

THE SUSTAINER

SUSTAINMENT WARRIORS  SUSTAIN THE FIGHT

**Ohio TAG and
CSM visit
Kuwait**

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Optimism

By Lt. Col. Mark A. Raaker

MANAS

**See what the 371 is doing
in Kyrgyzstan**

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Pfc. Deylon D. Watson, a Columbus, Ohio native and a supply specialist with the 371st SB receives plate carriers from soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division at the Plate Carrier Collection Point Warehouse at the Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan on Aug. 2, 2013. The warehouse changed management from civilian contractors to soldiers with the 371st SB arrival.

Sustainment Warriors take over operations of PCCP Warehouse in Manas

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly S. Hill

MANAS TRANSIT CENTER, Kyrgyzstan (August 4, 2013) – The Plate Carrier Collection Point Warehouse changed management from civilian contractors to a 13-soldier team from the 371st Sustainment Brigade on June 17, 2013 at the Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan.

The warehouse oversees the collection of plates, protective outer garments (POGS) and plate carriers from service members returning to their respective duty stations, and the issuing and inspecting plates for personnel deploying in the region and updating their central issue facility records,

said Sgt. 1st Class James R. Shull, a Dover, Ohio native and a supply sergeant with the 371st SB.

“We test their plates if they’re going downrange, we’ll inspect them to make sure they’re [the plates] not expired or recalled and make sure they’re not cracked or damaged,” said Pfc. Deylon D. Watson, a Columbus, Ohio native and a supply specialist with the 371st SB.

The PCCP Warehouse serves upwards of 1,000 service members and contractors a day, and supported 15,849 deploying and redeploying personnel since the 13-soldier team has arrived in Manas, said 1st Lt. Evan J. Howard a Dayton, Ohio native and the officer in charge of the PCCP Warehouse from the 371st SB.

The decision to change the

management of the warehouse from civilian contractors to Army soldiers is part of the U.S. effort to reduce the overall footprint in the region and will save the military money, Howard said.

Over \$1.2 million will be saved annually by switching management from contractors to soldiers, said Capt. Allen C. LaDriere, a Marysville, Ohio native and the operational contract support branch chief with the 371st SB.

One of the biggest challenges for the soldiers working in the warehouse is accountability for every plate, plate carrier and POG that is issued and received by the warehouse, said Watson.

“We’re counting a lot of boxes, a lot of POGs,” he said. “You don’t want to be off one plate, you always want to have 100 percent accountability,”

Welcome to Manas: Transit center serves as gateway to and from Afghanistan

Story and photos by Staff Sgt.
Kimberly S. Hill

MANAS TRANSIT CENTER, Kyrgystan (August 4, 2013) – Soldiers in multicam-patterned uniforms, their arms and backs weighed down with multiple bags and gear, pour out of the white buses lined up along the curb.

They follow orders to unload their gear in one of two small tents off to the side of the terminal.

Although clearly exhausted, most of the soldiers are in good cheer, smiling and joking with their peers as they file into a

building and take their seats in front of two large projectors, ready to listen to a briefing.

“We’re just glad to be going home,” said Capt. Douglas A. Worstell, the commander of the 320th Military Police Company, based out of St. Petersburg, Florida and returning home from Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Personnel deploying, returning to their duty stations or going on leave from Afghanistan and other areas in the region must first go through the Joint Movement Control Center at the Manas Transit Center in Kyrgyzstan before arriving at their destination.

“This is the gateway to and from Afghanistan,” said Thomas N. Naser, a Dayton, Ohio native and the night shift

noncommissioned officer in charge of the JMCC.

Soldiers with the 371st Sustainment Brigade are working in the JMCC at the Manas Transit Center to provide support to their fellow service members, contractors and foreign military nationals entering and exiting theater since June 2013.

Although the transit center is run by Air Force personnel, each branch must have their own representatives coordinating flights for service members, providing support and operating the data theater accountability system (DTAS), which starts and stops all deployment monetary entitlements while deployed, said Sgt. Matthew J. Merzke, the noncommissioned officer in

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Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division receive their welcome brief from Sgt. Matthew J. Merzke, a motor transport operator with the 371st Sustainment Brigade after arriving at the Manas Transit Center, Kyrgyzstan on Aug. 1, 2013. The soldiers are returning from their deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Commander of the Ohio National Guard in Ph



Top: Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio's adjutant general, meets with 1st Lt. Anthony Campbell, the officer in charge of personnel of the 371st Special Troops Battalion, 371st Sustainment Brigade at Camp Arifjan Kuwait on Aug. 30, 2013. Below: Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger M. Jones, the state command sergeant major for Ohio, speaks with Master Sgt. Jeffery D. Zentz, the noncommissioned officer in charge of personnel for the 371st SB, at Camp Arifjan Kuwait on Aug. 30, 2013.



d and State Command Sergeant Major Visit otos



Top: Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, the Ohio adjutant general, speaks with soldiers of the 371st Sustainment Brigade during a luncheon at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Aug. 30, 2013. Below: Command Sgt. Major Rodger M. Jones, the state command sergeant major for Ohio, congratulates members of the 371 SB for winning the Wounded Warrior Ruck March held earlier in the year, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Aug. 29, 2013.



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (Aug. 10, 2013) – Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, the U.S. CENTCOM command sergeant major, visited with troops of the 371st Sustainment Brigade Aug. 6-8, 2013 at military installations throughout Kuwait.

The visit, which included a trip to the theater gateway at Camp

Arifjan, the operations center for the Army Watercraft Company (Provisional) and the James A. Loux (LSV-6) at Kuwait Naval Base, gave the soldiers an opportunity to ask the command sergeant major questions and learn about the importance of the U.S. military role in the region.

“I go where the commander

can’t, and carry the commander’s voice to the lowest level in theater,” said Grippe.

On the final day of his visit, Grippe met with soldiers of the 371st SB at Camp Arifjan and toured the operation centers of the battalions in the area.

“It was a great honor to meet Command Sgt. Maj. Grippe and

CENTCOM CSM Visits with Soldiers of the 371st SB

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Kimberly S.Hill



Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, the U.S. CENTCOM command sergeant major, speaks with soldiers from the 371st Sustainment Brigade during a lunch at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on Aug. 8, 2013.

definitely not your everyday experience,” said Sgt. Corey R. Brinkman, an operations sergeant with the 371st SB who received the CENTCOM coin of excellence from Grippe during his visit.

Brinkman received the coin after sharing his own experiences in Afghanistan where he was deployed in 2012

and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

“I am always humbled to share my experiences with those who can relate or who have been in similar situations,” said the Columbus Grove, Ohio native. “CSM Grippe is also a recipient of the very same award.”

After the tour, the CENTCOM command sergeant major spoke

with and mentored noncommissioned officers about the importance of the mission in the central command region and the stressed the importance of taking care of one another.

“We need to do the right thing and take care of each other, and treat each other with dignity and respect,” Grippe said.



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Gateway continued

charge of the DTAS operations with the 371st SB.

These entitlements include combat duty pay and hostile fire pay, and ensure soldiers are getting paid properly and families are being taken care of back home, said Pfc.

Darryl H. Shueller, a Bowman, S.C. native and a human resources specialist with the 101st Human Resources Company, 371st Special Troops Battalion, 371st SB.

“We in-process everybody,

we ship them out, and start their entitlements and end their entitlements,” said Shueller.

The JMCC handles anywhere from 600 to 1,200 people per day coming to and from theater, said Sgt. Maj. Todd Friend, the Third Army senior liaison noncommissioned officer with the 371st Sus. Bde.

Working in a joint service environment means that all service members working in the transit center must coordinate with one another to ensure that a flight is properly

manifested and the numbers are accurate, said Merzke.

“There’s really good teamwork and everybody cooperates really well,” he said.

Although the fast-paced and sometimes hectic environment can be a challenge to accountability, providing excellent customer service to travel weary personnel is the key to smooth running operations, said Naser.

“You just have to come in with a smile,” he said.

THE SUSTAINER

PAO

Capt. Scott Detling

PA NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Joel Gottke



PA NCO

Staff Sgt. Jake Fadley

Staff Sgt. Kimberly Hill

371 SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Optimism

Lt. Col. Mark A. Raaker 371 STB Commander

Every day is a good day! Each one of them brings new challenges and new adventures; new opportunities to learn. Not all of the things that I do are enjoyable. Not all of the things that I do are by my choice, but every day remains a good day! It is a choice I have made and one that I would ask each and every one of us to consider. Do you want to wake up and have a good day or grumpy one?

There are many advantages to having a good day, to being optimistic. Many of those advantages are documented in scientific journals. Sparing you from all of the research lingo and statistics I'll simply list a few and talk about them. Having a positive attitude has been linked with a stronger immunity and a reduction in heart attacks and strokes, as well as other cardiovascular problems. It has been linked to lower cholesterol as well. The

bottom line is that being a positive person may have a positive impact on your health and help you to live longer.

Optimists handle stress better. Being able to identify the proverbial "silver lining" in a stressful situation allows you to bounce back faster physically and mentally. You make better and more deliberate decisions when you are not as stressed. Making better decisions means that you are doing your job better. The expectation one has regarding actions that are being taken greatly influences the outcome of those actions. People who go into a situation with a positive outlook tend to take actions that influence a positive outcome and are less likely to give up.

What about the benefits to others? How often are your spirits lifted when those around you think positively and optimistically? Being in a

good mood is contagious. It makes the work environment a better place to be in and promotes teamwork. Being positive and optimistic when you are talking to your family will help both of you cope better with the stresses of being separated. Let's face it, it's harder to handle being here when you know that your family is struggling or in a bad mood and the same can be said for them. It is harder for them if nothing you say or do indicates that you are happy and OK.

So what kind of day do you want to have and what kind of person do you want to be around? As for me, I choose to be positive and optimistic.

Army at Sea

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jacob Fadley



The Logistic Support Vessel Six James A. Loux houses a group of soldiers who operate outside of traditional Army missions. Their priority is to deliver goods where the Navy can't.

They transport heavy, outsized and general cargo in a variety of operations to include support of both logistical and

tactical missions, for which the LSV class is specifically equipped.

"Our Vessels are shallow draft. We can get into places the Navy can't," said Chief Warrant Officer Clinton Smith, a Badger, Ia. native, who is the ship's Executive Officer. "We're responsible for getting the bombs, bullets, and beans to the War Fighter" he said.

LSV-6 measures 273 feet in length, has a deck area of 10,500 square feet, and can carry a payload of 2,000 tons. That's the equivalent of 86 C-141 loads. But those are just numbers. It takes a crew of 31 Mariners to put all of that to use.

"Everybody can pick up the slack. If one guy gets hurt or if



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Dickey radios up to the bridge that all crew aboard the vessel are accounted for during an abandon ship drill. Logistic Support Vessel 6 James A. Loux, attached to the 371st Sustainment Brigade, is operating in the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

someone has to step off the boat, there is always someone who knows how to that job,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Poole, a Libertytown, Md. native, the LSV-6’s Detachment Sergeant. Even the lowest enlisted soldier knows how to do a majority of the jobs on the ship, he continued.

“At times I’ve felt stressed, but I’m learning a lot. And over

time I’m getting better at what I do,” said Spc. Bartholomeu Lindberg, a Pigeon Forge, Tenn. native, one of the ship’s deck hands. “Since I live on the vessel I’m never leaving my house. It’s like going on an adventure while staying at home.”

Life aboard a ship is a different world. The floor is called the deck, walls are bulkheads and a

ceiling is an overhead, but even with the different lingo it’s still very much rooted in the Army.

“I have a lot of Navy friends, and they always ask why does the Army need boats? Well when George Washington crossed the Delaware those weren’t sailors rowing. That was the Army,” said Poole.