



THE ROCK

Serving the employees and residents of Rock Island Arsenal.

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An American Soldiers' holiday season

Bright lights and colorful decorations are a sign that the holiday season is near, and that holiday celebrations have begun. Large and elaborate holiday displays can be found at private homes and in public parks, a dazzling counterpoint to the cold and dark that also moves in at this time of year.

Meanwhile, very far from home, the tradition of decorating for the holidays is also being carried out by Americans in uniform who are serving their nation overseas.

In Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Korea and other distant outposts – on ships at sea or aboard submarines beneath the waves – servicemembers are putting up their own holiday displays, keeping the spirit of the season alive even as they go about the dangerous duty of defending us from the enemies of freedom.

Out there, you can't run to the store to replace the string of lights that just burned out, so holiday displays need to be created out the resources already at hand. As a result, the displays found in forward locations reflect both the ingenuity of our servicemembers, and the pride they take in their mission and service.

Here's an example from last year, taken from a letter written to his hometown newspaper in Grass Valley, Calif., by a Soldier stationed in Ramadi, Iraq:

"Here's a picture we took of our tree. We strung up razor wire and command wire from IEDs that we have found around it. We put bows around some old artillery shells that we painted and got a captured mortar tube and one of our sniper rifles in this picture, also. Kind of funny. Not your ordinary Christmas tree."

While I never saw the picture of this tree, I'd have to agree with

this young Soldier: This certainly isn't an ordinary Christmas tree.

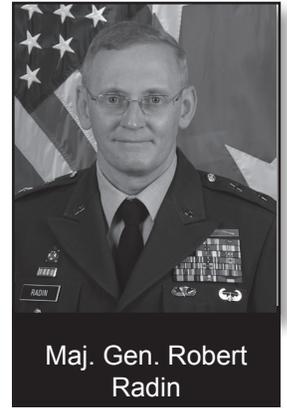
It is an extraordinary tree, put up by extraordinary people doing some extraordinary things on our behalf.

It's a tree that captures the true holiday spirit of generosity and caring, because that's the spirit found in the hearts of warriors who give freely of themselves and risk their own lives for others while expecting and receiving little in return.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, throughout Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, and on every other holiday, our Soldiers will be on patrol, performing their missions and engaging the enemy even as we go about our holiday business and enjoy our holiday celebrations.

Let us remember them throughout the holidays, and let us pray for their safe return, so that they may enjoy many more holidays to come at home with their loved ones.

I wish all of you a very happy, and safe, holiday season. May you and yours experience all the joy and magic that this season has to offer, and may the New Year to come bring you health, happiness and prosperity!



Maj. Gen. Robert Radin



Rhonda Seward

National Guard celebrates!

1st Sgt. Brian J. Habel, Illinois National Guard, along with (from left) Linda Schmiers, Jill Carr and Joyce Rollins and other employees from Army Community Service, cut a birthday cake on Dec. 12 in honor of the National Guard's 371st birthday. In celebration of the event, the Illinois National Guard recruiters gave presentations throughout the state, highlighting the the role and mission of the National Guard.

CLS: Understanding what it is — and what it isn't

Editor's note -- Over the next few months, Rock Island Arsenal's garrison will begin to implement the Installation Management Command's Common Levels of Support program. The following article, containing information provided by IMCOM, explains the purpose behind CLS and the reason the Army is putting it in place.

CLS is the Army's means of ensuring equitable distribution of constrained resources for installation services. CLS helps IMCOM to focus those resources that drive the quality, consistency and predictability of programs and services offered on all Army installations. Through CLS, IMCOM is addressing the problem of "have" and "have not" installations by giving garrison commanders across the Army definitive service-delivery guidance and performance-measurement criteria, and will fund them adequately to do the job.

While CLS guides garrison efforts in delivering services to installation customers, garrison commanders will retain flexibility to accomplish their missions. CLS gives them the flexibility to re-direct funds within services — and in some cases, between services (with regional coordination) — to deliver services to standard for their customers. IMCOM will also retain the ability to allow garrison commanders to respond effectively to contingencies.

IMCOM information points out that CLS is not a "one-size-fits-all" or "cookie-cutter" approach to service delivery.

In addition to unpredictable year-of-execution issues, CLS is constantly being adapted to installation-specific situations that are driven by mission requirements, demographics, or geographic locations.

So far, IMCOM has incorporated into CLS almost 50 specific adaptations to meet the needs of individual installations. These adaptations were the result of requests for specific exceptions to CLS capability levels, submitted by garrison commanders (with senior mission commander endorsement) and vetted by the Installation Management Working Group — a body that's made up of O-6/GS-15 representatives from all the Army Major Subordinate Commands.

CLS has great potential for improving the quality of the services that IMCOM delivers to Soldiers, families, unit commanders, and all installation customers. It is designed to allow IMCOM the ability to allocate available funding to the most important installation services.

Just as important, CLS will also aid IMCOM and garrison commanders in making the business case for additional installation funding as well as serving as the "what if" tool to best determine how to spend the funding and to clearly state the impact of any resource constraints.

In short, CLS helps position the Army to better support Soldiers and their Families at its installations.



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**THE
ROCK**

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Photo by Ted Cavanaugh

Maj. Gen. Robert Radin speaks at Rock Island Arsenal's annual holiday ball. The general used headgear from different eras to describe how the manufacturing base has evolved its products to provide assistance to Soldiers serving in combat throughout history.

Rainbow Room has annual Thanksgiving feast

On Nov. 20 the Rainbow Room kids had their annual Thanksgiving Family Feast at the Rock Island Arsenal Child Development Center.

The feast has been a feature of Rainbow room activities for some time said Martine Rose of the CDC. "It's a time to celebrate all that that we are lucky to have: family, friends, food and an overall good life."

Rowe said the children take "great pride and ownership" of the annual celebration, and are involved in all aspects of its planning.

"They make their own invitations, placemats, centerpieces, they cut vegetables to put into our homemade soup, they made their own cornbread muffins as well as our pumpkin bars for dessert," Rowe said.

"It's a very time consuming project and it really showed the day of the celebration."

She said the class has many compliments on a job well done.

Rowe said it seems families appreciated the event.

"It was so nice to see the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles enjoy seeing their children sing special songs that they had practiced, see the decorations that they worked so hard on, eat the food that their children prepared," she said.

"But most of all it was very rewarding to see all the families spend precious time together at an event that we had planned. It

was so worth the time and effort of putting it all together. It was a huge success!"



Courtesy photo

Colin and Aaron Jones enjoy the Thanksgiving celebration at the Rainbow Room. The feast is an annual event at the Child Development Center at Rock Island Arsenal.

Lunch at Quarters One



Ted Cavanaugh

Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, Commander of Army Sustainment Command and his wife Sara, host lunch at Quarters One for various employees across Rock Island Arsenal and people in the local community. The Radin's started the monthly lunch in September to give people at chance to see the historic Quarters One.

AAFES recalls lead-painted toys

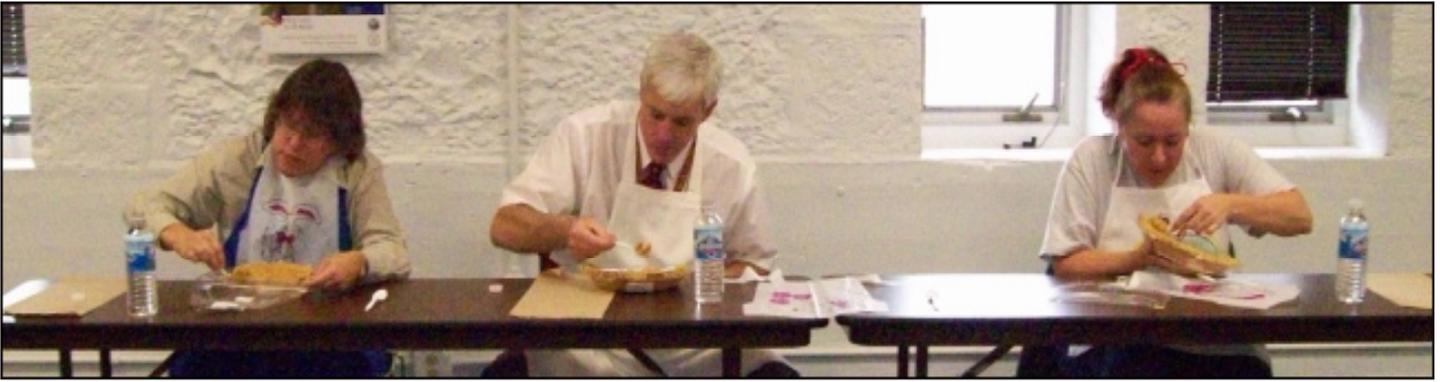
DALLAS (Army News Service) - Tests have revealed problems with four "Soldier Bear" toys and consumers are asked to immediately return them.

The following recalled toys should be taken away from children, officials said, and returned to the nearest post exchange for a full refund:

- Wooden Pull-Along Learning Blocks Wagon , UPC 6320 834162002158
- Time Teacher (magnetic shapes & clock in pull cart), UPC 6231 834162002646
- Wooden Riding Horse, UPC 6349 834162003698
- Vehicle Playset (blue military vehicle with action figures) 1007 4895130810072

AAFES testing showed the toys contained dangerous levels of lead.

Consumers with questions regarding this recall can contact AAFES at (800) 866-3605 or visit www.AAFES.com for additional information.



Combined Federal Campaign is “Army Strong”



Courtesy photos

The Army Combined Federal Campaign featured numerous fund-raising events in 2007. Photos above show the TACOM-RIA Pie Eating Contest at the TACOM Baker's Celebration. Eaters shown are Lynn DeRoche, John Curry, and Cynthia Chelstrom. The Work Place Olympics-- Tara Octaviano from Small Arms, representing a TACOM team. Employees line up to taste a variety of salsas in the first-ever headquarters, Joint Munitions Command salsa contest. Tasters sample chilis at the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center's Chili Cookoff. This years CFC efforts raised \$624,216, \$10,000 more than last year's campaign.

Award winner--

Beyer- Still a lot of life to live

By

RHYS FULLERLOVE
U.S. Army Sustainment Command
Public Affairs

Olympic Gold Medalist and cancer survivor Scott Hamilton once said “The only disability in life is a bad attitude.” Bruce E. Beyer is living proof and the recipient of the Army’s Outstanding Individual with Disability Award Dec. 4 at the Department of Defense Disability Awards Ceremony and Forum in Bethesda, Md.

Beyer, a quadriplegic, is a supply systems analyst in the Logistics Enterprise Integration Team at the U.S. Army Sustainment Command and one of 16 Department of Defense employees who were honored at the ceremony.

“My faith has allowed me not to look back but, to look forward, and to take each day as another blessing,” said Beyer.

Beyer’s attitude isn’t the only thing that has helped him in his career. He remarked working with understanding people that challenged him with a variety of projects from Day One has made working for the Army enjoyable.

His family and co-workers always encouraged Beyer to take the next steps with his career and to never accept the limitations of his physical challenges.

“The first thing I noticed when I started working for the Army was that I was surrounded by good people and supervisors who looked at my abilities and not my disability,” he said. “This attitude with my colleagues has continued for the past 20 years and has made my job very rewarding.”

Beyer enjoyed bicycling as a hobby during and after his high school days. In 1982, he was in a bicycle accident that fractured his neck. He has used a wheelchair ever since.

Prior to the accident, Beyer graduated from the Davenport Vocational Training Center, a four-year trade school, with a degree in tool and die making. He worked for Douglas Machine Tool and Die Company in a job that he loved for five years before his accident. After the accident Beyer was unable to perform his job and left him with the problem of what to do next.

Beyer spent 18-months in rehabilitation following his accident. It was a long, grueling process, but it gave him lots of time to think. During rehab he worked through the five phases of grief and



Defense Dept. photo by Fred W. Baker III

David S.C. Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, congratulates Bruce E. Beyer after Beyer received the Army’s Outstanding Individual with Disability Award.

took it upon himself to do whatever he could to seize control of his life once again. This meant finding a new career.

Knowing that he would have to leave his career in machining behind, he focused on the future and that path led him to St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. Beyer had to decide what career would best suit him and his needs.

“I had to ask myself, ‘What could I do from a sitting position that still actively engaged my mind?’ ” Beyer said. “Computer science was the first thing that came to my mind. I took that path and it has been a blessing”

Beyer graduated with a bachelor of science degree with a major in computer science and minor in mathematics from St. Ambrose in 1988. After graduating, he was recruited by the Rock Island Arsenal and started his career with the Department of the Army as a Production Analyst in the Directorate of Information Management.

Twenty years later, Beyer is making sure warfighters get the support they need. He has played a key role in awarding contracts through which contractors from the private sector are used to provide a broad range of field services to U.S. and allied forces during combat and training operations. He has been instrumental in coordinating nationwide video teleconferences for logistical support to the warfighter. Beyer also has led efforts to consolidate and integrate multiple critical equipment tracking databases.

Beyer is also very active in the community and at Heritage Wesleyan church in Rock Island, Ill. At his church, he uses his video-teleconferencing skills to link his congregation with their outreach mission sites around the world.

“Bruce has been on the leading edge of technology and has allowed our church to stay in contact with our members who are doing missionary work in the Middle East,” said Heritage Wesleyan member Verne Gray.

In the community, Beyer has represented the Rock Island Arsenal as a peer counselor to students in the Rock Island School District.

(See Beyer on page 7)

Arsenal bliss



photos by Rhonda Seward

These photos show scenes of various locations around Rock Island Arsenal after the ice storm that occurred Dec. 11. Although ice outlined the natural beauty of the installation, the inclement weather made little impact on operations at Rock Island Arsenal.

Beyer

He also chaired the Quint Cities Handicapped Awareness Group for six years. During this time, he was instrumental in fostering changes in the area including accessibility, parking and state-level policy.

Beyer's attitude is what really makes him special. He can roll into any room and light up the whole room with his smile. His dedication and attitude toward his work, family, community, and church make people forget that he is disabled.

"When a fellow in our church heard that Bruce was getting the award for a handicapped person he said 'Why would Bruce be getting the award, he isn't handicapped?'" said Gray. "Bruce doesn't act like he is handicapped at all."

"I remember him giving his mother golf lessons from his wheelchair that helped improve her game. He's offered to give me lessons as well," Gray said.

Beyer says when challenges and obstacles come your way you have to re-engage in life because there is a lot of life to live.

"You can't let those negative thoughts creep in that can pull you down, because you will find out there is a lot of life still to live," he said. "You just have to get out there and go and most important... live life to the fullest. I truly enjoy meeting new people every day, and never take for granted how I have truly been blessed each and every day."

Holiday ball-- We could have danced all night



Top; Soldiers from Rock Island Arsenal come together for the annual Holiday Ball. Center; Dancers fill the floor during a line dance at the ball. Bottom left; the color guard enters the ball, posting the colors formally for the annual event.



photos by Ted Cavanaugh