

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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Vol. 61, No. 7 **TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.** **(WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL)** **JULY 22, 2016**

Foreign aid assets transfer from Tobyhanna to Ukraine

**by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor**

Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko was on the tarmac to watch the arrival of counter fire radars transferred from Northeastern Pennsylvania to the Eastern European country as part of the current foreign aid agreement with the United States.

Team Tobyhanna and DLA Distribution-Tobyhanna joined forces to test and move 31 pieces of stock Army equipment to help the beleaguered country. Depot technicians and engineers followed four AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder Radar Systems and 10 AN/TPQ-49 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radars (LCMR) across the pond to repair and field the assets. Team members will remain in country to provide technical support during an upcoming Ukrainian training exercise.

DLA personnel were responsible for releasing the stock items to Tobyhanna for repair and testing, and loading the assets onto nine semi-trucks headed to the airport.

“I was elated to see how smoothly the transfer went,” said Bruce Apgar, EUCOM (European Command) delivery team lead, U.S. Army Security Assistance Command, commending participants for being at the top of their game. “I enjoyed watching the Tobyhanna/DLA team in action.”

Security aid from the U.S. is meant to help Ukraine boost its military strength through the reform of their Armed Forces, National Guard and border control.

The Army sent two AN/TPQ-36 radars to Ukraine last year as part of the presidential drawdown, according to officials in the Logistics Readiness Center’s Security Assistance Management Directorate (SAMD), which is part of U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.

The same officials said that Tobyhanna was easy to work with on this project.

“Everyone there was cooperative, knowledgeable and we’ve developed a good working relationship between CECOM, SAMD and Toby,” said Michelle Evans, acting chief of SAMD’s AFRICOM (African Command), Canada, and EUCOM Division. “The whole project went smoothly.”

The four radars recently delivered are a follow up under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which is a congressional appropriation for this year, according to Evans. Furthermore, the customer offered to fund a sustainment package tasking Tobyhanna to perform quarterly visits and do preventative and corrective maintenance on the radars, generators and vehicles, she said. Personnel have total visibility and responsibility for Army radar and sustainment cases that fall within the division.

“The radars had been overhauled by depot personnel and placed in stock prior to being tagged for foreign military sales,” said Tim Higgins, chief of the Production Management Directorate’s Air Defense and Counter Fire Systems Branch. Within 30 days of notification, 12 Humvees, eight generators, four shelters and antenna



Personnel secure AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder radars and AN/TPQ-49 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radars to nine semi-trucks before departing Tobyhanna Army Depot. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski)



Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko (left), members of the Ukranian armed forces including Chief of the General Staff Viktor Muzhenko (second from right) and Geoffrey Pyatt, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, were on hand for the arrival of the radars. (Courtesy photo)

groups, and 10 LCMRs were prepped and loaded onto an aircraft bound for Ukraine, he added.

“Everyone did an outstanding job,” Higgins said. “Communication was great at all levels of the process and Team Tobyhanna was able to adapt the production schedule



Radar specialists will inspect the Army assets for damage suffered in transit and perform necessary repairs. (Courtesy photo)

See RADARS on Page 7

Employee shares story of addiction

Page 2

Personnel embark on new mission Salem Waterfront

Page 4

Around the Depot spotlights mission, personnel

Page 5

NEWS NOTES

News reaches global audience

Tobyhanna Army Depot is boosting news and information sharing capability by using the web-based Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS).

Public affairs specialists here have started uploading news articles, photos and the Tobyhanna Reporter to the DVIDS searchable archive — <https://www.dvidshub.net>. Anyone can register for a free DVIDS account. Plus, registered users can subscribe to receive e-mail updates of content posted to the site.

To register, click the link and follow the instructions. The subscriptions link is on the site’s main page under “Home.” There are four steps in the subscription process: Step 1, leave the word “content” in the first block, enter Tobyhanna Army Depot in the next block and leave the “search for exact phrase” box checked; Step 2, select all media listed except webcasts, and Steps 3 and 4 are self explanatory. The technology used to distribute e-mail notifications deposits DVIDS e-mails in the “Junk E-Mail” folder.

Readership survey underway

The Public Affairs Office is conducting a newspaper readership survey for the Tobyhanna Reporter. The results of this survey will reveal what readers want, where they get the paper and how reliable they consider it as a source of information. Anyone with access to the Tobyhanna intranet page is eligible to submit the web-based survey. The link is under Web Tools/TYAD Reporter Public Affairs — <http://intranet.tobyhanna.army.mil/Intranet/forms/viewform.cfm?formID=100>. The deadline to submit a survey is Aug. 17. For details, call X58073.

Save the date

The Tobyhanna Army Depot Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) will host a Commander’s Cup Golf Tournament July 30 at the Scranton Municipal Golf Course in Mount Cobb.

For more information or to register to participate, contact the One Stop Shop, X58851.

Well done!

“I would like to give my appreciation for all the hard work and communication provided by Eliu Santiago and Raymond Duenas during their visit to Naval Special Warfare Detachment Facility in Nevada. Both men were a great pleasure to work with and fit in with my team extremely well. We sincerely look forward to working with them again.”

Scott Swan
Naval Special Warfare Detachment Facility

Alcoholic shares story of struggle, recovery

by Heather Fiedler
Employee Services Center

Alcoholism affects people from all walks of life. It is a chronic disease characterized by uncontrolled drinking and preoccupation with alcohol. Deciding to overcome an addiction to alcohol could be the most important decision of a person’s life. Getting sober is a gradual process that can take weeks, months or even years. One individual shares his story of struggle and recovery from alcoholism with Heather Fiedler, a counselor in the Employee Services Center.

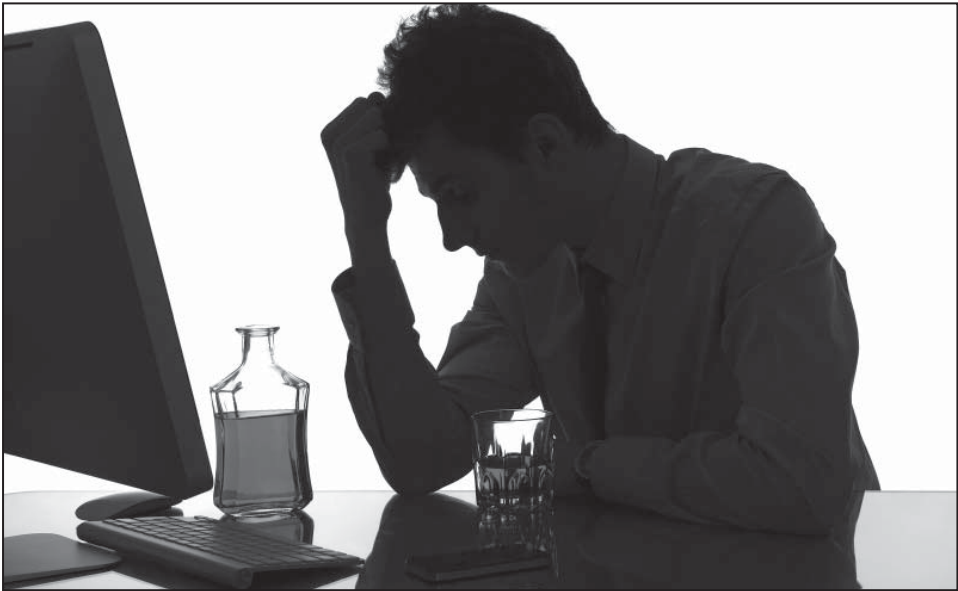
Q: What was your biggest concern when you were actively addicted?

A: That I would be “outed” and I would have to stop. My whole world — buddies, drinking, everything — would stop. I have heard alcoholics are workaholics. Work was a detox for me. I would drink 18-20 beers per night, get a couple hours of sleep, wake up, use eye drops, and try to mask the smell of alcohol.

I was always buzzed, but I would do my work. By 11a.m.-noon, I would start coming down and depending how hard I was hitting it the night before, my hands would start shaking. I would mask that with drinking a ton of coffee. If anyone asked about my shaking I would say it’s the coffee. An addict or an alcoholic to me is like Gollum in Lord of the Rings who chased that ring right into the volcano. He was a handsome prince and look how he turned out.

Q: What would you tell professionals or therapists?

A: I’d pay them lip service and tell them whatever they wanted to hear. The whole



time I am planning my next relapse.

Q: How did you function at work?

A: I would set two alarm clocks to wake up in the morning because I didn’t fall asleep, I passed out. A shower took care of the night sweats. I always used eye drops, chewed gum and physically kept my distance from others, especially management, so they couldn’t smell the alcohol, see my eyes, or notice my hands shaking. There were some old school managers that didn’t care what I did on my own time, as long as I showed up to work and did my job. In my late twenties, early thirties I still believed I was bullet proof. I would tell people I had a couple of beers every night, but was really staying at the bar until it closed — I was drinking 12-packs.

Q: How many times did you get caught at work?

A: The first time I was warned. The second time I was called into office and tested. Enough time had passed since my last drink that I squeaked by and blew a 0.0. [All 50 states consider a .08 percent blood alcohol concentration as the legal limit for driving under the influence, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association] I tried to cut back by switching to a light beer.

The third time was when I punched a brand new machine that wasn’t working properly and broke a part. I called management and talked my way out of it, but still had to take the mandatory drug test. Hours later the test came back .081.

I called a family member to come get me. The minute I got home, I started drinking. I participated in the treatment program and went to all my appointments and was allowed to go back to work. All the while I was thinking, “I can BS my way out of this.

See SOBER on Page 7

OBITUARIES

David Skotleski, 54, died March 23.

He worked as an electronics mechanic in the C4ISR Directorate.

Skotleski began his depot career in June 2004.

He was a resident of Dickson City. Born in Scranton, the son of Michael and Margaret Skotleski, he graduated from Scranton Technical High School.

Skotleski is survived by his wife of 25 years, the former Mary Legg, a sister, four brothers, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Michael Mutua died May 9.

He worked as an electronics equipment specialist assigned to the C4ISR Directorate’s Europe Branch, Forward Repair Activity in Vilseck, Germany.

As a member of Team Tobyhanna, he deployed to Southwest Asia during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mutua began his depot career in June 2011.

Born in Kenya, Mutua came to the United States in his teens. In 2007, he joined the Army Reserves and served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife, Melanie and a son.

My heartfelt thanks go out to the people at Tobyhanna Army Depot.

The hours donated were above and beyond what a coworker would do. What was done for David Skotleski was more like what a family does for one another. The support and compassion has been over whelming. Hearing that devotion from his coworkers at the viewing and funeral touched the Skotleski family. Please know your kindness was noticed and mentioned during the services. I will never forget your generosity.

Mary Skotleski

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, monthly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

Contents of the Tobyhanna Reporter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

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The Tobyhanna Reporter staff can be reached by electronic mail.

Commander, Col. Gregory D. Peterson
Public Affairs Officer, Edwin J. Mickley
Editor, Jacqueline R. Boucher
Assistant Editor, Justin W. Eimers
Photographers, Steve Grzezdzinski, Jim Lentz

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From left, Sandblaster Leader Kevin Werner and Electroplater Leader Jeffrey Falcheck escort West Point cadets through their work areas, familiarizing them with depot processes. (Courtesy photo)

Timesaving idea profitable for depot, West Point cadets

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Editor

It’s about time. Leaders on the shop floor are spending less time documenting the number of hours their employees work thanks to the ingenuity of a handful of West Point cadets.

Four of the Army’s future leaders and depot personnel used Lean Six Sigma (LSS) problem solving methodology to reduce time spent on labor reporting in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate’s Support Operations Division by more than 30 percent, which translates to a \$219,000 cost avoidance over a three-year period. The team developed and implemented automated solutions as well as some process changes that improved quality and time.

“Working with Tobyhanna Army Depot to solve a real-world problem that’s happening with their processes is a great opportunity and learning experience for the cadets,” said Lt. Col. Jose A. Ramirez, the cadets’ professor and project mentor at West Point.

“Having a deeper understanding of what depot-level means is important to junior-level officers as it gives them the knowledge of what capabilities exist in the facilities that maintain their equipment, which can help to make them more efficient and effective leaders,” he said

The success of this venture earned the cadets an award for producing the best Process Optimization Project at the

General Donald R. Keith Memorial Conference at West Point, New York. The project, executed over an eight-month span, served as the United States Military Academy students Capstone Project. The conference features research projects which apply a comprehensive set of skills and concepts to a real-world problem or contemporary research area.

Subject matter experts at Tobyhanna Army Depot served as mentors, helping the cadets address the issue of excessive administrative time being spent on direct labor reporting — a process that limited the amount of time left for more value added activities around the shop. It wasn’t unusual for some leaders to spend more than three hours a day on the managerial chore.

Leaders struggled to find time to focus on ensuring work was planned and available for employees, and address issues affecting production.

The cadets visited Tobyhanna multiple times to conduct this project. They joined forces with depot employees to define, measure, analyze, improve and control this issue. During the process, the cadets helped facilitate activities that used Lean tools such as process maps, fishbone diagrams and root cause analysis, while applying Six Sigma techniques and tools like control charts and correlation analysis.

Work on this project continued outside of the cadets’ visits as well, where certain analysis, taskers and other project deliverables were completed on team members’ own time.

“It is a humbling experience to work with a few of the Army’s future leaders who will soon become the very men and women that Tobyhanna’s workforce serves every day,” said Eli Londo, management analyst and LSS Black Belt candidate.

“The importance of delivering quality products, on time and at cost becomes more than just words from a mission statement, but something for us to feel and live as part of the Army family,” he said. Londo works in the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate’s Process Improvement Division.

Aside from the bottom-line benefits to Tobyhanna, there were a number of accomplishments that resulted from this collaboration. As “Best in Track” award winners for the Process Optimization category, the cadets beat out stiff competitors in their graduating class.

Other West Point cadets worked with personnel at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, the Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications-Tactical, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and a private industry medical facility.

“This is the fourth time we have had the privilege of working alongside West Point cadets and it continues to get better,” said Mike McKeefery, Process Improvement Division chief.

“LSS certifications and awards aside, this collaboration provides some of the Army’s emerging leaders and industrial base civilian employees with an experience that will be carried for a lifetime,” he said.

Innovative solution saves \$12 million, new test set expands depot capability

by **Justin Eimers**
Assistant Editor

An innovative engineering solution developed here will save the depot more than \$12 million over the next three years, exceeding Tobyhanna’s Value Engineering (VE) savings goal while improving component-level reliability within various systems.

Dr. Clinton Holder, an electronics engineer in the depot’s Production Engineering Directorate, designed a test set that will evaluate the detector/cooler bench (DCB), a major component of the Long Range Advance Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3), for faults and failures. The second generation forward looking infrared (SGFLIR) B-kit DCB allows the system into which it is installed to generate a clear infrared image of the battlefield. Program Manager – Ground Systems (PM–GS), Fort Belvoir, Virginia, started an overhaul program for the LRAS3 and tasked Tobyhanna with replacing the DCB in all applicable assets due to poor reliability of a continuously operating mechanism. With each replacement unit at a cost of more than \$33,000, Holder realized the need for an alternative.

“Rather than replace the whole DCB because of failing cryocooler subassemblies, I designed a test set which provided in-house testing capability to verify that all specifications are met while exposed to extreme differences in temperature,” said Holder, adding that this will allow engineers to replace certain components rather than the entire DCB. The fiscal 2016 program requires 138 assets needing DCB replacement at a total cost of \$4.6 million. Cryocooler replacement and testing is just over \$4,000 per unit, resulting in a savings of \$3.9 million for all units this year.

Two test stations were constructed in Tobyhanna’s engineering lab to carry out two tests — environmental stress screening and final acceptance. The first test requires recording the voltage, current and temperature every minute for 12 hours. The second involves eight hours of exposure to extreme changes in temperature during which the DCB is turned on and off repeatedly. Measurements are taken every 10 seconds. In both tests, the automated test set has the ability to simultaneously pass or fail up to four DCBs. Since its inception, more than 100 cooler benches have had their cryocoolers replaced, successfully tested and have been certified for use. The units are also major components of the Abrams M1A2 commander’s independent thermal viewer and Bradley Fighting Vehicle’s improved Bradley acquisition subsystem.

James Waters, electronics engineer in the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate, spoke highly of both the work done by Holder for the LRAS3 mission and Tobyhanna’s VE initiatives.

“I’ve been associated with value engineering for more than five years and Holder’s proposal is the second-highest cost avoidance total I’ve seen for a project,” he said. “Not only did Tobyhanna surpass its VE savings goal in excess of \$7 million, but CECOM was able to meet their goal as a result of savings associated with this effort.” Waters is the depot’s VE study facilitator.

John Link, systems engineer assigned to the SGFLIR system at PM–GS, highlighted the impact of the test set on this and other missions.

“This has proven to be a positive effort since costs to inspect, repair and test are much less at Tobyhanna than if the original equipment manufacturer had performed them,” he said. “Abrams [tanks] and Bradley [fighting vehicles] are actively working towards the goal of full repair capability of FLIR systems.”

Waters explained the importance of using this solution as a benchmark for future efforts.

“The more things we do to save money, improve processes and make our products better, the more successful we will be in our mission to deliver readiness around the globe,” he said.



An AN/DSY-1(V)1 Surveillance System, Elevated Sensor is set up outside Building 2. The site will be one of two on the depot to be used for future testing of PSS-T assets. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

Competence, partnership solidify new surveillance mission

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Depot personnel have embarked on a new mission to support the Persistent Surveillance System – Tethered (PSS-T), a key provider of long endurance intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and communications to coalition forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Recognized as one of the Army’s greatest inventions at its inception, PSS-T leverages a wide-area, secure communications backbone for the integration of threat reporting from multiple available sensors. The system’s sensor integration architecture supports the automated interoperability between tactical/theater surveillance assets and the dissemination of threat data to operational forces to thwart hostile fires and unconventional threats.

The systems consists of several components: an aerostat — a helium-filled balloon with pressurization control, avionics, flight termination system, FAA transponder and payload support; a tether which provides power and fiber-

optic communication; a mobile mooring platform; mission payloads; ground control shelter; maintenance and officer shelter; power generators and site-handling equipment.

Tobyhanna personnel are preparing two “golden units” here, sites used to conduct future testing for PSS-T assets under a Public-Private Partnership. The sustainment contract to be awarded at the end of this month will cement future support here for the PSS-T family of Aerostats, including the AN/DSY-1(V)1 and AN/DSY-2(V)1 systems.

According to the project charter, Tobyhanna will perform all necessary functions to reset and repair a portion of a fleet consisting of 29 of each Aerostat system following the completion of preliminary work.

“Right now we are updating technical data packages,” said Tracy Kraftchisin, logistics management specialist in the Production Management Directorate. “The depot is also working with PD Aerostats regarding the sustainment strategies for follow-on systems.”

Currently, repair is performed at the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) site but will begin here during third quarter fiscal 2017. The initial AN/DSY-1(V)1 unit arrived June 14. Tobyhanna has been tasked to provide the hardware capacity and capability analysis for the core depot assessment.

Rich Nicholls, ILS manager for PEO IEWS at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, said a hands-on verification of the AN/DSY-1(V)1 training support package will be conducted in September by Soldiers from the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence using the depot’s tactical operations center (TOC) mock-up in Building 2 and the surveillance system located outside the building. The Soldiers, supported by trained depot personnel, will verify training material and technical manuals related to the system when it is remoted into a TOC environment.

“PD Aerostats chose the TOC mock-up at Tobyhanna because of its realism and convenience,” said Nicholls, adding that depot personnel have been training at the OEM site for more than a year to benchmark processes and ensure they are ready to tackle the mission. “Folks from Tobyhanna have been trained on both Aerostat systems and have been heavily engaged in providing engineering support to PD Aerostats.

“We have recognized the team for their excellent technical support to the PSS-T program over the last year.”

Annual summer campaign promotes safety through education, awareness

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

Summer is here! Time to enjoy all types of warm-weather activities; but summer is also a critical time for injuries.

The Defense Department’s annual 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign begins on Memorial Day and ends after Labor Day. Tobyhanna Army Depot wants to reduce the risk of injuries through planning, awareness and education.

The Tobyhanna Prevention and Wellness Team — made up of employees from the Employees Assistance Program, Occupational Health Clinic and the Safety Office — will be promoting safety from now through Labor Day with safety talks, informational material, display tables and awareness programs.

Topics for discussion include impaired driving, water safety, weather dangers, grill safety, lawn safety and firework safety.

“Plenty of summer activities require talent, skill, and technical knowledge,” said Safety and Occupational Health Specialist Lloyd Mackell. “Inexperience, alcohol or just a general sense of summertime invincibility can result in injury or destruction of valued property.”

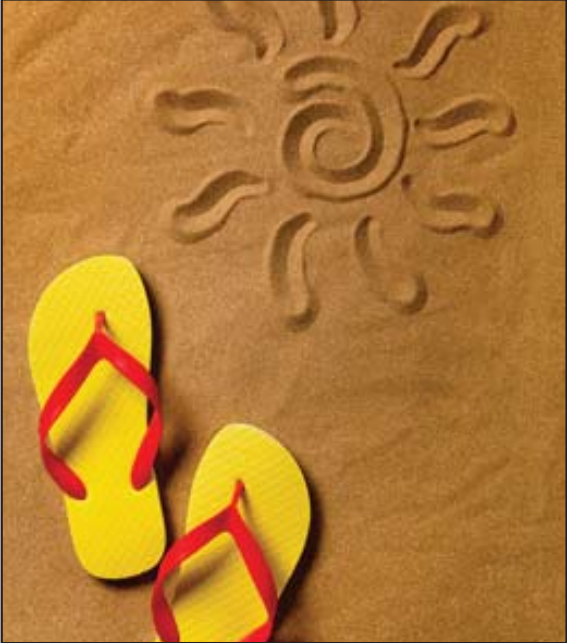
The National Safety Council provides boatloads of information for safety awareness and education which applies to all types of summer activities. Mackell recommends taking a few moments to consider whether you are prepared, equipped and able before heading out this summer.

The success of outdoor activities often comes down to planning. Take the necessary precautions and don’t forget to factor in the effects of alcohol or prescription drugs. It helps to identify the risks associated with impairment, according to Eva Granville, Employee Services Center.

“Always remember to make responsible decisions while enjoying summer activities,” she said.

The safety campaign originally began after the passage of the Monday Holiday Bill in 1971, when statistics showed an increase in mishaps and fatalities during the summer months.

The annual event is intended to remind employees they cannot afford to lose focus on safety either on or off duty. For more information on the 101 Critical Days of Summer, call X57943.



From left, Greg Swithers and Neil Altieri, electronics mechanics in the depot’s C4ISR Directorate, man the aerostat nose line and operational control console to lower and crouch the aerostat for maintenance in the air dock at the Lockheed Martin facility in Akron, Ohio while a Lockheed engineer looks on. (Courtesy photo)

Mission Modernization Branch

Production Engineering Directorate

Branch personnel apply electronic, electrical, industrial, mechanical, and chemical engineering skills to modernize equipment, facilities, and support mission and production operations. Employees manage floor space and the individual job order program for all mission directorates. The team also supports test measurement and diagnostic equipment modernization, provides major equipment modernization, and manages the furniture reutilization and capital investment programs for depot shops. The chem lab and industrial wastewater treatment plant support the plating shop.

(Photos by Jim Lentz)



Bobby Diep, chemical engineer, performs chemical analysis on electroplating process solutions. INSET, Chas Valenza, chemist and lead engineer, programs process adjustments into the reverse osmosis (RO) system. RO is used to purify and recycle contaminated wastewater from electroplating operations to minimize cost and conserve natural resources.



Dennis Hollman, general engineering technician, moves hazardous waste sludge into a dryer. Transforming the sludge into a concentrate reduces costs by decreasing shipping weight.

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



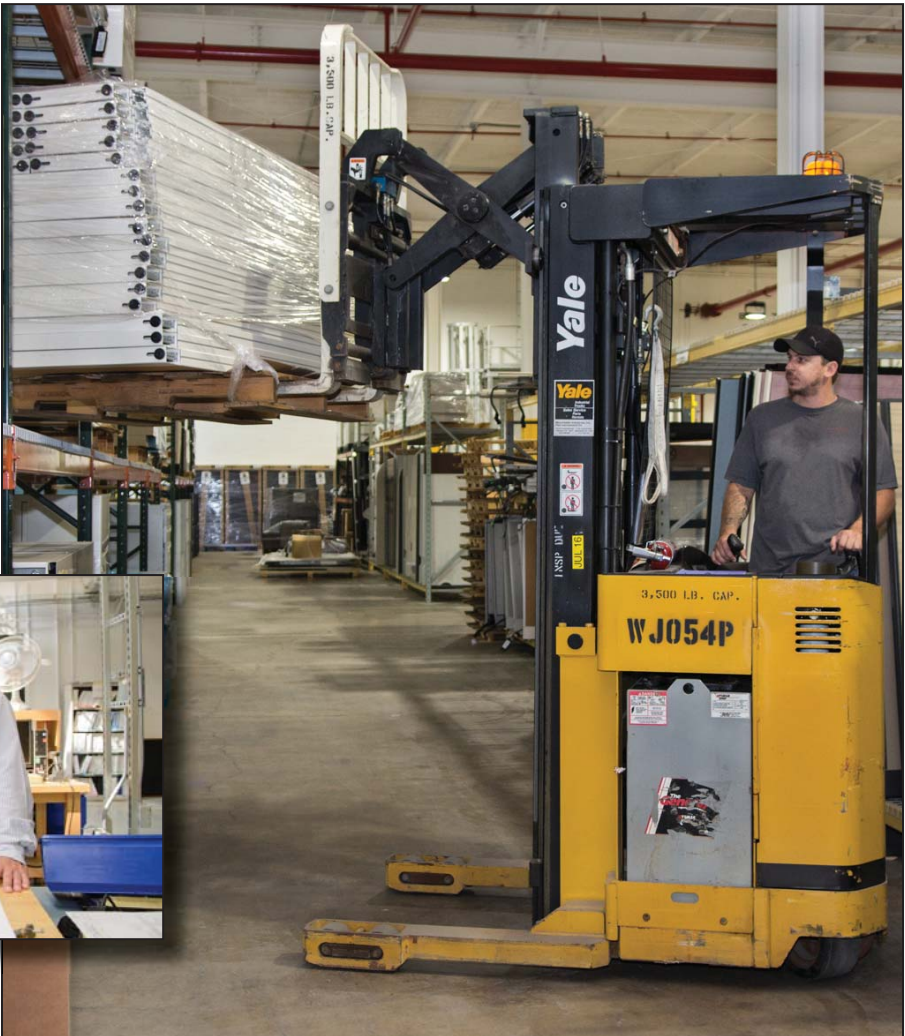
From left, Maintenance Mechanic Matt Holevinski, Industrial Engineering Technician Bill Dickson and Maintenance Mechanic Jim Kaschak remove a table from storage for reuse in a conference room. The furniture reutilization program gives new life to usable items displaced by modernization. This program was initiated in fiscal year 2013 and has resulted in a large cost avoidance for the depot.



From left, Electronics Mechanic Bob Cronauer works with Mechanical Engineers Tony Shebelock and Ron Kolment to test the heat blanket control system on the AN/MSQ-118 Space-based Surveillance System antenna.



Industrial Engineering Technician Dana Bilotta (center), reviews shop layouts with Joe Martin (left), C4ISR Directorate's Vehicle Radio Section chief, and Patrick Connolly, Microwave Radio Support Section chief.



Chris Foresch, engineering technician, stores modular wall panels in Building 7, Bay 1, for use in the furniture reutilization program.

New Deputy Director

William Ramey is the deputy director in the Production Management Directorate.

As deputy director he supervises personnel responsible for project management, business development and strategic planning for the depot.

Prior to his current position, Ramey was chief of the Strategic Initiatives Office. He began his depot career in June 2011.

Ramey served for 13 years in



Ramey

the Army with six years on active-duty. His assignments include space operations officer at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; instructional designer, U.S. Northern Command, Colorado; operations and plans officer, Camp McGregor, New Mexico and a company executive officer, Fort Irwin, California. In 2005, he deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, as an executive officer and maintenance recovery officer-in-charge.

His awards and decorations include a Bronze Star, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Commendation

Medal and Army Achievement Medal.

Ramey is a 1999 graduate of Warren G. Harding High School in Warren, Ohio. He received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Youngstown State University in Ohio in 2003 and a Master of Business Administration from Webster University in Colorado in 2008.

He is a member of the Association of the United States Army, Tobyhanna Chapter and a Jim Thorpe Youth Soccer Association coach. Ramey's hobbies include woodworking, playing guitar, fitness and coaching youth sports.

New Division Chief

Janice Shaffer is chief of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center's Staffing Advisory Services Division. She supervises employees who provide staffing advisory services, vacancy announcements, skills assessments, and training in expectation of new projects and programs. Division personnel also answer employment inquiries, provide benefit information to all employees and provide position management and classification support to assigned organizations. Employees also advise management on recruitment strategies, sources, special programs, relocation and retention incentive programs.

Prior to her current position, Shaffer was a lead human resources specialist in the same division. She began her depot career in October 1986.

She graduated from North Pocono High School in 1974. Shaffer is a member of the Maple Lake United Methodist Church. She enjoys spending time with family, reading, riding motorcycles and four-wheelers, boating and gardening.



Shaffer

Veterans council plans memorial ceremony

The Tobyhanna Veterans Council will host the 15th Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at noon on Sept. 16 at the POW/MIA Memorial (across from the Landing).

The annual event recognizes and honors personnel held in captivity or declared missing in action. Local veteran advocate groups, Rolling Thunder and Friends of the Forgotten will participate in the ceremony. Bus transportation will be available.

Observances are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

New Supervisors

Donna Askew is chief of the Production Engineering Directorate's Software Sustainment Support Branch. She supervises employees who deliver software support in partnership with the Software Engineering Center. Personnel execute the monthly production of Information Assurance Vulnerability Alert (IAVA) packages for each supported system, including testing and configuration management. Software support relies on uniform processes and consistent policies to execute standardized IAVA releases.

Prior to her current position, Askew was the chief of the Installation Services Directorate's Network Operations Branch. She began her depot career in August 2010.

She graduated from Wyoming Valley West High School in 1993 and received a bachelor's degree in management of information systems from Eastern University and a Master of Business Administration in 2013 from the University of Scranton.

Askew is a member of the Forty Fort United Methodist Church, Irem Shrine Ladies, Leadership Alumni, and team mom for her daughter's fast-pitch softball team.



Askew

Welcome to the Depot

Name	Title	Organization
James Baker	Equipment specialist	D/C4ISR
Brian Burke	IT specialist	D/C4ISR
Sharon Calpin	Secretary	D/PM
Joseph Daigler	Security specialist	D/IS
John Davison	IT specialist	D/C4ISR
Timothy Dennis	IT specialist	D/C4ISR
Timothy Fogarty	IT specialist	D/C4ISR
Carleton Henning	Technical writer-editor	D/PE
Alfonso Munoz	Equipment specialist	D/C4ISR
Anthony Palmer	Security guard	D/IS
Erica Perrin	Logistics management specialist	D/PM
Reginald Washington	Equipment specialist	D/C4ISR
Luke Wickenheiser	Mechanical engineer	D/PE
Dina Zeplin	Secretary	D/PM

Retirees

Name	Retirement date	Organization
John Pfingsten	June 30	D/PM
Debra Robinson	June 30	D/IS
Sheryl Valentini	July 1	D/RM

Community Bulletin

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted. Information must be submitted via e-mail to jacqueline.r.boucher.civ@mail.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076. Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Voluntary submission of items constitutes individual's consent to publish personal information in all versions of the *Tobyhanna Reporter*. Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin. For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



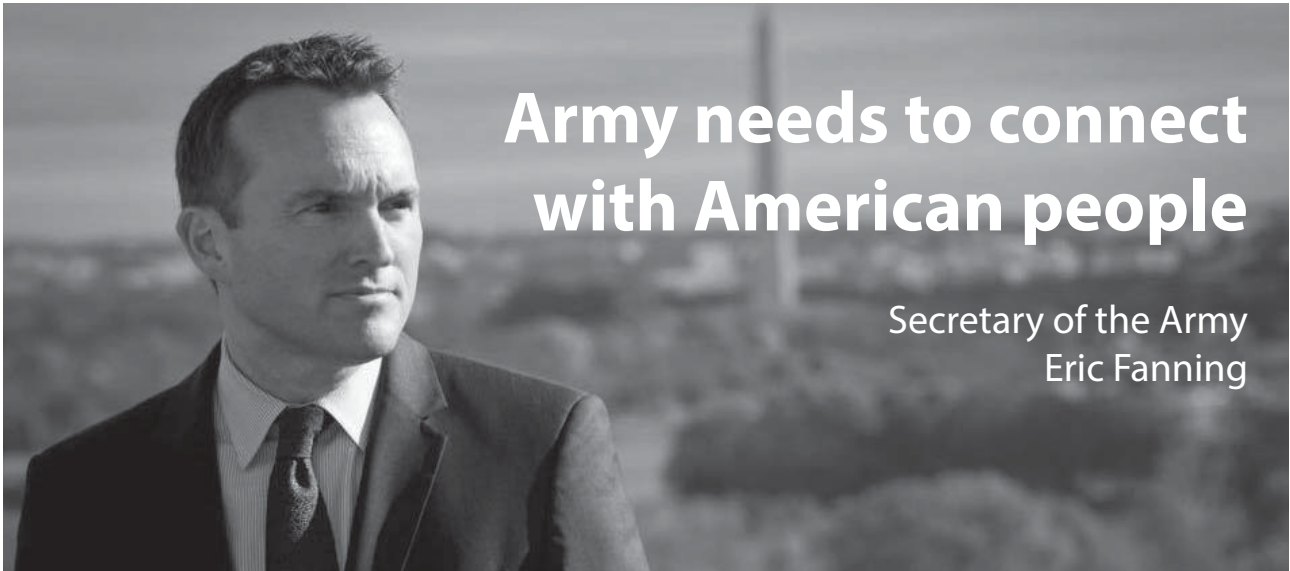
CAR/VAN POOLS

Wind Gap: contact Barb, X58116, .
Wing Gap/Snydersville: 1 opening, nonsmoking, contact Bob, X58642 or Rich, X58905.
Hawley/Greentown/Newfoundland/South Sterling: 2 openings, nonsmoking, contact Bruce, X58360 or Rose, X55213.
Wind Gap: 1 opening, nonsmoking, contact Cristal, X59177.
Jessup/Dunmore: 1 opening, pick up at park and ride in each location, contact Karen, X56223.



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Clarks Summit: 1 opening, contact Leo, X57416.



Army needs to connect with American people

Secretary of the Army
Eric Fanning

by David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is not doing a good enough job of communicating and connecting with the American people, said Secretary of the Army Eric K. Fanning, adding “That’s not healthy for the country or the Army.”

Fanning spoke at an Association of the United States Army’s Institute of Land Warfare-hosted professional development forum breakfast, recently.

The lack of connectivity has not happened overnight, he explained. It started decades ago with the creation of the all-volunteer force, “which caused a divide over those who served and those who are protected.”

That divide doesn’t bode well for future recruiting efforts and getting the resources the Army needs from Capitol Hill, Fanning said.

The Army needs to find ways to reach out — particularly to the new generation — and tell the Army story, he said.

Ways to connect

Fanning suggested several gateways for making that connection, social media being one and engaging more with the press and policymakers as others.

Himself a social media user, the secretary said it’s a tool that could be used to share with everyone what the Army is doing, and get that told in an accurate and informative manner.

The Army brings a lot to the fight. It is large, for instance, with huge geographical reach, he said. It brings

great capability to the fight — to the joint fight. That could be communicated.

When people think about the third offset strategy, they think about sophisticated aircraft and vessels the Air Force and the Navy field. “The Army is undersold and underappreciated with the role technology plays,” he said.

For instance, there’s 10 times as much computerized code in a tank today than there was in the spacecraft that flew men to the moon, he said. There are robotics, autonomous vehicles and a lot of other things in the Army that are high-tech and need to be talked about. That too could be told.

Another way to connect is through word of mouth, Fanning said. If you walk down the street and see a person in uniform, chances are, they’re in the National Guard or Reserve. They’re in every community and are a potent source for telling the Army story. They bring unique capabilities to the fight and are integral to the total force.

Asked why youngsters choose joining the Army, Fanning replied that when he visits basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he poses that question to the parents.

They often reply that there’s a family connection. Perhaps an uncle or grandfather served, he said. That’s how important staying connected is. The Army is literally “America’s service.”

Biggest threat to Army

Fanning addressed a number of other concerns during a question and answer session.

When asked what he thought was the biggest threat to the Army, Fanning replied “the budget instability and the political environment.”

He noted that budget uncertainty “makes it very hard to put together any sort of long-term plan. It’s the biggest threat to building the most capable Army we can build.”

Budget reform

Regarding budget reform, Fanning noted that’s still a big problem after many attempts to tackle it.

Some of what stymies reform is the enormity of the bureaucracy, he said. “Bureaucracies are additive. [There’s] too much oversight and top-down management. We have to loosen that up because we’re not fielding capabilities as fast as we should and we’re spending a lot of money in the process.”

Asked about his involvement with a new “Rapid Capabilities Office,” Fanning explained that its purpose is ferreting out the capabilities the adversaries are acquiring — capabilities that are often a surprise to the U.S. military — and getting new or counter capabilities out to the field as quickly as possible. Two areas of special concern are electronic warfare and cyber.

Soldiers and families

Soldiers are being asked to do a lot, Fanning said, referring to multiple deployments. Although they join to do that, it eventually can and does take a toll on the family.

It’s the Army’s job to reassure Soldiers that their families are being taken care of when they deploy, he said.

Family programs are part of that plan and it’s a big institution, he said. There are so many programs and “I’m not sure we have the oversight and integration, or that they’re as effective as they could be. It should be made as easy as possible for families to reach out and find the help they’re looking for.

“We need to find out which programs are working and which are not and which could be improved or done away with so resourcing can be used for other things,” he continued.

Suicides and sexual assault

Regarding suicides, Fanning said that’s a difficult nut to crack. There’s still a stigma out there to seeking help and the numbers don’t look good. The suicide rate this year — about 100 — is the same as it was last year.

But Army researchers and behavioral health experts are laser focused on getting answers, he added.

As to sexual assault, Fanning said “a lot has been done on the response side, but more needs to be done on the prevention side.”

Even just one suicide or one sexual assault case in the Army is one too many, he added.

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I only drink so I can sleep. I have trouble sleeping.”

I tried not to drink and made it to 7 p.m. My hands were shaking, my brain felt like it was going to explode and I grabbed the first of 15 beers. Went into rehab the next day. I was in 28 days. This was my first experience seeing kids going through withdrawal. Going through detox wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be once the meds kicked in.

After getting out of rehab and while participating in an outpatient program, I stayed sober for 90 days. I started slipping, said the hell with it and bought a six pack. While drinking, I was still going to outpatient.

I thought I wouldn’t last the summer without a drink. I was going back to the bar and they kept asking if I still wanted the unleaded. The day I said give me a beer they shook

my hand and said welcome back. The fourth time, someone suspected I was intoxicated. Hours passed. I blew 0.0.

The fifth time was during a random drug test. Got tested first thing in the morning, I blew a .04. I started babbling. “I need the alcohol.” “You don’t understand.” “I was tired.”

I went to outpatient treatment and they sent me home. I got home and thought about killing myself, even went up to the attic to see where I could hang the rope. I went downstairs and started drinking. I just drank for a couple of days.

The second time I entered rehab my aunt and uncle took me. Detox and 21 days in.

Seven years ago, I attempted suicide, called Veterans Suicide Hotline, and ended up in the hospital. I haven’t had a drink since.

RADARS from Page 1

to make this happen without impacting the mission.”

Reports from the field indicate the long trip triggered minor repair work. Overall, the onsite technicians report positive progress.

Live-fire tests will be conducted once all the systems are fully mission capable, according to an electronics mechanic deployed to Ukraine. After the fielding, the team will remain on site during the training in case any technical issues arise.

“Host nation support has been great,” he said. “They’ve provided all the logistics we need to tackle both missions, plus an interpreter. Our training and the support from the depot will allow us to succeed even if

something unexpected occurs.” The counter fire radar specialist is assigned to the C4ISR Directorate.

Other depot employees traveling to Ukraine include two general equipment mechanics, who will make sure the generators for the systems are fully functional.

“These generators have been through some tough testing so I know they will meet the demand of the systems,” said one of the mechanics who works in the Mobile Electric Power and Environmental Control Unit Branch.

Another team member and 11-year veteran of radar repair explained that the team has to replace the fluids that were drained before the flight to

get the generators back online. Then he’ll inspect the Humvees and trailers for any damage, and do necessary repairs. The tactical vehicle specialist works in the Tactical Vehicle Branch.

“Once everything checks out, the assets will be turned over to Ukraine’s government,” he said.

Ukraine’s military is learning from a multi-national training team that includes U.S. Army Soldiers, Canadian Armed Forces and the Lithuanian Land Forces.

The Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine is the name for the training mission being conducted by U.S. forces. There is a small contingent of Army forces in country on a rotating basis to field equipment and train soldiers.

Modernization takes SATCOM terminal to Tobyhanna

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Depot personnel are installing a state-of-the-art satellite communications (SATCOM) terminal here that will provide valuable training for Soldiers and enable technicians to troubleshoot systems in the field in real-time.

The AN/GSC-52B terminal, part of the DoD’s (Department of Defense) Modernization of Enterprise Terminals (MET) acquisition program, will be able to leverage increased data capabilities of Ka-band Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) satellites. It is comprised of a fixed 12.2-meter antenna reflector assembly and associated SATCOM equipment, including control, monitor and alarm; performance measurement and testing; frequency and time standard; and transmit and receive subsystems.

Electronics Technician Tim Kennedy said the new technology is replacing an aging fleet of terminals.

“The current Defense Satellite Communications System terminals are outdated. The WGS are much more stable and have the ability to operate on both the Ka-band and X-band instead of just the less-capable X-band,” he said, adding that although the old terminals have undergone many upgrades, they are well past their suggested lifespan.

Tobyhanna personnel have traveled to various locations worldwide to install



Depot personnel are installing a satellite communications terminal here for use as a training tool. The terminal is scheduled for completion this year. (Photo by Justin Eimers)

modular terminals for the MET program since the new satellites began launching in 2007. Upgrades will significantly reduce operating space and improve the terminal’s power. The new 52B systems will support internet protocol and dedicated circuit connectivity within the DoD information network providing critical command, control, communication, computer, collaboration and intelligence capabilities. Installation of a fixed terminal here will let

depot personnel recreate faults and failures of terminals around the globe and provide rapid solutions without having to send a team into the field.

“These terminals allow you to communicate worldwide in as close to real-time as possible,” said Kennedy. “Having one here will provide the capability to troubleshoot in real-time too.” The terminal is scheduled for completion later this year.

In addition to the terminal here, five

teams from Tobyhanna are installing AN/GSC-52B terminals and de-installing legacy systems in support of the fielding schedule for Product Director Wideband Enterprise Satellite Systems, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The fieldings are planned through fiscal 2023 at the following sites: Buckley Air Force Base, Buckley, Colorado; Vandenberg Air Force Base, Vandenberg, California; Ascension Island; and Naval Support Activity Northwest Annex, Northwest, Virginia.



Batters step to the plate in home run derby

Twenty-four of Tobyhanna’s best power hitters stepped to the plate at Legends Field on July 11 looking to take home the title of Noontime Softball League Home Run Derby champion. Each participant was given five outs to hit as many balls over the fence as possible, an “out” being any swing of the bat that does not result in a home run. The annual event coincides with Major League Baseball’s Home Run Derby and gives employees a chance to showcase their

power. Scott Moore and Carl Stravinski belted five home runs each in regulation and headed to a three-out tie-breaker to determine the champion. Moore ultimately came out on top and was crowned the 2016 winner. Scott Nordheim came in third place with three homers. Ed Abda, Frank Hill and Dawn Heffler were the event’s pitchers. Depot commander Col. Gregory Peterson presented awards to the top three finishers. (Photos by Jim Lentz)