



# The Bullet'n



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"Supporting the Warfighter"

March 24, 2008

## "Bringing us together" JM&L LCMC off-site held



*U.S. Army photo by Pam Barrett/Red River Munitions Center*

Danny Martin, chief of the Red River Army Munitions Center's rubber products division, explains the significance of road wheels and track to JM&L LCMC senior leaders during a March 6 tour of Red River Army Depot.

By Angela Hamerlinck  
Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs

BOSSIER CITY, La. -- One hundred leaders from the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command gathered at an off-site meeting held March 4-6.

According to Brig. Gen. William N. Phillips, JM&L LCMC commander, the focus of the conference was "communication, trust and teamwork."

During the conference, attendees listened to several speakers and briefings, and networked with each other in an effort to improve relationships among the LCMC employees.

The JM&L LCMC stood up in November 2006, and includes the Joint Munitions Command, headquartered in Rock Island, Ill., and the Program Executive Office-

Ammunition, and the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, both headquartered in Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

Speakers included Drayton McLane, owner of Major League Baseball's Houston Astros; Mark Mayfield, motivational speaker; Dr. Nancy Moore, from RAND Corp.; and Col. Cherry Gaffney, command surgeon of the Army Materiel Command.

Some of the topics briefed by LCMC employees included communication, Lean Six Sigma, strategic planning, and industrial base strategy, among several others. Action plans are being developed to further the conference initiatives.

JM&L LCMC leaders also spent one day at the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas.

# Army News

## Army stands up contracting command

By J.D. Leipold  
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. -- The U.S. Army Materiel Command on March 13 activated the Army Contracting Command (provisional) which will oversee more than \$85 billion in contracts annually and focus on maintaining and improving the Army's ability to respond globally in support of warfighters' needs.

AMC Commander Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin introduced Jeffrey Parsons as the new executive director of ACC, telling the audience the 5,800-strong command would allow AMC to better support the Army in sustaining, preparing, resetting and transforming.

"Our goal is to focus on customers," Griffin said. "Structured to better serve the warfighter and to look for ways to improve our support, we will provide a single face to the customer for contracting support, working hand-in-hand with our Army field support brigades. We recognize that still much more must be done to reach where we want to be."

Griffin said the stand-up was an historic event, not because it was a new command but because the Army was demonstrating to the Office of the Secretary of Defense leadership, Congress, and the American taxpayer that Army leadership was serious in taking steps to regain confidence in Army contracting and ensuring that it becomes one of the Army's core competencies.

Parsons told the audience that his new command would be world-class providers of contracting support to warfighters whenever, wherever to meet their needs.

"At the same time we must balance those needs with being good stewards of our taxpayer dollars," Parsons said. "Even one instance of procurement fraud, waste or abuse is unacceptable no matter how small the infraction may be. The American taxpayer puts their trust in us and we should not and will not tolerate any violations of this trust."



U.S. Army photo by J.D. Leipold

Jeffrey P. Parsons prepares to accept a flag during the standing up of the new Army Contracting Command (provisional), March 13, at Fort Belvoir, Va. The new command will provide global contracting capability in support of warfighter needs across the full spectrum of military operations.

Parsons also said it was imperative that the Army train and develop contracting personnel to execute its contracts responsibly and that the Army "must be more pure than Ivory soap as even a 1-percent error equates to \$850 million."

Additionally, the Army will grow its contracting officer and non-commissioned officer corps by more than 900 Soldiers in the active, Guard and National Guard and will establish a warrant officer contracting branch that will add an additional 120 military personnel to the deployable force. Parsons said the warrant officers will maintain the contracting technical expertise to support expeditionary operations,

"Contracting" continued on page 7

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

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# BOOM!

## *Picatinny EOD detonates first found live round*

By Eric W. Kowal  
Picatinny Public Affairs Office

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- A team of Picatinny explosive ordnance disposal unit Soldiers detonated a 5-inch common Navy projectile in place Feb. 25.

The projectile, which was found on the installation, was the first live ammunition round found since the installation's munitions-removal project began in early February and the only one detonated in place.

Master Sgt. Gregory Miller, Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center EOD Unit noncommissioned officer in charge, explained that a "5-inch common" projectile was used by the Navy during the early part of the 20th century as a sort of multi-purpose projectile. It had limited bunker or ship penetration and limited fragmentation; it was used for general targets.

He also said that the projectile contained a base fuze that was too corroded to correctly identify the type of ammunition on this particular projectile.

Once the projectile was found by the contractor



U.S. Army photo submitted by Picatinny Arsenal

Picatinny EOD members Master Sgt. Gregory Miller (left) and Staff Sgt. Alexander La Jeunesse prepare the site for detonation of a 5-inch common Navy projectile.

performing the munitions removal – the joint-venture of PIKA Inc., and Malcolm Pirnie Inc., – the installation EOD team was contacted immediately to conduct disposal operations, Miller said.

Then the team confirmed the item was filled with an explosive and fuzed, he said. "Since it was fuzed, we decided to blow the ordnance in place and not risk transporting to the demolition range."

Miller explained that sandbags were placed around the object before detonation to contain the explosion.

On the evening of Feb. 25., Picatinny Garrison Commander Lt. Col. John P. Stack notified the Picatinny community via the Electronic Emergency Messaging System that the surrounding buildings should be vacated.

Forty-four non-explosive pieces of munitions debris also were found in the area that day and later stored, said Ted Gabel, Picatinny Environmental Office project manager for environmental restoration.

The installation partnered with the Army Corps of

"Bomb" continued on page 10

# Flaming training



*U.S. Army photo by Mark Hughes*

Firefighters practice their teamwork skills while fighting a "controlled-burn fire" during the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildland Roundup Course held Feb. 29 to March 2 at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. About 400 fire fighters from 90 communities participated in the event which was sponsored by the Oklahoma State University fire training service division.

## *Ammunition plant hosts training for 90 communities*

By Mark Hughes  
McAlester Army Ammunition Plant Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- Almost 400 firefighters from 90 communities gathered at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildland Roundup Course Feb. 29 to March 3 at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. The course was sponsored by the Oklahoma State University's fire training service division.

The 12 courses taught covers a wide variety of fire fighter issues from water shuttle operations and arson investigation to helicopter water delivery and emergency vehicle driver training.

Mike Mann, from the Pryor, Okla., fire department, was working at establishing a fire break line when he noted how timely the training is because "Pryor, right now, is out

on a big grass fire, as is Checotah." He noted that the course is a "great skills training" opportunity and plans on returning next year.

This is the eighth year that the Oklahoma State University fire training service and the ammunition plant have teamed up. During this long-term partnership more than 2,000 fire fighters have been trained.

Don Capps, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant fire chief, said that without the cooperation of the local volunteer fire departments who bring equipment with them, this training would not be as successful.

"For the water tanker shuttle training the municipalities of Higgins, Kiowa and Haywood-Arpear brought tanker trucks (to haul water); and Savanna, the ammunition plant and Oklahoma State University brought pumper trucks; and all attendees get to use them," Capps explained. The pumper and tanker trucks varied in carrying capacity from 1,800 to 5,000 gallons of water.

"The object of the tanker shuttle training is to pump 250-gallons of water for one hour supplied only by water

*"Fire" continued on page 11*

# Success after service

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program makes impact in JMC

By Rikeshia Davidson  
JMC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- Customer service just isn't what it used to be, unless you've eaten a meal prepared by James E. Lee Jr. Often reminding other chefs, "The first meal of the night should be identical to the last meal of the night." Lee knew a thing or two about customer satisfaction.

However, Lee couldn't remain diligent about customer satisfaction if he couldn't tolerate the excessive time on his feet. By way of a military service-related injury, Lee just couldn't work 70 to 90 hours a week preparing edible masterpieces--no matter how well he did or enjoyed it.

A stroke of luck brought Lee and the Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program both to Rock Island Arsenal.

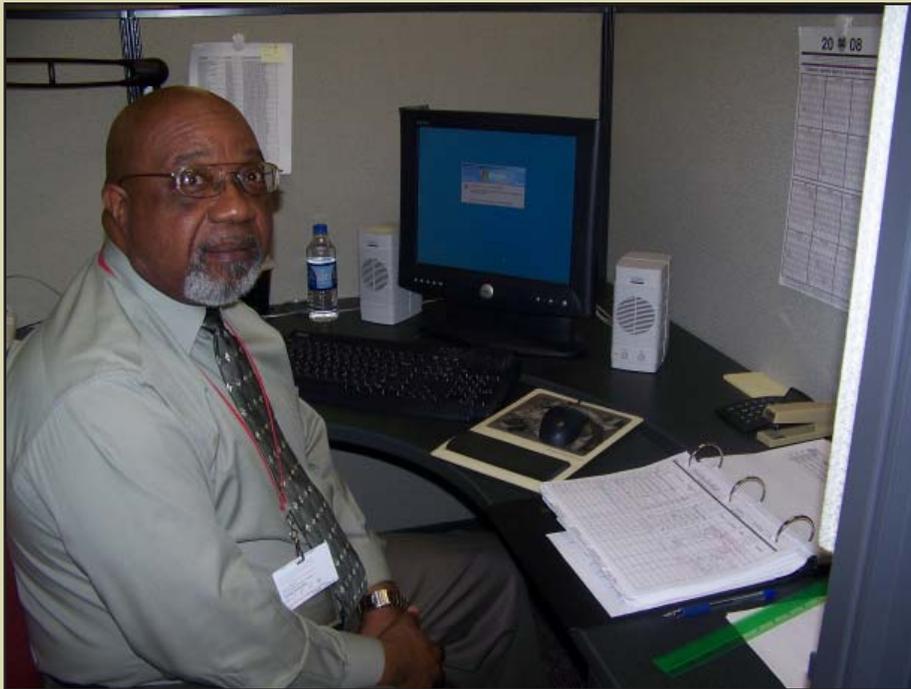
Lee, an applicant, and Don Rhoades, a liaison officer, became an ad hoc team. Lee entered the VR&E program, but not with intentions of continuing to cook. He knew a change had to come.

Rhoades, a vocational rehabilitation counselor, introduced Lee to two ideas: the VR&E program and the logistics courses at Scott Community College in Davenport, Iowa. With those tidbits of information, Lee began exploring a new career path.

What began as a six-month trial run turned into an opportunity: the chance to become a full-time employee

at RIA. Lee began his experience with "eyes wide open." As Rhoades sold the program to Lee, Rhoades maintained there was no guarantee of a job offer, but plenty of work experience. Ultimately his six months was extended two additional months and later a job offer came along.

Kathy George-Reading, director of the Joint Munitions Command's logistics integration directorate, tells that the program is "invaluable." George-Reading acknowledges the program is a "win-win" for both the participant and receiving agency.



U.S. Army photo by Rikeshia Davidson

James Lee, a traffic management specialist, can now be seen reviewing reports daily. Lee participated in the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program.

"We get to know them, their work ethic and what they can offer," she said. "It always helps when they have military experience and they understand that aspect of military workings--(which is) very important. "We've been able to take (their) military experience and apply it." George-Reading said Lee was one of the first participants of the program at JMC headquarters.

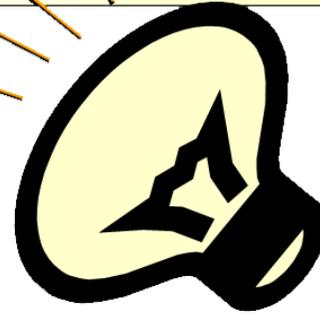
Rhoades shares a similar perspective in highlighting that both parties contribute to the other. Rhoades acknowledges that participants, "provide (the) Arsenal the ability to use (the) skills of non-hire employees." And for the participant "a positive recommendation" can result.

That "positive recommendation" would work in favor of the applicant. As Lee talked about his time with VR&E, his recommendations were filled with nothing but great respect for his co-workers and those who make the program run as smoothly as it does.

"They are very supportive of training," said Lee. "So

# Spotlight on Lean Six Sigma

## Green Belt project saves JMC \$28,000



By Steve Hayes  
Joint Munitions Command  
Munitions Logistics Readiness Center

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- A Green Belt project has improved the government furnished equipment/government furnished materiel test weapons for all ammunition families, saving the Joint Munitions Command an estimated \$28,000.

The project's goal was to document a process applicable for all commodity directorate divisions and then streamline the process weapons.

The project's scope was limited to GFE/GFM test hardware requirements for conventional ammunition procured and managed by JMC.

The team for this project used various Lean Six Sigma tools to identify causes and solutions, including fishbone analysis and brainstorming.

The project team consisted of five JMC headquarters personnel.

"The result of this project will benefit JMC from the development of written procedures, enhanced planning and budgeting, greater tracking; awareness and control of GFE/GFM assets and processes; improved acquisition and logistics procedures providing test weapons and material to support contractors well in advance of critical requirements and ammunition testing," said Rick Bennett, production manager, JMC 40 mm grenade team. "This will greatly reduce the possibility of a work stoppage due to lack of GFE/GFM and help ensure that weapons and material to qualify quality ammunition to the warfighter is provided when and where it is needed."

The primary accomplishment was the documentation of one improved process for future requirements. The project resulted in other benefits including: establishing one process applicable to all GFE/GFM requests for the commodity division reducing repetitive actions and alleviating short suspenses; providing "bigger picture" of program GFM costs through budgeting; fewer contract modifications; and the more timely delivery of test hardware.



Workstation Turnover Time: Workstation Turnover Time (WTT) for a given process step or workstation is the amount of time needed to set up and complete one cycle of work on all the different "things" at that step.



Cause-and-effect diagrams (fishbone or Ishikawa diagrams): A format that helps you arrange and organize many potential causes. It encourages broad thinking. It ensures that a balanced list of ideas have been generated during brainstorming or that major possible causes are not overlooked.

# ARDEC team applauded for Secretary of the Army Environmental Award

By Darryl Howlett

Joint Munitions & Lethality Life Cycle Management Command/ Joint Munitions Command Public Affairs

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- The Department of the Army announced on Feb. 21 its Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards program for fiscal year 2007. One of its winners hails from ARDEC.

The M115A2 and M116A1 Simulator Perchlorate Replacement Team from the Project Manager Close Combat Systems office, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, won in the category of Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition, Team.

According to the Army, the Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards program confers the Army's highest honor for environmental stewardship on those installations, teams and individuals making strides in endangered species protection, historic preservation, waste reduction, environmental cleanup, pollution prevention and other environmental disciplines.

"These Army environmental awardees are examples of how the Army is transforming its business and environmental practices to bridge today's requirements with tomorrow's needs. The awardees have improved installation efficiency and effectiveness, and therefore have helped assure operational capability for our Soldiers and an improved quality of life for their Families and surrounding communities," said Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for the Environment, Safety and

Occupational Health.

Five installations, three teams and one individual will receive a 2007 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for their achievements as the Army best environmental practices. The winners of the FY 2007 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards other than PM CCS were:

- Camp San Luis Obispo, California Army National Guard – a Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation • Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot, Connecticut Army National Guard – Pollution Prevention, Industrial Installation • U.S. Army Garrison Daegu, Korea – Environmental Quality, Team • Fort Hood, Texas – Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation • Fort Ruger, Hawaii Army National Guard – Environmental Restoration, Installation • James G. Arnold, Oregon Army National Guard – Environmental Restoration, Individual • Pennsylvania Army National Guard – Natural Resources Conservation, Team • Redstone Arsenal, Ala. – Cultural Resources Management, Installation

Army officials also noted that through initiatives like these award-winning efforts, the Army has realized great cost savings, mission-enhancing innovation, increased environmental stewardship and beneficial partnerships with local communities. For these reasons, the Army is accelerating its movement from a traditional compliance-based approach to a mission-based approach that spurs innovation and improves the Army's ability to remain relevant and ready in the future.

*Editors Note: Army News Service contributed to this story.*

## **Contracting** *Continued from page 2*

and they will play a key role in training officers and NCOs as they begin their contracting careers.

ACC will provide oversight to Installation Contracting Command under Bryon J. Young, who will oversee contracting support to Army and federal agencies at continental U.S. installations and provide contracting support for all common IT hardware, software and

services on behalf of Army and Defense Department organizations.

Additionally, ACC will oversee the Expeditionary Contracting Command headed by Col. Camille M. Nichols, who will support Army service component commanders and the joint warfighter to Army and other federal agencies at overseas installations.

***The Bullet'n invites you to participate in our first publication survey, now available. Please provide us with your feedback on making this publication better. The survey is located at [www.jmc.army.mil](http://www.jmc.army.mil).***



U.S. Army photo by Audra Calloway

The Individual Serviceman Non-lethal System FN 303 is another non-lethal option for crowd control.

## **ARDEC DEPLOYS PAINTBALL GUNS TO SUPPORT ONGOING OPERATIONS**

ARDEC Public Affairs  
News Release

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. -- While most people think of paintball guns as fun and games, to the Army they represent another way to assist peacekeeping operations.

In February, Picatinny Arsenal fulfilled the Army's second urgent materiel release of the Individual Serviceman Nonlethal System, or ISNLS FN 303. The weapon is a semi-automatic less lethal launcher that uses compressed air to fire non-toxic 8.5 gram, .68 caliber projectiles filled with paint and bismuth.

The shoulder-fired weapons have been deployed to troops for non-lethal crowd and riot control during detainee operations, explained Maj. Thomas Aarsen, assistant product manager, Improvised Explosive Device Defeat and Protect Force.

While the ISNLS is somewhat similar to what one would find on a paintball course, Picatinny technical trainer Jeff Teats said a typical paintball is regulated at approximately 300-500 pounds per square inch, while the ISNLS is regulated at approximately 900 PSI.

"Basically the Non-Lethal Launcher is like a paintball gun on steroids," he said.

Aarsen commented the increased non-lethal capability gives Soldiers another option to influence the actions of targeted personnel before the situation necessitates lethal force.

"It gives them the opportunity to identify intent and deter potential threats," he said.

Teats added that the weapon supports Soldiers by allowing them to engage individuals in the crowd with paint, so instigators can't deny their part in a disturbance.

Additionally, the weapon keeps Soldiers safer by widening the distance between them and potentially hostile crowds.

With a range of around 80 meters, the item fulfills a range gap that previously existed in the Army's non-lethal cache, explained ISNLS technical lead John Ackerman.

He said that previously, Soldiers had to be within 30-to-40-meters of a potential threat to affect it. The FN303 provides Soldiers "an item that can be used at longer distances – providing increased force protection to Soldiers and other individuals."

The ISNLS is a commercial-off-the-shelf item that Aarsen said was already being used by law enforcement agencies before it caught the interest of the Army.

Because the item was already developed, Ackerman said the Army saved time, which is crucial to the theaters of operations.

"It takes the government time to develop items, but if you can find commercial off the shelf products that meet requirements, you can sometimes get the item into theater and validated quicker," Ackerman said.

The ISNLS is being overseen by the Project Manager for Close Combat Systems.

## *DAC produces ammunition safety software*

By Jaime Thompson  
Defense Ammunition Center Public Affairs

McALESTER, Okla. -- Ammunition. Soldiers depend on it to complete their missions; however, if it is not stored properly it can cause fatal damage.

A tool used to assist with storing ammunition safely is explosives safety site planning. Explosives safety site plans are required by Department of Defense 6055.9-STD and Department of Army Pamphlet 385.64 and are used to mitigate the risk involved in ammunition storage and help ensure required ammunition is available to the warfighter.

"Site planning can be very time-consuming and complicated, so to help with efficiency, Explosives Safety Siting (ESS) software was developed to automate the process," said Lyn Little, logistics management specialist with the United States Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety, located at the Defense Ammunition Center.

The ESS development effort began in the 1992-1993 timeframe and is a collaborative effort between personnel from Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board, Air Force Safety Center, Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity, Marine Corps System Command, and USATCES. The Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center manages

the ESS program and serves as the central design authority on behalf of DDESB and the Services.

The concept behind ESS software is to use existing installation mapping data in the form of a computer system that is capable of capturing, storing, analyzing, and displaying geographically referenced information. This information is then combined with an installation's real property inventory and explosives safety data. Real property data used by ESS includes building numbers and descriptions as well as facility category codes. The explosives safety data consists of a listing of potential explosion sites that identifies the sited net explosive weight for all hazard divisions, building number, and a listing of the types of buildings (operating building, earth-covered magazine, above-ground magazine).

In October 2007, ESS implementation started at 14 ammunition plants and depots throughout the Joint Munitions Command. "The first step in this process is for installations to provide the required information to NFESC for analysis," said Little. "Analysis is conducted by NFESC, because virtually every installation has inconsistencies that need to be corrected." The project is currently on schedule for completion in September 2009 and will help safety professionals focus more time on other important safety responsibilities.

## *Milan AAP contractor a believer in pollution prevention*

By Judy Solgaard  
American Ordnance, LLC

MILAN, Tenn. -- For the past three years, American Ordnance's Iowa and Milan army ammunition plants have had their Environmental Management Systems registered to the ISO 14001-2004 standard. Each year the management team selects environmental projects with specific objectives and targets to prevent pollution.

In 2007, a total of 45 Lean Six Sigma projects were completed, which contributed to pollution prevention in the form of reduced hazardous waste generation and energy natural resource conservation. Seven of these projects were specifically linked to environmental program improvement and achieved the objectives:

### **Electricity usage reduced**

In 2007, electricity usage at O line

in Milan was cut by 3 percent. Iowa reduced electricity usage by 3 percent. These objectives were accomplished through a combination of improvements to lighting fixtures and replacing non intrinsically safe lights with fluorescent bulbs. The original goals of the project were longer bulb life, cooler operation, lower utility cost and reduced energy consumption. An added bonus was a reduction in maintenance hours to replace bulbs. Purchasing data, maintenance records and utility cost data were analyzed during the project.

### **Fuel consumption reduction**

Iowa and Milan completed projects that reduced fuel consumption by 8 percent at each facility. These results were achieved through carpooling efforts, advanced planning for company travel and using company-owned vehicles for inter-company travel.

### **Hazardous waste reduction**

Hazardous waste in the form of sharps, medical waste, solvents and other chemicals was targeted for reduction in 2007. This waste was reduced by 5 percent and the cost of solvent and thinner waste and handling was reduced by 46 percent at Milan. The number of chemicals used in production was cut by 2 percent and chemicals used in the 3A X-ray process were cut by 20 percent at Iowa.

### **2008 Pollution Prevention**

Six projects are in progress for 2008 to prevent and reduce pollution.

Pollution prevention and increased recycling efforts are a major objective this year. Reduction of waste water, energy use and gasoline usage round out the objectives.

AO believes environmental responsibility is good for the installations, our planet earth and for business.

# Students, faculty visit Scranton



*U.S. Army photo by Scranton Army Ammunition Plant*

By Scranton Army Ammunition Plant Public Affairs

SCRANTON, Pa. -- Students and faculty from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces visited the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant on March 14 as part of their weapons/defense systems industry study.

The students included senior leaders from throughout the government: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, and Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The visit to Scranton served as hands-on experience for the students in the program and provided the opportunity to engage with General Dynamics-Ordnance and Tactical Systems Scranton, a major contributor of the defense industry, in its own surroundings.

The weapons industry study explores matters related to established and emerging technologies including doctrine, applications, development, procurement, and life cycle management.

Students and faculty from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces witness the projectile production process during a March 14 tour at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Scranton, Pa.

The group received a briefing and toured the production, heat treat, and forge facilities on the installation. This was an opportunity for Scranton to display the 105 mm and 155 mm projectile production process occurring at Scranton and interact with ICAF students.

"The ICAF visit was a great success and we're glad to have hosted the group. No doubt they were impressed with the large caliber projectile production processes," said Brownell Turner, Scranton's commander's representative. "This visit is a significant event for the industrial base as well as ICAF students, and the first of its kind that I'm aware of. Most members of the defense community rarely have the opportunity to make first hand observations of this type of production activity. We'll be looking forward for a return visit from the class next year."

## **Bomb** *Continued from page 3*

Engineers in mid-January to remove any unexploded ordnance left from the 1926 Lake Denmark Naval Ammunition Depot explosion.

As of late February, more than 250 pieces of munitions debris were found including two munitions of explosive concern, Gabel said. The other munition of explosive concern was a Mark 10 Base Fuze that was removed from its location by EOD.

In general, the project is necessary to provide for a safer community, said Miller. "Residents of the post will be much safer in their recreational activities. The removal project also allows for expansion of facilities on post if decisions are made to build in these areas."

Specifically, the project, which falls under the Military

Munitions Response Program, will reduce the potential hazard posed by ordnance and other material that came from the 1926 explosion at the Lake Denmark Naval Ammunition Depot.

The Department of Defense created the Military Munitions Response Program in September 2001 to specifically address ordnance responses at defense sites with unexploded ordnance, discarded military ordnance and ordnance constituents at high enough concentrations to pose an explosive hazard.

Miller stressed that while no clearance is 100 percent, this project will reduce the risk of unexploded ordnance hurting someone.

## Fire

*Continued from page 4*

drawn by the tanker trucks at Brown Lake 1 ½ miles away. Each tanker had to make about 10 trips to Brown Lake to ensure the pumper truck didn't run out of water," Capps said.

This is an important training session, he emphasized, because rural communities do not have fire hydrants and the trainees have to learn to transport enough water from a water source to the fire before the pumper runs out of water.

"Rural fire departments receiving this accreditation helps to lower insurance rates in their communities," Capps explained. "And without these communities providing their equipment, we couldn't provide this vital training," he said.

Jered Weeks, Bugtussle (Okla.) volunteer firefighter agrees. "This is

my fourth year here and it is phenomenal what they do to help train the firefighters here. This class (water shuttle operations) is a great help," he said.

Retired fire chief Bob Noll of Yukon, Okla., who was the water shuttle operations instructor, echoed that sentiment. "The ammunition plant is a wonderful venue for this training. I've been here seven of the eight years this program has been in existence and it keeps getting better and better," he said.

Even the Oklahoma Air National Guard got involved.

For the first time a Blackhawk helicopter from "B" Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 285<sup>th</sup> stationed out of Tulsa, Okla., settled down into a wide open field at

the ammunition plant. Staff Sgt. Richard Dennis, crew chief, gave a class on how to request air support through the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. He also provided procedures, policies and safety guidelines on how to work around a helicopter.

At the end of the class a 700-gallon bag was attached to the Blackhawk, which scooped water from Brown Lake and dumped it on a controlled fire set for this specific demonstration.

Haywood-Arpear volunteer firefighter Richard Shropshire said this is his seventh year attending the classes.

"I recommend this to every fire department in the state. This training ought to be required for every fire department," he said.

## Veterans

*Continued from page 5*

I sat down and said here are my goals," explained Lee.

From there, Richard Nesbitt, chief of the JMC's integrated logistics transportation division, and Lee laid out a plan. Now you can find Lee at a computer utilizing his skills as a traffic management specialist.

It's important to remember the VA's intent is to provide the benefits, not deny them. While VR&E isn't applicable to every veteran, there are other ways to gain help with employment. The VA holds firm to its desire to assist--whatever the case may be. VA representatives, such as Rhoades, venture out and collaborate with state agencies and organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to conduct as much outreach as possible. Their goal: provide opportunities so veterans can be employed.

Once a participant is placed, the receiving agency spends little time training--as the contracted period is a training of sorts--and expectations are established. The program is in place for participants for a specific amount of time, typically three months. After three months, the participant may receive an opportunity to remain for a longer period of time. In some cases, a job offer awaits. It is important to note that while in training, efforts continue to locate a job that best suits the veterans' needs and experiences.

VR&E gives some veterans a chance to reacquaint themselves within areas they have had prior knowledge. For others, VR&E introduces a new means of learning.

Oftentimes, vocational rehabilitation officers present veterans an avenue to re-enter the workforce. The avenue can be a job or additional educational opportunities, both providing the veteran with practical, applicable skills.

Because the VA's focus is to assist with employing the veteran once military service is complete, that sometimes means taking into consideration the need for job accommodations.

Rhoades feels this program is very important. "Veterans Affairs is a large organization and veterans are eligible for money or employment assistance," he said. Rhoades added that the veterans he's worked with do have a desire to return to work after service. "A majority of veterans are getting monetary assistance but want to work," said Rhoades.

Rhoades noted VA services also offer an opportunity to regain self-esteem, direction and hope.

George-Reading explained that there are "a lot of great programs to re-hire veterans and Soldiers--this program (is) not the only way." However she continued, "it is a great experience and (also offers a great feeling) to know you're helping someone."

Information about VR&E stresses the theme "working partners" and they strive to do so via any means that helps veterans accomplish their goal. VR&E makes the possibility of reinvention endless as veterans work to further achieve success after service. A working partnership, a win-win situation: call it anything but unsuccessful.

# JM&L LCMC's Safety Spot Check

## Preventing ammunition and explosives incidents

*Editors Note: This March 12, 2008 edition of Stand To, -- a daily composition of news, information and context for Army leaders -- was dedicated to ammunition and explosive incidents which are defined as unplanned explosions or functioning of explosive materiel or devices.*

### Ammunition and explosives (A&E) incidents

#### What is it?

A&E incidents are defined as unplanned explosions or functioning of explosive materiel or devices. Recent examples of these incidents include: improper head space and timing associated with the M2 50-caliber machine gun, applying tape to the safety pin/spoons on hand grenades, mixing dummy or inert rounds with live rounds of ammunition and picking up unexploded ordnance.

#### What has the Army done?

The Army leadership is taking a proactive approach to raise awareness, to include vice chief of staff of the Army messages and the posting of information on the Total Ammunition Management Information System for worldwide visibility. The Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center also published several articles in Knowledge Magazine and on their Web site: <https://crc.army.mil/home>.

In addition to the actions listed above, the Army's Training Directorate sergeant major distributed information on the issue throughout the senior NCO leadership and the information was presented to the Training and Leader Development General Officer Steering Committee. Joint Munitions Command has also published ammunition information notifications: AIN 06-08, 06-08A and 06-08B, discussing the safety risk for taping grenades. See: Ammunition information notices: <https://www6.osc.army.mil/ains/surv1.htm>

#### What does the Army have planned for the future?

Engage Army leadership to reduce the occurrence of these incidents. The director of Army Safety, USACRC, Army G-3/5/7 and Defense Ammunition Center will conduct a trend analysis. The analysis will address doctrine, organizations, training, leader development, materiel, personnel and facilities issues. The Army is also looking at the development of training products that will provide reference materiel. This will assist Army leadership

in the areas of ammunition and explosives safety such as safety standards, malfunctions, storage policies and procedures, the dangers associated with A&E incidents, mishap reporting and weapons familiarization.

#### Why is this important to the Army?

The recent increase in A&E incidents has caused needless fatalities and injuries, as well as significant damage to Army property, adversely affecting Army readiness.

#### Information on the use/maintenance of weapons and doctrine/training publications:

##### For More Information:

[http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/75\\_Series\\_Collection\\_1.html](http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/75_Series_Collection_1.html)

[http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/385\\_Series\\_Collection\\_1.html](http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/385_Series_Collection_1.html)

[http://www.army.mil/usapa/doctrine/23\\_Series\\_Collection\\_1.html](http://www.army.mil/usapa/doctrine/23_Series_Collection_1.html)

<http://www.jmc.army.mil/ib/ibq/surv/gen/survinfo.htm>

