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AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS (JULY 7, 2006) **'LIGHTNING II' MONIKER GIVEN TO JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**

WASHINGTON—The Air Force chief of staff announced Lightning II as the F-35 name during a Joint Strike Fighter Inauguration Ceremony today at the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. at Fort Worth, Texas.

Gen. T. Michael Moseley made the final decision after an extensive nomination and review process, coordinated with the other Services and partner nations.

In naming the F-35, Moseley said, “Today, the enemies of peace and freedom have been put on notice. They

have feared this day because the F-35 provides the coalition warfighter the perfect blend of speed, precision, and stealth.

“In my travels, airmen have given me some great suggestions that we’ll see on new Air Force weapons systems in the near future,” he said. “The name for the F-35, Lightning II, was a win for aviation heritage and culture.”

The heritage associated with this name played a significant role in its selection. The original P-38 Lightning was also a strike fighter and had the most air-to-air kills in the Pacific during World War II. Both of America’s top two aces—Maj. Richard Bong, 40 kills, and Maj. Thomas



JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER—The Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II is presented for the first time at the Lockheed Martin plant in Fort Worth, Texas, July 7, 2006. The Lightning II is a fifth-generation, supersonic stealth fighter designed to replace a wide range of existing aircraft, including the AV-8B Harrier, A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F/A-18 Hornet, and Royal Air Force Harrier GR-7 and Sea Harriers.

Photograph courtesy Lockheed Martin.



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McGuire, 38 kills—scored all of their victories in the P-38 Lightning in WWII.

The Lightning II name also draws parallels with a formidable force of nature. Like lightning, the F-35 Lightning II will strike with destructive force. The stealth characteristics of the jet will allow the F-35 to strike the enemy with accuracy and unpredictability; when the enemy finally hears the thunder, the F-35 is long gone.

The F-35 Lightning II is the next generation strike fighter bringing cutting-edge technologies to the battlespace of the future. The Lightning II's advanced airframe, autonomous logistics, avionics, propulsion systems, stealth, and firepower will make it an affordable, lethal, supersonic, and survivable aircraft for warfighters across the globe.

The Air Force is the Department of Defense's executive agent for designating and naming military aerospace vehicles. Air Force and Navy representatives proposed the Lightning II name during the review process.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JULY 12, 2006) DOD AWARDS GRANTS TO MINORITY INSTITUTIONS

The Department of Defense announced today plans to award 32 grants totaling \$9.5 million to 31 minority institutions. These grants represent the final phase of the fiscal 2006 DoD Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions Infrastructure Support Program. The grants will enhance programs and capabilities at these institutions in scientific disciplines critical to national security and the DoD.

This announcement is the result of merit competition for infrastructure support funding conducted for the Office of Defense Research and Engineering by the Army Research Office and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The fiscal 2006 program solicitation received 155 proposals in response to a broad agency announcement issued in November 2005.

The Army Research Office plans to award 11 equipment grants (ranging from \$95,000 to \$200,000) and 21 research grants (ranging from \$211,000 to \$500,000) with performance periods of 12 and 36 months respectively. Awards will be made only after written agreements are reached between the department and the institutions.

The list of recipients is available online at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jul2006/d20060712hbcu.pdf>.

OGDEN AIR LOGISTICS PUBLIC AFFAIRS (JULY 24, 2006) OGDEN AIR LOGISTICS CENTER EARNS SHINGO GOLD

G. A. Volb

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah—Ogden Air Logistics Center's 573rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron took a page out of the "Process Improvement Handbook" and earned a Gold Level Shingo Prize for Excellence in the process, July 17.

The award, the second highest of four ratings available for excellence in public sector manufacturing, was earned by the squadron and support units in accomplishing depot-level maintenance of F-16 Fighting Falcons.

"The process included production, engineering, quality, business operations, flight testing and many other areas," said Dr. Chalon Keller, chief of Ogden ALC's Transformation Division. "Unlike last year, when just one product line of the squadron competed for the prize and earned a silver-level award, the entire F-16 maintenance enterprise competed and won gold."

Dr. Keller said all of the squadron's major and secondary programs were evaluated by the Shingo team this year.

"It represents a quantum leap forward in Lean implementation in just a single year," she said. "The modification programs include the Common Configuration Implementation Program, Falcon Structural Augmentation Roadmap, as well as full aircraft painting, unscheduled drop-in work, and Foreign Military Sales workloads. They wanted to see evidence that the squadron vigorously implemented world-class manufacturing strategies and business practices that achieved world-class results through the implementation of Lean techniques.

"In essence," Keller said, "the team was looking for widespread use and understanding of Lean principles. And they determined that the 573rd does just that—in a highly effective and sustained manner."

The team not only evaluated what most would think of as the traditional aspects of manufacturing, but also scored everything from the strategic vision provided by the ALC commander and budgetary process of the 309th Aircraft Maintenance Group, to the recognition program within the 573rd.



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HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah—Steve Vanballegooie, an aircraft pneudraulics systems mechanic with the 573rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (forefront), laces up the F-1 bladder cell of an F-16 while crammed into a 10x10 foot work space. Vanballegooie said it would take about two days to complete. At right, Jordan Smith, and at left, Brodie Martin, both sheet metal mechanics with the 573rd AMS, fix fastener holes on the F-16's "turtle back." The turtle back houses hydraulics and fuel lines, the work part of Falcon STAR—a structural modifications program that will take the service life of the aircraft to the year 2020. The F-16 customer is the Burlington Air National Guard in Vermont.

U.S. Air Force photograph by G. A. Volb.

"This award recognizes every support agency and everyone throughout the F-16 value stream who contribute to producing a combat-ready F-16 for the warfighters throughout the Air Force," said Maj. Gen. Kevin Sullivan, Ogden ALC commander. "The complexity of F-16 maintenance and modification work done here makes this achievement that much more impressive."

Col. Art Cameron, commander of the 309th Maintenance Wing, pointed out several improvements directly impacting customers and ALC work.

"Flow day reductions for the CCIP and Falcon STAR lines resulted in a savings of nearly \$6 million for customers this fiscal year," he said, "and we haven't delivered a late aircraft back to a customer in over two years."

Because of increased efficiency, said Cameron, "we are operating with an hourly rate of about 20 percent below what was projected, while the number of safety flight defects reported by customers has also decreased—just

two this year in nearly one million production hours.

"For the F-16 AMXS to compete and be awarded prizes in each of the past two years is the best validation our continuous process improvement efforts could hope to receive," said Cameron.

Yet, the 573rd, which falls under the 309th MXW, won't be resting on its past achievements.

"I want to lead the first public sector organization to become a Platinum recipient of the Shingo Prize," said Robert Hall, the 573rd AMXS director. "Not just to win the award, but because we know that in order to realize our full potential we must focus in a very disciplined manner on Lean every day. The result is our ability to continue to reduce cost, reduce flow days, and generally become a more efficient organization. That's good for us and our customers—we retain workloads because our customers are happy and create more capacity to bring in new workloads."

The Shingo Prize is recognized as the Nobel Prize for manufacturing excellence and is alongside the Deming Award and Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in prestige and significance.

Until last year it was only open to private sector entities; the fact that it's now open to public sector organizations is validation that government agencies like the ALCs have made vast improvements in recent years.

Volb is with Ogden Air Logistics Center Public Affairs at Hill AFB, Utah.

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 1, 2006) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS DELIVER SUCCESS

Gen. Bruce Carlson, USAF

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—As a large enterprise, Air Force Materiel Command faces large challenges. Consider that this command managed a fiscal 2006 budget of \$44.7 billion and a total ac-



Gen. Bruce Carlson, USAF



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tive duty military and civilian workforce of more than 78,000 people.

We're all responsible for being good stewards of the taxpayers' money and for improving ways in which AFMC supports the warfighter. But within an enterprise the size of AFMC, it's challenging to continuously, and honestly, look at all of the command's work processes and eliminate waste or steps with no value.

A few years ago we conceived a methodology under which strategic objectives came to life and were successfully incorporated into our daily lives through the processes we employ. We dreamed further that we would develop a means by which we would institutionalize a consistent, reliable, and economical way to realize these strategic aims.

Today, we find ourselves with a firm foundation of strategic processes upon which to build. In turn, we're in a position to launch the next phase, which will ensure we achieve the goals set by leadership.

One of the essential tools that will help AFMC get there is continued application of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st century, or AFSO21. By now you should have heard about AFSO21 and know that it is an overarching strategy to improve how we accomplish our daily tasks.

AFSO21 makes AFMC more efficient through continuous process improvement ... but it drives significant change. Many of us have sat in a briefing or classroom and heard how people are reluctant or resistant to change. But let's consider the command's latest success stories involving the application of AFSO21 principles.

Organizations at two air logistics centers were recently selected for Shingo Prizes, which promote awareness of Lean manufacturing concepts and recognize companies that achieve world-class manufacturing status. At Warner Robins ALC, Robins AFB, Ga., the C-5 Programmed Depot Maintenance unit earned a Gold Shingo Prize. The center's F-15 Programmed Depot Maintenance team and the F-15 Avionics Squadron earned Bronze Shingo Prizes. At Ogden ALC, Hill AFB, Utah, the 573rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron earned a Gold Shingo Prize.

These are outstanding accomplishments when you consider that the Shingo Prize is referred to in some circles as the "Nobel Prize in manufacturing" because it establishes a standard for world-class excellence.

It also demonstrates that AFMC is, in fact, a good steward of taxpayers' money. At the same time, it signifies AFMC's commitment to increasing the quality and availability of weapon systems to the warfighters who protect our country and our armed forces.

AFSO21 continues to help this command build upon successes that were obtained in previously uncharted territory. It's critical that everyone accept and embrace continuous process improvement and the resulting changes. By doing so, we will create an environment that inspires trust, innovation, and a passion for achieving improved performance ... helping us become "One Materiel Command."

Carlson is the commander, Air Force Materiel Command, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 2, 2006) 2006 MAINTENANCE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Department of Defense announced today the 2006 winners of the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards at the depot and field levels. These awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding achievements in military equipment and weapon systems maintenance.

The Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award recipient is the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) Recapitalization Program at Red River Army Depot, Texas. The program, through the depot workforce's responsiveness, exceptional work ethic, and dedication to the mission, streamlined the overhaul/remanufacturing processes of humvees to support our warfighters in the global war on terrorism.

The depot-level award is named in recognition of Robert T. Mason, a former assistant deputy secretary of defense for maintenance policy, programs, and resources. Mason served as the champion of organic depot maintenance for three decades, while helping to transform DoD organic depot-level operations.

There are six field-level awards presented in the categories of small, medium, and large units (two each). The recipients of this year's Secretary of Defense Field-level Maintenance Awards are:



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SMALL CATEGORY

Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light Four Seven— USN

Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.
Navy

303d Intelligence Squadron – USAF

Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
Air Force

MEDIUM CATEGORY

297th Transportation Company

Fort Hood, Texas
Army

437th Maintenance Squadron/ 315th Maintenance Squadron

Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.
Air Force

LARGE CATEGORY

3rd Wing

Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska
Air Force

3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion – USMC

Okinawa, Japan
Marine Corps

The awards will be presented to the winners at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards banquet on Oct. 25, 2006, during the 2006 DoD Maintenance Symposium and Exhibition at the Grand Sierra Resort (formerly the Reno Hilton) in Reno, Nev. Additional information regarding the 2006 DoD Maintenance Symposium and Exhibition can be found at <http://www.sae.org/dod>.

MARINE CORPS NEWS (AUG. 7, 2006) COMBAT ZONE INGENUITY PROTECTS MARINES, EARNS \$5,000

Cpl. Daniel J. Redding, USMC

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq—Seven Marines were presented with a \$5,000 award for their combat zone ingenuity in designing and creating a protective armor kit for military forklifts and front end loaders, commonly called TRAMs, at a ceremony here Aug. 6.

Those awarded—welders and mechanics assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward)—were selected for the recognition by the Ma-

rine Corps' Beneficial Suggestion Program after fabricating from scratch a steel cover, complete with protective glass windows, that fits over the cab of the TRAM.

TRAM is the Marine Corps acronym for "Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated steering, Multi-purpose."

Awarded were:

- **Staff Sgt. Andrew N. Zabel**, the project's team leader, and 27-year-old from Batavia, Ill.
- **Cpl. James A. Carrillo**, 23, from Chicago.
- **Cpl. Kelsey S. Marshall**, 23, from Anchorage, Ala.
- **Lance Cpl. Jonathan C. Elkins**, 20, from Moorehead, Ky.
- **Cpl. Adam L. Schroeder**, 22, from Platteville, Wis.
- **Cpl. Rogelio De La Graza**, 21, from Premont, Texas.
- **Cpl. Jonathan M. Rakestraw**, 22, from Pittsburgh.

Brig. Gen. David G. Reist, commanding general of the 1st Marine Logistics Group, came from nearby Camp Fal-lujah to recognize the Marines and thanked them as he presented the award.

"You Marines are saving lives, and that's what it's all about," said Reist, who currently serves as the deputy commanding general for support of Multi National Forces-West.

In May of this year, as extra forces were being called on to secure Ramadi, the capital of Al Anbar province, Col. David M. Richtsmeier, the 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) commanding officer in Iraq, ordered the men to come up with an armor kit for the TRAMs, which were planned to be used to build new combat outposts throughout the city.

With Ramadi the setting of some of the fiercest fighting in the struggle to stabilize Iraq, the slow-moving TRAMs needed something that would protect the operators if they came under enemy attack while fortifying the outposts, said Richtsmeier, who recommended the Marines for the award after seeing the results of their efforts.

The goal was to create a replicable force protection system with blueprints that other units could use to add armor to TRAMs anywhere in Iraq.

Detailed schematics were created for each piece of the adapted armor, including precise measurements and clarification on which part of the original humvee armor kit the pieces came from.



Combat Logistics Battalion 7, a 1st MLG unit located northwest of here at Al Asad Air Base, used these schematics to build an armored protection system for one of their own TRAMs.

Over the course of two weeks, the seven-man team worked around the clock developing the system, using leftover armor designed for a humvee and an air conditioner built for another vehicle system to complete their makeshift product.

Fueled by energy drinks and music, the Marines were inspired by the unique mission they were tasked with and the benefits of their final product to others.

“Our motivation came from the ever-present rebuilding mission that the Marines of the I Marine Expeditionary Force have been given,” said Zabel, the team leader. “I tried to make it a point every day to emphasize the fact that by building this armor shell, we were [potentially] saving the life of a heavy equipment operator.”

Adapting parts intended for a completely different machine—and overcoming the tight spaces and sharp angles of the TRAM—were some of the major frustrations they met head on, said Schroeder.

Carrillo and Marshall, vehicle mechanics used to fixing engines and transmissions in humvees, helped overcome some of these frustrations when they adapted a larger alternator to power the air conditioning unit for the new cab.

The challenges of building something with no prior design to gauge from kept the Marines working almost non-stop until they completed the project, said Rakestraw, who drafted the blueprints of the design.

As heavy equipment mechanics, Rakestraw and De La Garza added their expertise of working on TRAMs and other large military vehicles to the team.

Senior personnel involved in the project encouraged the Marines to submit their final product to Marine Corps Logistics Command for their Beneficial Suggestions awards program.

“[The Marines] went beyond their ‘normal job expectancy’ to quickly and effectively neutralize a very dangerous situation for heavy equipment operators,” said Shirley P. Stiles and Robin G. Wimberly, who work with the Beneficial Suggestion program and helped get the

Marines approved for the \$5,000 gift that was split between the seven.

The Beneficial Suggestion Program, run by Marine Corps Logistics Command in Albany, Ga., is designed to take advantage of the creativity of military and civilian personnel who contribute practical and innovative ideas for improving and maintaining productivity, economy, efficiency, and mission effectiveness for Marine Corps programs and operations.

“It’s like winning the lottery, only in the Marine Corps way,” said Elkins, who along with his fellow metal worker, Schroeder, was responsible for the precise cutting and welding to form the new cab cover.

The seven Marines played a big role in ensuring the TRAM operators were protected as they supported combat operations in Ramadi, said Richtsmeier.

Feeling protected made it easier for the TRAM operators in Ramadi who endured sporadic enemy attacks while operating in Ramadi, said Pfc. Michael E. Jordan, a heavy equipment operator who helped build some of the new combat outposts in the city.

Redding is with 1st Marine Logistics Group in Iraq. Contact him at Daniel.Redding@cssemmf-wiraq.usmc.mil.

CAMPBELL RECOGNIZED WITH PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD

Stacy L. Umstead

Defense Distribution Center Deputy Commander Phyllis C. Campbell has been recognized for exceptional service with the 2005 Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive.



*Phyllis C. Campbell,
SES*

Each year, the President of the United States confers the rank of Distinguished Executive on a small select group of career members of the Senior Executive Service who have provided exceptional service to the American people over an extended period of time. These senior executives are outstanding leaders, who consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to public service. Through their personal conduct and results-oriented leadership, they have earned and kept a high degree of public confidence and trust. They have demonstrated their success



in balancing the needs and perspectives of customers, stakeholders, and employees with organizational results. Executives from across the government are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by citizen panels, and finally, designated by the president. The award is both prestigious and unique.

To a standing ovation in a recent Town Hall meeting attended by DDC Headquarters employees, Campbell addressed her accomplishment, "It's a great honor. It's a humbling honor. I share it with all of you because without you, I wouldn't have been noticed. It is a great affirmation of what you do." Campbell, who has served as DDC's deputy commander since 1998, has been the driving force behind DDC's evolution from a materiel, storage-focused activity to a robust, full-service distribution and transportation activity.

She attended Weber State University and is the recipient of numerous special achievement and performance awards including the 2002 Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, and the Military Ancient Order of Saint Christopher award in recognition of her contributions to transportation initiatives.

Umstead is with Defense Distribution Center Command Affairs.

KRIEG DIRECTS APPLICATION OF LEAN SIX SIGMA TO THE DAB PROCESS

Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) Ken Krieg, in a June 28 memorandum to all Defense Acquisition Board members and Overarching Integrated Product Team leads, discussed his ongoing initiative to review and apply Lean/Six Sigma principles to the DAB process. This review, Krieg wrote, would "make the DAB more effective and efficient in conducting milestone reviews and better position programs to meet their cost, schedule, and performance targets." Krieg's memorandum further discussed Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT) meetings and the need to reduce the number of meetings—called Integrating Integrated Product Team (IIPT) meetings. Toward that end, he suspended the use of IIPTs as the standard course of action in favor of smaller, focused issue meetings to ensure OIPT principals are prepared and aware of all issues. Read Krieg's memorandum in its entirety at http://www.acq.osd.mil/docs/With_autopen_and_date.pdf >.

ABERDEEN TEST CENTER NEWS RELEASE (AUG. 8, 2006)

ATC DIRECTOR AWARDED JOHN W. MACY JR. AWARD

Susan Hagan

Harry V. Cunningham, director of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center's Test Technology Directorate, was recently awarded the John W. Macy Jr. Award in a ceremony held in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The Macy Award is sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and recognizes excellence in the leadership of civilians by an Army military or civilian supervisor. Award recipients are described as "leaders who best exemplify the highest traditions of service and whose leadership style embraces the Army's philosophy that our leaders are responsible for civilian personnel management."

"When a director receives recognition, it is in effect recognition of the exceptional work done within the directorate by assigned personnel," said Cunningham. "So I was honored to accept this award because, as I see it, this recognizes the exceptionally competent, professional and quality work that goes on within the Test Technology Directorate every day by government civilians, contractors, and military personnel. I accepted the award for them, not me."

In 34 years of military and federal service, Cunningham has demonstrated that he is both a highly technical professional and a strong and effective leader. In 2002, ATC established what would become the Test Technology Directorate. Created to establish test technology to enable ATC to test transforming Army capabilities in a net-centric warfare environment, TTD was chartered with identifying the nature of the emerging warfighting technologies, how they would be employed on the battlefield, how to test their effectiveness and develop solutions as shortcomings might be discovered. Cunningham was appointed as director, and immediately began to build a team that has grown from two people to more than 100 engineers, scientists, and technicians.

Through his efforts, ATC is now actively engaged in executing 14 separate development programs to develop technologies to support the test and evaluation of the Future Combat Systems.

Hagan is a public affairs specialist working for the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.



ARMY NEWS SERVICE (AUG. 22, 2006) RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT WINS DOD MAINTENANCE AWARD

Belinda Lee

TEXARKANA, Texas—Red River Army Depot, Texas, has received DoD's highest award for depot-level maintenance: the 2006 Secretary of Defense Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award.

The award recognizes RRAD's High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Recapitalization Program, though which depot employees streamlined the HMMWV overhaul and remanufacturing processes to support soldiers fighting the war on terror.

"This is a well deserved recognition. This dedicated workforce strives each day to support the warfighter with the best equipment possible," said Army Col. Douglas J. Evans, depot commander. "I congratulate the entire Red River team for a job well done."

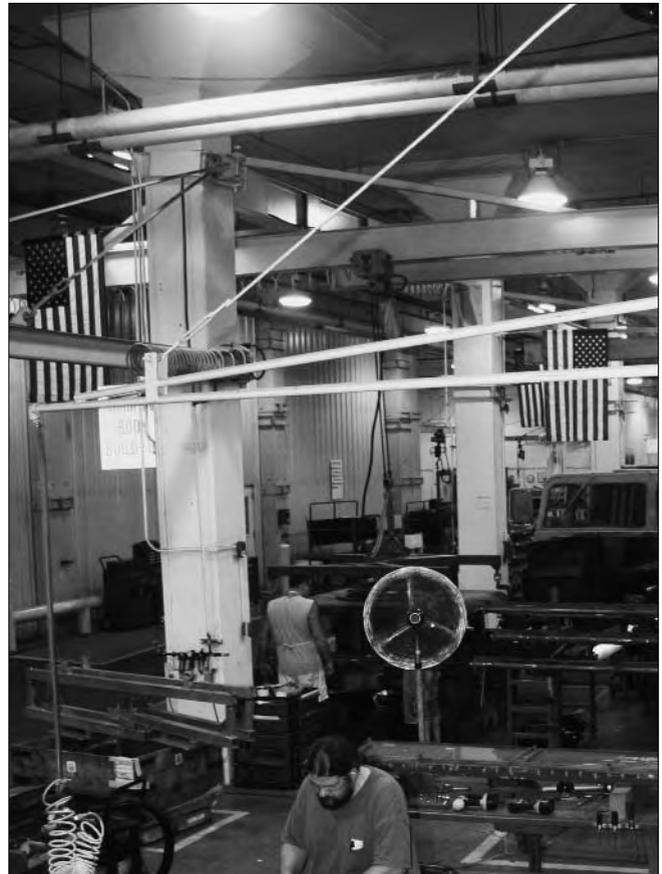
RRAD officials credit the success to the use of Lean Six Sigma methodologies and partnerships. LSS application has resulted in a production increase of three to 120 vehicles per week, an 88 percent reduction in safety accidents, and a 99.7 percent positive customer service rate.

Current trends withstanding, RRAD will realize over \$100 million of net cost avoidance by the end of 2006.

"Lean Six Sigma has resulted in production workers' taking ownership of the humvee product," said Army Sgt. Maj. Dennis Miller of RRAD. "The definitive establishment of duties for each station lets the worker realize his accomplishments and contributions to the final product."

The awards will be presented at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards banquet Oct. 25, during the 2006 DoD Maintenance Symposium and Exhibition at the Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nev.

Established in 2004, the depot and field-level awards commemorate Robert T. Mason, a former assistant deputy secretary of defense of maintenance policy, programs, and resources. The annual awards recognize achievements in the maintenance of military equipment and weapon systems.



Red River Army Depot was recently named the recipient of the 2006 Secretary of Defense Robert T. Mason Depot Maintenance Excellence Award for their improvements in the HMMWV Recapitalization program.

Photograph by Pam Barrett