

THE ROCK



Serving the Employees and Residents of Rock Island Arsenal

February 2009 Vol. 8 No. 2

Suicide Prevention is Serious

The Army set a new record in 2008 – a sad, tragic record that we hope and pray will never be repeated.

Soldier suicides were at an all-time high last year, continuing a trend that has seen the Army's rate of suicide grow during each of the past four years. Unfortunately, that trend showed no signs of slowing in January 2009, a month in which more Soldiers took their own lives than died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While the Army has had a suicide prevention program in place for many years, our top leadership recognizes that there is serious problem and that our efforts in this area must be redoubled. Everyone who serves as a leader – including myself, and anyone who is in a supervisory or management position – needs to personally commit themselves to suicide prevention and do whatever they can to keep this tragedy from ever visiting the people under their care.

The easy way out is to avoid the topic of suicide, deny the problem, or conclude that the high rate of suicide is simply the inevitable outcome of the Army's recent high rate of deployment and challenging operational tempo. Yet all the research into suicide shows that it can be prevented, even in high-stress environments such as combat, and that no suicide is ever inevitable, regardless of the circumstances.

Many individuals who take their own lives do so after several unsuccessful suicide attempts. Many suicide victims announce their intentions in advance, and may come right out and tell their family members, friends or coworkers that they are thinking about killing themselves. There are other warning signs, and other indicators of deep despair that should not be – but too often are – ignored or overlooked.

There are effective intervention techniques that can prevent suicide, even in what seem to be the most desperate cases. But far too few of us know when and how to intervene, nor how to identify someone in need of help.

By the end of this year, all of us in the Army family should be equipped with the tools needed to prevent suicide. Suicide stand-downs will be conducted Army-wide between now and March 15, and a chain teaching program will follow during which all leaders will learn suicide prevention techniques, and learn how to implement these techniques within their units and organizations.

Please do not approach this suicide prevention effort as just another “mandatory training” event that needs to be completed before going back to your real mission. Pay attention, listen and learn, ask questions, get involved, and find out

how you can help connect those in need of assistance with the resources available to assist them. By doing so, you could someday become a lifesaver for a colleague in need of a helping hand.



Also, please remember that part of the Army's core mission is summarized by this core value: “Never leave a fallen comrade behind.” This value applies to all of us – Soldiers, civilians and contractors alike – and it refers not just to those who have fallen physically, but also to those who have fallen emotionally and spiritually into a downward spiral that could lead to suicide. We are a team and we rely on those around us, so caring for one another is and always will be part of our mission.

So let's set a new record in 2009 – a record of heightened awareness, a record of caring and compassion, a record of lifting all who have fallen. Let's all join the fight against the scourge of suicide, and keep on fighting until it is defeated. 🍎

Have the Courage to Help a Buddy

“One suicide is one too many.”

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

**Talk to your Chaplain or a
Behavioral Health Professional or
call Military OneSource**

1-800-342-9647

www.militaryonesource.com

Suicide Prevention

Mission: Improve readiness through the development and enhancement of the Army Suicide Prevention Program policies designed to minimize suicide behavior; thereby preserving mission effectiveness through individual readiness for Soldiers, their Families, and Department of the Army Civilians.

On the 'Net

www.behavioral-health.army.mil/sprevention



Fad-Free Nutrition Better For Health, Weight Control

By

COL. DEBORAH F. SIMPSON
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U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Each year, the American Dietetic Association sponsors National Nutrition Month to focus on the role nutrition and physical activity play in achieving and maintaining good health. Being “100 percent fad-free” has been a National Nutrition Month theme that supports the health of Army Civilians, Soldiers and the Army family.

DoD’s 2005 survey of health-related behaviors (the most recent finalized survey) reported that approximately 51 percent of Soldiers 20-25 years old were overweight. Sixty-four percent of Soldiers age 26-34 met the criteria of being overweight. Overweight affects performance. Some Soldiers may attempt fad diets for quick weight loss, diets that don’t meet their energy needs. What, when and how much you eat also affects performance. Soldiers need to have a balance of nutrients for optimal health and performance.

Consider the following key messages for being 100 percent fad-free.

Develop an eating plan for lifelong health. Don’t waste time following the latest food fad. Instead, use the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPyramid as guides for focusing on healthy eating and overall health.

Choose foods sensibly by looking at the big picture. All foods can fit into a healthful diet if consumed in moderation and in appropriate amounts. Eating foods from all major food groups is essential to obtaining the nutrients needed for good health. Enjoy a wide variety of foods with different textures, colors and flavors.

Select whole-grain foods like oats, brown rice and whole wheat. These foods form the foundation of a healthy diet. Enjoy a variety of brightly colored fruits and vegetables. These foods are rich in phytochemicals, which protect the body against disease, and they are virtually fat-free and contain no cholesterol. Choose nonfat and low-fat foods from the milk and meat groups most often.

Control the frequency and amount of foods high in fat, sugar or sodium, such as fried foods, rich desserts and salty snacks. This makes it easier to maintain an appropriate weight, which is essential for good health.

Learn how to spot a food fad. There are no specific foods, combinations of foods or dietary supplements that will promote quick weight loss or cure disease. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. In fact, food and nutrition misinformation can have harmful effects on health and well-being, as well as on the wallet. For reputable nutrition advice, ask your doctor for a referral to talk to a registered dietitian at your local hospital or health clinic.

Find your balance between food and physical activity. A nutritious diet and physical activity are important for overall health and fitness. Added benefits include reduced risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes; a feeling of well-being; and the ability to control body weight. Poor diet and physical inactivity are the most important factors contributing to the rise in obesity in the United States.

Small changes in diet and exercise habits can make a big difference in overall health. To help you get started, check out the DoD National Nutrition Month resource packet available at <http://usa-chppm.apgea.army.mil/nnm>. It includes ideas and resources on diet, exercise and health. Additional information is also available from the American Dietetic Association, www.eatright.org.



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THE ROCK

The Army publication, The ROCK, is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1 to provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Rock Island Arsenal community. It is published monthly using Adobe InDesign CS and Photoshop using photo-offset reproduction for online distribution with the use of federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1 by the Rock Island Arsenal Garrison Public Affairs Office. Contents of The Rock are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of The ROCK is the responsibility of the Rock Island Arsenal Garrison Public Affairs Office. Submission of articles, photos, letters, and graphic arts of interest to the general readership is encouraged. All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Postal address: Garrison Manager, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMNE-RIA-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. E-mail address: ROCK-RIA-PA@conus.army.mil Phone: (309) 782-1121. The ROCK is available on-line at www.ria.army.mil/sites/news.

On the Cover: *Leanne Vermeulen, Kennedy Chiropractic Center, administers a massage for a Health Fair patron during the Rock Island Arsenal Fitness Center event held Feb. 11. To see more about the Health Fair see page 7. Photo by Ted Cavanaugh, EL Hamm & Associates*



The HealthierFeds Physical Activity Challenge is encouraging federal employees to engage in regular moderate physical activity and to log their activity. To join the Challenge, visit www.healthierfeds.gov and click on the HealthierFeds Challenge portal.

**HEALTHIERFEDS
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
CHALLENGE**

Inhalants; a Must Read for Parents

By
JAMI HESTER
Prevention Coordinator
Employee Assistance Program

Every third week in March, during National Inhalants and Poisons Week, educators take advantage of an opportunity to further public awareness of inhalant abuse.

Inhalants are chemicals, often common household products, which are inhaled causing psychoactive and mind-altering effects. Many inhaled substances are sniffed, sprayed into a bag or emptied into a soft drink can. In North America, national surveys have concluded that inhalants are the second most widely used drug for eighth and 10th graders, topped only by marijuana use. The effects of inhaling are harmful to a person's body and in fact, can be deadly. Inhalant use can cause headaches, a feeling of loss of control, and can cause permanent changes and/or damage to the brain. Excessive usage can cause liver and kidney damage, heart failure, hearing loss, and potential Sudden Sniffing Syndrome. Sudden Sniffing Syndrome, a syndrome that can cause death, can occur with the first, 10th or 100th use of an inhaled substance.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows that the primary abusers of inhalants are adolescents 12 to 17 years of age. This survey also shows that by the time children are in eighth grade, one in five will have used an inhalant. Many teenagers often try these substances because they are legal and very easy to obtain. Many inhaled substances are found in school science labs, auto shops and even the janitor's closet. Many of our own household products are what some of our teenagers are huffing and sniffing. Some examples include spray deodorants, nail polish remover, cooking sprays, colored markers, oven cleaners, air fresheners, fabric protector, paint thinner, white-out, spot remover, to name only a few.

Parents, here are a few tips for communicating with your child about inhalants:

- 1) Ask your children about inhalant abuse to assess their knowledge, then educate them of the potential dangers of even one use of an inhalant substance.
- 2) Reinforce the importance of having their own sense of self rather than feeling they always have to "fit in."
- 3) Be open to discussions so your children will feel comfortable to come to you about inhalant or other drug related

concerns or questions.

4) Monitor your children's activities, set and reinforce boundaries.

5) Stay involved – know and communicate with his/her friends' parents.

6) Tell your children that you love them and their safety is your number one priority.

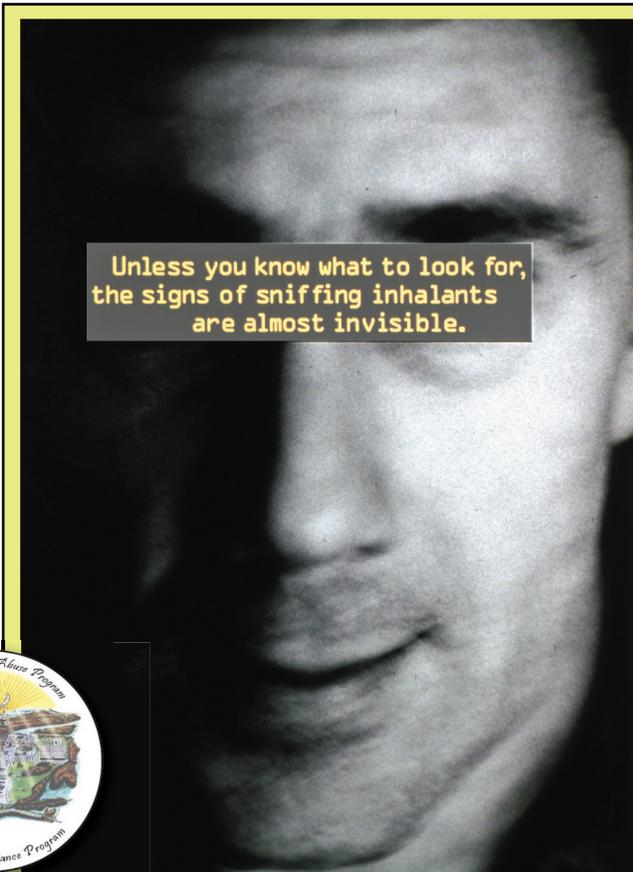
It is our responsibility as parents to maintain open and honest communication with our children.

For more information on inhalants, and other drugs of abuse, following find some websites to check out: www.inhalants.org, www.theantidrug.com, www.nida.nih.gov, www.samhsa.com.

Below, find a brief quiz to stimulate discussion with your child and find out how well you know your child.

- a. What is your child's favorite color?
- b. Who is your child's best friend?
- c. Who is your child's favorite teacher?
- d. Who are some of your child's role models?
- e. What are your child's future goals?
- f. What are your child's hobbies?

For additional information, please contact the Employee Assistance Program at (309) 782-4357. 🍷



Unless you know what to look for, the signs of sniffing inhalants are almost invisible.

If your child has paint stains on his fingers and mouth, excessive vomiting and watery eyes, he may be inhaling the fumes from products like spray paint, nail polish and gasoline. Nearly one in four kids has abused them by seventh grade. Call 1-800-269-4237, and face this problem with both eyes open.





Photo by Mark Kane

Wendy Trute, administrator, Board of Health, Rock Island County Health Department, signs the Pandemic Influenza Memorandum of Understanding on Feb. 23 with the Rock Island Arsenal. From left to right Jerry Shirk, Garrison Directorate of Emergency Services, Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager, Maj. Rodney Wadley, a Rock Island Arsenal Public Health Emergency Officer, Nita Ludwig, emergency communications coordinator, Rock Island County Health Department, and Cheryl Barglof, officer in charge, U.S. Army Health Clinic Rock Island Arsenal.

The MOA is an agreement for the installation to provide support to their department in response to a Pandemic Influenza outbreak, and vice versa.

“We’ve got some very important work going on within this installation,” said Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager. “You have to have a plan, or you don’t know what you’re going to do. And while we have a plan here, how do we deal with it outside the post and I can’t imagine how difficult that would be if something like this took place. Being prepared is very important.”



On the 'Net

- www.pandemicflu.gov
- www.co.rock-island.il.us/Health.aspx
- www.ria.army.mil/sites/services/ArmyHealthClinic
- www.ria.army.mil/sites/riapo



Public Health
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Rock Island County
Health Department

Fight Germs and Stay Healthy

If you have a cold or flu:

Avoid close contact when possible

- ▶ Germs are transmitted by sneezing, coughing and even while speaking

Cover your cough or sneeze

- ▶ Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your mouth and nose while coughing or sneezing
- ▶ Throw used tissue in the trash

Wash your hands often

- ▶ Always wash your hands before eating and after using the latrine
- ▶ Wash hands for at least 15-20 seconds with warm, soapy water or alcohol-based gel

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

- ▶ Germs are often spread when people touch something contaminated with germs (for example, other people's hands or smooth surfaces) and then touch their own eyes, nose or mouth



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<http://usachppm.apgea.army.mil>

TA-033-0806



Federal Fundraiser Has Record Year, Holds Awards Ceremony

By
REBECCA MONTGOMERY
TACOM LCMC RI Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, commanding the Army Sustainment Command and Illowa Bi-State CFC honorary chair, praised the people and organizations behind this year's record-breaking Combined Federal Campaign at a ceremony held Feb. 10, at the Navy Operational Support Center Rock Island.

"What continues to impress me is the involvement of the people in this campaign. I define success not only by dollars, but in our ability to reach out to our employees and afford them the opportunity to give," said Radin.

Federal and postal employees donated a \$696,575 to local, national and international charities, exceeding the goal by almost five percent.

"We reached farther than I thought we could go in very tough economic times, and this is a tribute to every federal employee in the 24-county area," said Debra Gudlewski, Illowa Bi-State CFC chair.

With 48 percent of donations staying in

the Quad City area, 32 percent of federal and postal workers in the 24 county area donated to 2,000 of the approximately 2,500 charities. The top three agencies with the highest donations were United Way of the Quad Cities, Humane Society of Rock Island County and the Humane Society of Scott County.

New this year's campaign was an essay contest, where employees shared accounts of how a CFC charity helped them and their families. First place winner Lori McFate read her essay, in which she described her fight with cancer and how a CFC agency supported her.

"A CFC supported charity is the reason I am alive and able to submit this entry," said McFate.

Award-winning people and organizations recognized were:

Most Innovative Campaign – Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Postal Excellence Award – Rockford, Ill. USPS

Organizational Participation Awards (greatest participation per group size):

- Transportation Security Administration – 73 percent (small organization)
- U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island

Arsenal – 65 percent (medium organization)

- Joint Munitions Command – 49 percent (large organization)

Key Person of the Year: Patty Badtram, Army Sustainment Command

Essay Contest Winners:

- First Place – Lori McFate, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command
- Second Place – Dawn Stanley, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command
- Third Place – Rene Robinson, U.S. Army Sustainment Command

Essay Contest Certificate of Participation:

- Donna Evans – U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency
- James McFarlen – U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command
- Marcia Jay – U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal

More information on the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign and winning essays are available at <http://illowacfc.org/>. General information on the national campaign is available on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Web site, at www.opm.gov/cfc.



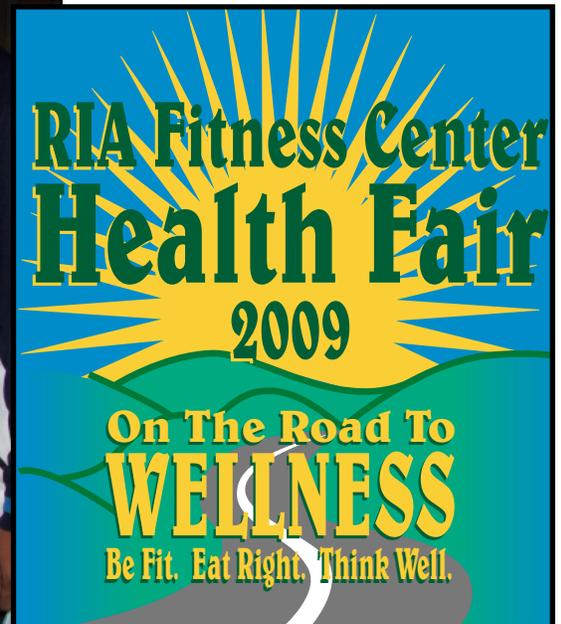
Left - CFC Workplace Olympics participants compete in one of the more challenging activities (the "star step" relay), which involved stepping on pieces of paper to progress along the route. Above - TACOM CFC co-chairs Melanie Schaecher and Matt Kopel explain the rules to their game ("stick-to-it"), which involved contestants running with a balloon, popping it, and hoola-hooping their way to the finish line. The games kicked off the successful 2008 CFC campaign. Photos by Mark Kane



The Rock Island Arsenal Fitness Center Health Fair, Feb. 11, attracted more than 58 exhibitors, who displayed and demonstrated their services to numerous Arsenal employees and visitors during the four hour event held to promote overall health and wellness. This year's theme, "On the Road to Wellness. Be Fit. Eat Right. Think Well." highlighted the diverse services on display in the Fitness Center, which ranged from patrons receiving massages to having their spinal curvature examined. Left – an Arsenal employee tries out a bike and receives some insight on its features from a Trek bicycles representative. Below – a Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center representative points out the blood donor sign-up list to a health fair patron. Bottom – Patrick Behr, Rock Island Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services, demonstrates a piece of equipment to visitors at his exhibit during the event. 🍌

Arsenal Employees Turnout for Health Fair

Photos by Ted Cavanaugh, EL Hamm & Associates



Military Leaders Sign Wounded Warrior Covenant

By

MARK KANE
Rock Island Garrison Public Affairs

The Community Based Warrior in Transition Unit – Illinois, located at Rock Island Arsenal, conducted a ceremony for the signing of the Wounded Warrior Healthcare Covenant Feb. 17, at the Arsenal Club.

tainment Command, Joel Himsel, Garrison Manager, Col. Larry Heisler, Task Force North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, and Capt. Martin Munoz, commander, CBWTU - Illinois.

“The signing of the warrior covenant is a really good thing and shows support for those of us who have been injured,” said Spc. Jerald Williams,

Together, the leaders from the Army Sustainment Command, Army Medical Command and the Installation Management Command participated in the signing of the historic document.

“This really has affected me a lot,” said Williams. “I really physically messed up my back, I have a blown disc, and this really makes a difference in dealing with it. I mean, this is why I was able to get back and see my son born and see my wife. It’s huge ... to be able to be seen out in town (at non-military hospitals) versus strictly with the military.”

The CBWTU provides medical and administrative case management to National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers who have an injury or illness that requires on-going medical treatment. CBWTU enables these Soldiers to live at home and remain on active duty while receiving medical care through the Army.

“The community is the support base for all these guys coming home, this is important,” said Heisler. “Their transition is important with our program and they (the community) helps them do it. The family is also a big part of it, along with the local medical community.”

The CBWTU – Illinois is responsible for managing Soldiers in the six-state area of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan and Indiana.



Col. Larry Heisler, Task Force North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, signs the Wounded Warrior Covenant at the Arsenal Club during the ceremony held Feb. 17. Photo by Mark Kane

The covenant symbolizes the Army’s commitment to its Wounded Warriors and families.

Wounded Warrior Healthcare Covenant signatories included Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, Commander, Army Sus-

Iowa National Guard and member of CBWTU – Illinois.

According to the CBWTU, the way the Army takes care of Wounded Warriors and their families in future campaigns is currently being forged.

On the ‘Net

www.warriorcare.mil
www.narmc.amedd.army.mil/acs/taskforcenarmc



Spc. Jerald Williams talks to local media about the importance of the Wounded Warrior Covenant with his son, Lincoln Justice, shortly after the completion of the signing ceremony. Photo by Mark Kane



TACOM HQ Leaders Travel to Rock Island, Talk With Employees

By
REBECCA MONTGOMERY
TACOM LCMC RI Public Affairs

Life in Southeast Michigan is similar to the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities, two senior leaders from the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's Warren, Mich., headquarters told TACOM employees here Jan. 13.

"There are many good places to live depending on whether you like urban, rural

mission recommendations which move all of TACOM Rock Island's 1,200 jobs, most to Detroit Arsenal, in 2011.

"There are a lot of suburban areas and subdivisions in the Detroit suburbs," said Harry Hallock TACOM LCMC Contracting Center director.

"Housing developments there don't look much different than housing developments in Rock Island," he said.

Bean and Hallock travelled to Rock Island to discuss plans with command

leaders on how to move TACOM Rock Island's mission to Warren.

After showing a video on the Detroit area during the town hall session, Bean and Hallock answered employees' questions and asked for reactions to the

employees make decisions regarding BRAC. "We hope you come to Warren. We'll all be glad you did," he said.

Bean and Hallock answered questions from employees ranging from moving reimbursement costs and selling houses in Rock Island to medical plans and the job market for spouses.

Bean said she wants to be sure employees have detailed information on these questions and all aspects of the move.

"I would like everyone here to have a contact at Warren to help you through this," she said.

Hallock said when he moved to Warren 29 years ago he only intended to stay two years.

"The people are what made me stay," he said. He said he often attends hockey games and theatrical productions in downtown Detroit.

Hallock noted that he brought acquisition employees from Warren to Rock Island to meet with their counterparts. "We need to lay out the plan because 2011 will be here quickly," he said.

Bean said that advance party moves are still in the planning stages.

"At the end of the month, we'll have a pretty firm idea of what we're going to do in terms of asking people if they want to move," she said.

This was the 13th town hall meeting held at Rock Island on the upcoming BRAC move. ●



Janet Bean, TACOM LCMC Integrated Logistics Support Center executive director, and Harry Hallock, TACOM LCMC Contracting Center director, hold a town hall meeting at TACOM LCMC Rock Island Jan. 13, on life in Southeast Michigan. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendation relocates all of TACOM Rock Island's 1,200 jobs, most to Detroit Arsenal, by September 2011. Photo by Ted Cavanaugh

or suburban living," said Janet Bean, Integrated Logistics Support Center executive director, during a town hall meeting on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Com-

mission video.

Maj. Gen Scott West, TACOM LCMC commander, said in a taped introduction to the video that he hoped it would help em-

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Making eye contact with drivers ensures they see you.
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U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS SAFETY CENTER
ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG
A HAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

Do You Really Want to Make This Guy's Job Easier?



By

ED PETERSON

Rock Island Arsenal Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer

HOME OR OFFICE

- Don't store official information on personal computers, disks, or other devices.
- Don't share personal or military information online. You don't have control over who has access to the information.
- Don't share information about your daily routine or what you plan to do after work.
- Don't take home classified information under any circumstances. Be sure to shred anything with personal or military information.

OUT ON THE TOWN

- Report picture taking on post. Don't share pictures you have that contain valuable information about the installation or its operations.
- Be careful not to become loose lipped after a few drinks. You never know who's listening.
- Remember your Individual Protective Measures you learned while taking the required Anti-terrorism Level 1 training.
- Prior to traveling overseas, make sure you attend the required Overseas Area of Responsibility country specific training for both personal and official travel.



Army Regulation requires every service member and DoD employee to take the Level 1 Awareness training annually. To take this web-based training go to www.at-awareness.org



Adapting to the Task at Hand

By

BECKY ROCKWELL
Edgewood Chemical Biological Center - Rock Island

Coordination and cooperation among several agencies have been needed to bring about major changes in the Light Vehicle Obscuration Smoke System and to meet the challenges and obstacles to adapt it to the M1151 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle ... an accomplishment that was anything, but a small feat.

In the fall of 2006, the Army G8 Office requested an update on the future of the LVOSS smoke program, which led to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center coordinating a cost estimate to develop a new LVOSS installation kit to mount on the M1151. A detailed cost estimate was formulated by Rich Dixon and forwarded to Joint Program Manager, Reconnaissance and Platform Integration for review.

By January of 2007, approval was received from the Army G8 Office, and the LVOSS XM327 program was established. Funding was provided to Rock Island by the JPM RPI. These funds fully covered the cost of the program and the necessary fieldings. Working together from these early stages, ECBC and the JPM RPI were taking the right steps to meet the intended goal of successfully developing the XM327 LVOSS.

February brought about a start of work meeting at Edgewood, Md. Pierre and Paul Szatmary attended for the JPM RPI and were briefed on the proposed plan to integrate the LVOSS onto the M1151 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle. The ECBC Seal of Excellence Program was initiated after this meeting. This program helped to create the team and process, which led to the successful development of the M327 LVOSS. Quarterly briefings were held as required by the JPM. These briefings allowed ECBC to keep the JPM apprised of the progress of this project. In turn, the JPM was able to keep the Army

G8 office informed of ongoing developments.

The Program Manager, Light Tactical Vehicle and their contractor, AM General, were contacted to be certain there was no interference with new equipment, especially the Improvised Explosive Device Jamming Remote. The design engineer Nino Bonavito from the ECBC test facility was involved with visits necessitated by this effort. Nino Bonavito and Rich Dixon traveled to AM General to assess the appropriate placement and space available for mounting the dischargers on the M1151 HMMWV and discovered there was no place on the roof where this could be done. In March, an Integrated Process Team teleconference was held to discuss the placement of the brackets. Terry Thurman, Engineering Technician for JPM RPI, proposed an alternative mounting possibility by suggesting the discharger be placed in front of the driver side of the windshield.

Dixon and Bonavito traveled to APG and met with the point of contact for Aberdeen Test Center to confirm the mounting location of the discharger would not interfere with the driver's field of vision. There was no interference, but coordination with the TACOM Safety Office was still necessary. Preliminary design work was initiated at this time, and Bonavito continued to work with the ADM Team for several weeks to develop prototype brackets by utilizing the rapid prototyping group. Concurrent with this design effort, AM General developed a mounting bracket for the Arming/Firing Unit and the IED Jamming Remote. This coordination and cooperation were instrumental in the overall success of the effort.

Through a series of testing teleconferences, the test plan and execution were discussed by all participants, and appropriate permissions were obtained for the tasking. A quality test was necessary, as well as the procurement of M90 Grenades, a complete XM327 Kit, M310 LVOSS Installation Kits, grenade dischargers, and other parts manufactured by the ADM Team



A side view of the M1151 shows the M327 Light Vehicle Obscuration Smoke System installed. Photo by Becky Rockwell

In May, Dixon and Bonavito coordinated with the Joint Manufacturing Technology Center, Rock Island Arsenal, to test the concept on an available M1151, and determined it was possible to use the M310 Wiring Harness for the XM327. However, excess length of the harness proved to be problematic and led to the need for a mock installation. By July, all of the prototypes were in place for a mock installation of the XM327 at AM General. This procedure determined the mounting locations of the brackets, effectiveness of the new AFU/IED Bracket, and the routing of the M310 Wiring Harness. After the mock installation, a decision was made to create a new drawing of the wiring harness with shortened dimensions.

In order to test the system, an Integrated Process Team met via teleconferences to establish the testing requirements. The IPT members consisted of the following: ECBC engineering, Advanced Design and Manufacturing Team, Logistics Team; JPM RPI; PMLTV; Aberdeen Test Center; and an independent evaluator from the Army Evaluation Command. A decision to utilize the ECBC test facility at Rock Island to perform vibration testing concurrently with the road test was made early in the process. This decision significantly reduced the amount of road testing time required to validate the design. Also, coordination with members of the IPT was required to ensure a vehicle was available when the road testing was scheduled to begin.

In September 2007, ECBC installed the XM327 onto an M1151 at the ADM Team facility. During the installation, several changes were needed on the prototype parts. Since the installation was done at the ADM Team facility, changes were able to be made in a timely manner to avoid delaying the testing schedule.

After the road testing, a live firing was conducted in October 2007 and resulted in a failure due to a crack on the front bracket. Apparently, the crack was caused by repeated flexing or vibrating against the edge of the roof armor, which led to a stress fracture. Because of the

expertise and cooperation of those involved, it was possible to quickly identify the problem and devise a viable solution. A new design was developed through the team work of the ECBC design engineer and the ADM Team. This bracket was subjected to grenade firing at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD and also vibration testing at the ECBC test facility at Rock Island. The redesigned bracket passed both tests. ECBC significantly reduced the total amount of testing time for the overall project by concurrently performing vibration testing while ATC was conducting the road testing with the HMMWV.

At the start of the testing, the logistics team was brought into the project. The benefit of this was to give the logistics team an opportunity to impact the design in order to make the logistics portion of the project more successful. In February 2008, the team was ready for a technical manual validation. This was coordinated and chaired by Pam Lamb, ECBC Logistics Engineer, and was held at Edgewood, Md. Logistics, design, and soldier input were gathered to create the changes needed for the technical manual. Also, contributing to these changes were representatives from TACOM Chem/Bio Defense Support Integrated Directorate and AEC. Changes to the manual were incorporated in preparation for its June 2008 verification.

The technical manual was not the only opportunity for collaboration between logistics and project management. Through the cooperation of these entities, the requirements of the Army G8 office were refined until an initial number of systems to be procured were approved. Even though the design and logistics have been completed, continued coordination and cooperation between ECBC, JPM RPI, and TACOM Chem/Bio Defense Support Integrated Directorate will be ongoing throughout the procurement of the M327. The procurement process will be a multiyear effort. The procurement IPT has been developed in order to provide the best options for the M327 and the Army. Cooperation between all parties will contribute to the best value for the Army. ●



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