential equipment from the CJOA-A. The mission will be accomplished from numerous 401st locations and involves engaging the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, one of TRANSCOM's component commands at every step along the way from planning and forecasting, to multi-modal movement, to surface transportation and finally debarkation at the destination.

401st contractors provide corporate solutions in the battle space-AC First

By Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The 401st Army Field Support Brigade is unlike most other Army brigades because most of the workforce are contractors. Comprising nearly 90 percent of the workforce, contractors from around the world are focused on supporting the Warfighter and performing many tasks that were previously performed by Soldiers.

The 401st directly manages eight contracts that cover services from professional service augmentation, to communications to labor. Each contract and the employees of the contractor provide flexible solutions to requirements.

AC First is the largest contract managed by the 401st and it can be said that literally wherever there is a 401st presence, AC First is there. The contract began in 2005 with 194 employees to support what was then the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade at Bagram and the 401st which was then headquartered in Kuwait.

"As the structure grew, we started to grow with it," said Robert L. Shirron, AC First contract manager. "We're everywhere the 401st is."

Shirron said the AC First contract is primarily maintenance, supply and transportation, but people are surprised by the fact that they built a recreation center for their workforce and opened it to the entire 401st Bagram population, and that they expanded facilities near the Green Beans to serve as a gathering area for town hall meetings, movies, band performances and just a place to relax.

Challenges include getting repair parts and repair personnel where they are needed in a timely manner. Shirron also noted getting some of the right skill sets are a challenge when there are highly technical requirements. Perhaps the biggest challenge he said is anticipating future needs and requirements.

Shirron noted that the AC First mission continues to grow. The vehicle maintenance mission is growing to support vehicle maintenance as far forward as possible. Support capabilities cover the range of tactical vehicles with maintenance capabilities from the organizational level to near depot level work including battle damage, and refresh/refurbishment. The Allied Trades shops at Bagram and Kandahar have machine shops. They also perform fire suppression system repair and refill at multiple locations.

The transportation mission is growing to support redistribution

property assistance teams to receive, prepare and redistribute military equipment. They support and maintain a fleet of leased vehicles to include cranes that support RPAT missions and wash racks that are used to clean equipment being retrograded out of theater to required agricultural standards. Their master drivers conduct driver training and certifications for all equipment and vehicles.

"We have a good reputation for doing things outside the box," Shirron said. "We provide innovation in solutions to problems the Warfighter might face."

Special situations require specific solutions and one of those special situations resulted in the Allied Trades shop fabricating the Bastogne bumper for mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles. Shirron said units were encountering situations where they were required to push disabled MRAPs out of the way and they had no means to do it without damaging another vehicle. The resulting heavy-duty bumper solved that problem.

Another shop was approached recently to build wooden cradles to provide a stable platform for medical evacuation helicopters so critical repairs could be completed in theater. The wood shop delivered one set and almost immediately received an order for a second set. The cradles meant that the aircraft could be repaired in theater in a matter of days instead of having to be flown back a depot in the United States which would have been more expensive and taken much longer. It may have also meant that lives were saved by keeping a critical asset in the fight.

Security is one of the most visible services AC First provides. Security force personnel provide 24-hour access control, physical security and early warning to 401st AFSB at designated locations. Their posture includes fixed locations, roving teams and camera-based surveillance.

A small percentage of the AC First workforce are Afghans who work in both skilled and unskilled trades. Shirron noted that AC First has a diverse workforce and they have a good record of people getting along.

"We've got guys who have been on this contract for seven years," Shirron said. "The perception is that contractors are here to make a profit, that's true for the company, but the individuals care about doing the job right."

He added that he is retired from the Army and his executive assistant is former military, as are many of the workforce.

"We know what it takes to wear the uniform," he said. "We're here to support the Warfighter and we're here to do it to the best of our ability."



AC First workers provide security, transportation, maintenance, and agricultural cleaning for vehicles prior to being shipped to the U.S. or other destinations. Coming from around the world, they are filling jobs at every 401st AFSB location in Afghanistan and supporting the Warfighter around the clock.

A Season of Joy

By Chaplain (CPT) Franklin S. Caldwell
401st Army Field Support Brigade Chaplain



Christmas has become synonymous with busyness and stress. There is the exhaustive search for the perfect gifts. There are the hours of holiday baking and cooking. Then, there is the frequent holiday over-eating and holiday weight gain. Although we are away from our family and friends, we also can experience the joy of Christmas. With the first Christmas, there was much excitement, anticipation and joy.

Shortly before Mary was to give birth, she and Joseph went to Bethlehem in order to be counted for the census. While in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. There was much excitement in heaven. An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds that were living out in the fields and told them of the good news that the Christ Child had been born and told them where to find the child. With much excitement and anticipation, the shepherds went to find the Christ Child. Once they found the Lord, the shepherds left and spread the news of what they had seen and heard. Later, the shepherds returned to glorify and praise God.

The first Christmas was so pure, so simple and joy filled. I believe this is what the Lord would have for us. Although it is not sinful to look for special gifts, make scrumptious treats, decorate the home in holiday splendor, and hope that family time would be harmonious, the Lord does not have check lists for us, nor does He want us to live by check lists. He just simply wants us to live with Him in joy.

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Westphal and Austin see and talk retrograde with 401st AFSB staff

By Summer Barkley

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

Photos by Clayton Harrington

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The Honorable Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army and Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army made a quick visit to 401st Army Field Support Brigade Nov. 21 to meet some of the Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians who are responsible for managing the largest property book in the Army and for retrograding equipment from the theater. They were briefed on retrograde processes and ammunition abatement techniques designed to ensure no vehicle leaves theater with brass or ammunition still inside.



Clockwise from top left: Honorable Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army looks at an ammo abatement handbook while Sgt. Sokha Prak, 27th Brigade, explains ammo abatement processes. Staff from 401st AFSB and AFSBn-BAF gather around Westphal and Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army to hear comments following their tour of the redistribution property assistance team area. Westphal clarifies a point with Capt. Michael A. Baker, RPAT officer-in-charge. The brigade and battalion staff who accompanied Westphal and Austin on their RPAT tour. Gloria Blake, a supervisory management specialist with 401st AFSB looks on while Austin signs the 401st poster for the campaign of property accountability during a visit to the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB redistribution property assistance team yard Nov. 21.



Service and Joint senior logisticians visit 401st

By Capt. Kurt W. Chartier
AFSBn-Kandahar S3

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Each month, we continue to receive visits from distinguished visitors, and this month (November 2012) was no different. However, this time around was a little more distinguished as we had a total of seven General Officers visiting our location. Lt Gen Brooks Bash, the Director of Logistics for the Joint Staff, LTG Raymond Mason, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, US Army, Lt Gen Judith Fedder, Director of Logistics for the US Air Force, RDML Kevin Slates, Director of Energy and Environmental Readiness, US Navy, Maj Gen Charles Hudson, Commanding General LOGCOM, US Marine Corps, Maj Gen Robert Ruark, CENTCOM Director of Logistics and Engineering, US Marine Corps, and BG Kristin French, JSC-A CDR, were among the group that toured our soon to be occupied Kandahar Redistribution/Retrograde Property Assistance Team (RPAT) Yard.

Immediately following the tour, all of the General Officers, along with several other Brigade and Battalion Commanders held a Senior Logistics Roundtable at the AFSBn headquarters. All Soldiers and DA Civilians within our Battalion maintained our extremely professional standards, which resulted in a well executed meeting and discussion between all branches of service.

Editor's note: The senior logisticians visited 401st Army Field Support Brigade headquarters Nov. 16 where they were briefed on the brigade mission and then visited the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB redistribution property assistance yard where they observed the retrograde process and were briefed on ammunition abatement procedures by the Soldiers who have the Bagram ammo abatement mission.



Right top: Members of the AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade with the service and joint senior logisticians who visited the battalion Nov. 17. They observed redistribution property assistance yard process and procedures and had a senior logistics roundtable at battalion headquarters. *Courtesy U.S. Army photo.*

Right bottom: Members of 401st AFSB and AFSBn-Bagram pose with service and joint senior logisticians following a tour of the AFSBn-BAF redistribution property assistance yard Nov. 16. *Photo by Clayton Harrington.*

TRANSCOM Commander visits AFSBn-Kandahar

By Capt. Lee W. Berry
AFSBn-Kandahar Transportation Officer



Above: General William M. Fraser III, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, looks at a briefing slide during his visit to AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The commander of U.S. Transportation Command, General William M. Fraser III, visited the AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade to review the processes and procedures for retrograde. General Fraser is a four-star general with extensive wartime, contingency and humanitarian relief operational experience.

The U.S. Transportation Command, also called USTRANSCOM is the top level transportation command for developing and delivering deployment and distribution solutions, all over the world.

During the visit to the, Lt. Col. Stanley J. Sliwinski Jr., AFSBn-KAF commander, and Capt. Nicholas J. Tommaso, redistribution property assistance team officer-in-charge briefed Fraser on the constraints with transportation in theater and provided valuable insight into the unique and ingenious solutions being developed to overcome those constraints.

General Fraser toured the Redistribution/Retrograde Property Assistance Team (RPAT) Yard and the Joint National Maintenance Facility.

General Fraser personally thanked Sliwinski and all the Soldiers and civilians of the battalion for their continued hard work and dedication to the mission.

Editor's note: General Fraser visited 401st AFSB headquarters for a briefing and visit to the AFSBn-Bagram RPAT yard Nov. 25.