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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

The office of the deputy under secretary of defense for acquisition and technology is proud to recognize the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) for a significant accomplishment. As of June 16, DAU has exceeded the Lean Six Sigma (LSS) goals established by the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, certifying 14 LSS Black Belts and 64 Green Belts. Lean Six Sigma is an important initiative to A&T and the DoD.

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (MAY 2, 2008)

GATES APPLAUDS EFFORTS AT RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT

Donna Miles

TEXARKANA, Texas—Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates toured Red River Army Depot, observing operations that have won accolades for speed and efficiency in refurbishing worn-out wheeled and tracked vehicles for use by warfighters who depend on them.

The depot, one of the military's largest facilities, has set records in turning around Humvees, heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks and small emplacement excavator vehicles; and rebuilding transmissions and track and road wheels on Bradley fighting vehicles.

Gates walked through the tactical and combat vehicle production lines, watched Bradley transmission and 25-millimeter gun production, and toured the rubber products division building.

"I come away impressed by the skill and the commitment of the men and women who work here, and also by the fact that by refurbishing and resetting this equipment, ultimately they save the taxpayers many millions of dollars every year," Gates told reporters after touring the facility.

"Red River has always come through during times of war," he said. "During the 1940s it ramped up for tank repair, and today it provides life-saving equipment for our fighting troops in Iraq and Afghanistan."

During his tour, Gates learned how applying Lean Six Sigma principles—a methodical approach used throughout industry to increasing efficiency and reducing waste—has speeded up restoring vehicles to like-new condition so they can be returned to the combat theater.

"Humvee production here has skyrocketed from about two Humvees a week in 2004 to an eye-popping 26 Humvees a day in 2006, and 32 a day now," Gates told reporters.

Assembly-line processes have cut to a fraction the time it takes to rebuild battle-damaged wheeled and tracked vehicles, explained Patton Tidwell, the depot's director for contracting. Vehicles move to each new station every 26 minutes, like clockwork.

"We broke complicated procedures into smaller, simpler tasks," Tidwell said. "It's enabling us to take care of warfighters in the field better every day."

The effort has won the depot numerous awards, including its second Shingo Prize Public Sector Award for Excellence in Manufacturing and Achievement, in October. *Business Week* calls the award the "Nobel Prize for manufacturing."

As he toured the facility, Gates nodded hellos to and shook hands with workers he called the driving force behind Red River's success. Some, Gates noted, are fourth-generation employees following in the footsteps of those who cranked into high gear during World War II.

"Their dedication to our troops can be summed up by a placard that the workers place inside each vehicle," he told reporters. "It reads: 'We build it as if our lives depend on it. Yours do.'"

The motto is ever present at the depot, stamped onto metal silhouettes of weapon-toting combat soldiers that stand like sentinels throughout the facility. "We use this to get our workforce focused on why we're here," Tidwell said. "It's a reminder of who we're working for."

For many, the mission here is highly personal. About 35 percent of the workers are veterans. Tim Perkins, chief of the Humvee maintenance division, retired from the Army with 22 years of service. Kenneth Lynn, a mechanic in the Bradley transmission facility, has a stepson with the Arkansas National Guard serving in Baghdad.

Many workers have volunteered for six-month rotations with Army Materiel Command's forward repair facility in Kuwait.

David May, who manages the depot's heavy and medium tactical division, said the importance of the work really hit home when his son, Army Pvt. Christopher May, told

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him he'd been issued an HMMT that had been refurbished at Red River.

The sentiment was echoed throughout the facility. Barbara Callaway paused from inspecting a rebuilt Bradley transmission system to reflect on why what she does matters. "We have to keep these Bradleys going. If this Bradley transmission goes out, these men and women can't get out of harm's way," she said. "We want to build the best possible transmission to keep them safe."

Gates thanked the depot workers and the Texarkana community that has supported the facility for decades for their "tireless support" of the men and women in uniform.

"People may question whether or not the nation is on a war footing," Gates told reporters. "The people here at Red River Army Depot clearly are on a war footing."

Miles writes for Air Force Press Service.

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (MAY 8, 2008) **PENTAGON CEREMONY FETES SUPERLATIVE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS**

Gerry J. Gilmore

WASHINGTON—The premier installations from each military service and the Defense Logistics Agency were recognized at a Pentagon award ceremony May 8. John J. Young Jr., under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, presented the Commander in Chief's Annual Awards for Installation Excellence.

The highlighted installations have distinguished themselves through effective leadership and management as well as being good stewards of tax dollars, Young said at the ceremony.

"Installations are the backbone to our armed forces," Young said, noting that military posts provide training, billeting, maintenance, research and development, and other valuable facilities, and also serve as U.S. power-projection platforms.

Military installations also "provide a safe place for our military members and their families to live, work, and play," Young said.

This year's awardees are: Fort A.P. Hill, Bowling Green, Va.; Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Naval Base Coronado, San Diego; Dover Air Force Base, Dover, Del.; and the Defense Supply Center Richmond, Va.

Wayne Army, deputy under secretary of defense for installations and environment, served as the event's master of ceremonies.

"This prestigious award recognizes the best of the best," Army told the Pentagon auditorium audience before the awards were presented.

President Ronald Reagan created the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence in 1985. The Defense Logistics Agency was added to the competition in 1988. Cited organizations receive a trophy, an "Installation Excellence" flag, and a letter signed by President Bush.

Gilmore writes for American Forces Press Service.

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS (MAY 8, 2008) **HILL ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM EARNS DOD AWARD**

Barbara Fisher

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah—A team of environmental specialists at Hill AFB, Utah, has been named the best Environmental Quality Team in the Department of Defense.

The 21-member group, part of the 75th Civil Engineer Group Environmental Division, includes biologists, an archaeologist, several engineers, and other managers who oversee Hill AFB's natural, cultural, and environmental compliance programs.

Representing the Air Force, the Hill AFB team was selected by a panel of judges from the government and private sectors over entries from the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps in the 2007 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards competition.

The Hill AFB Environmental Quality Team is responsible for overseeing all Hill AFB environmental programs and those at the Utah Test and Training Range, the nation's only permitted site for demilitarization, by detonation and burning, of explosives greater than 10,000 pounds. The team also oversees environmental efforts at the Little Mountain Test Annex, a 740-acre secure Air Force facility on the west end of 12th Street in Ogden.

For the 2007 award, the environmental team was recognized for—

- Reducing hazardous waste costs by more than \$440,000 annually

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- Establishing a new recycling program for scrap metals and other materials that made \$43,000
- Demilitarizing more than 1 million pounds of stockpile missile motor propellant, burning 680 tons of NASA Titan propellant, and successfully transporting and detonating the first 81,000-pound, first-stage Trident missile motor for the Navy
- Helping transform more than 1 million pounds of spent abrasive blast media into construction blocks
- Producing 24.8 million pounds of scrap metal from bombs and targets, avoiding \$5.84 million in disposal costs
- Making drastic facility and operational improvements to reduce by 95 percent the amount of storm water going into the industrial waste water treatment plant, thus decreasing treatment costs
- Training more than 13,500 employees on environmental topics
- Managing 317 archeological sites and 364 historical buildings and consulting regularly with 19 local American Indian tribes
- Processing more than 4,000 National Environmental Policy Act documents
- Being named a Tree City USA for the 14th consecutive year.

“The success of our program depends on the environmental consciousness and ethic of many, many individuals, from our leadership, to the people on the front lines in our production areas,” said Bob James, the Hill AFB Environmental Quality Team’s division chief. “This year everyone’s efforts were recognized. We’re proud to receive this award on behalf of the entire Hill AFB community.”

Fisher writes for 75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs.

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (MAY 15, 2008) **DR. CHARLES J. HOLLAND HONORED BY GOVERNMENT COMPUTER NEWS**

Dr. Charles J. Holland, deputy director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Information Processing and Techniques Office and program manager for DARPA’s High Productivity Computing Systems program, has been honored with a 2008 *Government Computer News* Technology Leadership Award. *Government Computer News* announced the awards on May 15 at a special awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., held in conjunction with the Association for Federal Information Resources Management.

Government Computer News recognized Holland for his vision and influence on the direction of government high-performance computing. The recognition culminates years of work by Holland to bring attention to the fact that the United States was falling behind in supercomputing prowess and that keeping pace was important to maintaining national security.

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS (MAY 16, 2008) **ELMENDORF NCO RECEIVES DOD HONOR**

Staff Sgt. Jared Marquis, USAF

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska—Department of Defense officials recently recognized an Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, NCO for significant contributions to the sustainment, beddown, and/or operational capability of AIM-9X Sidewinder missiles for the 3rd Wing.

Staff Sgt. Wayne Zuiderhof of the 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron was selected as the 2007 AIM-9X Cutting Edge Award Winner for 2007 because of his “management, maintenance, and drive to maintain an \$18.7 million stockpile and constant improvement to the nation’s newest missile,” according to the award package.

“Sgt. Zuiderhof is directly involved with every aspect of the AIM-9X at the 3rd Wing,” said Capt. Lupe Gutierrez, the 3rd EMS Munitions flight commander. “His flawless management of missiles in both the combat ammunition system and the tactical missile records system ensures accountability of these national assets while providing real-time visibility to warplanners.”

Zuiderhof said the award came as a surprise when it was announced at a maintenance banquet.

“I was completely amazed. I had no idea I would ever be recognized with that type of award,” the 10-year Air Force veteran said.

“I credit the hard work of everyone who helps me in the daily maintenance,” he said. “I can’t complete any maintenance without the assistance and support of my team.”

Zuiderhof’s nomination and subsequent selection were not a surprise to his leadership.

“Wayne is one of the sharpest maintainers I have ever met in my 18-year career,” Gutierrez said. “He is a true professional who inspires his airmen, always leads by example, and always from the front. Wayne has tackled every challenge with zeal and professionalism, and he has

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Air Force Staff Sgt. Wayne Zuiderhof checks the depth value on the forward hanger of a weapon May 14 at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Zuiderhof, assigned to the 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, was one of two recipients of the 2007 AIM-9X Cutting Edge Award. Photo by Airman 1st Class Laura Turner, USAF

earned the complete confidence, trust, and respect from the entire munitions community.”

Marquis writes for 3rd Wing Public Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JUNE 2, 2008) **DOD NAMES INAUGURAL CLASS OF NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FELLOWS**

The Department of Defense announced June 2 the selection of six distinguished university faculty scientists and engineers forming the first class of its new National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellows program. NSSEFF provides grants to top-tier researchers from U.S. universities to conduct long-term, unclassified, basic research of strategic importance to DoD. These grants engage the next generation of outstanding scientists and engineers in the most challenging technical issues facing DoD.

“Up to \$3 million of direct research support will be granted to each NSSEFF Fellow for up to five years,” said William

Rees, deputy under secretary of defense for laboratories and basic sciences. The fellows conduct basic research in core science and engineering disciplines that underpin future DoD technology development. This basic research is crucial to applications such as sensors, surveillance, information security, cyber and force protection, and power projection. In addition to conducting this unclassified research, Rees noted another important benefit of the NSSEFF program. “[The program offers] opportunities for fellows to participate fully in the DoD research enterprise and share their knowledge and insight with DoD military and civilian leaders, researchers in DoD laboratories, and the national security science and engineering community.”

In response to the NSSEFF Broad Agency Announcement, nearly 150 academic institutions submitted more than 500 nomination letters. More than 350 technical white papers were received and, following a rigorous technical review, 20 semifinalists were invited to submit full proposals outlining their research plans. Each of the semifinalists participated in a scientific interview before a distinguished panel of experts. A list of the fellows, their home institutions, and their research topics is at < www.defenselink.mil/news/d20080602fellowship.pdf >. DoD may elect to announce additional winners of this year’s NSSEFF awards at a later date.

Upon successful completion of negotiations between their academic institutions and DoD research offices, grant awards will be made to the faculty members’ home institutions for support of their research. DoD congratulates each of these remarkable scientists and engineers on their selection as inaugural fellows of the National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellows Program.

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AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS (JUNE 4, 2008) MAINTAINERS GO GREEN WITH ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Airman 1st Class Spencer Gallien, USAF

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—The 23rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron recently began testing electric vehicles in an effort to help the Air Force go green. Moody Air Force Base became a test site for the program after a request was made by Air Force Materiel Command officials for the base to evaluate the positive and negative benefits of the environmentally conscious vehicles.

The base received two electric vehicles. The first is a cart used to shuffle parts and personnel back and forth from the flightline. The second is an electric munition loader, also known as a “jammer,” which uses the same tools as any other gas-powered munitions loader, but is powered by an on-board electric source.

“When we received the proposal we saw some huge benefits in the program,” said Maj. Richard Holifield, the 23rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron operations officer. “You can look at the obvious benefits of cost effectiveness and low emissions, but there are also the noise level and deployability aspects.”

Deploying gas powered vehicles involves a lot of prep work, Holifield said. In order for the vehicle to be loaded onto a plane, you must remove all the fluids from the vehicle. When loading an electric vehicle, it’s basically plug and play. The goal of the program is to provide feedback to AFMC to see if ordering the equipment is a viable option for the future.

“The testing has been an ongoing process,” said Master Sgt. Tad Robinson, the 23rd EMS aerospace ground equipment section lead. “We continually send reports explaining what could be changed to make the vehicle a better purchase for the Air Force.” The sergeant also pointed out that any of the complaints the 23rd EMS has had about the vehicles have been minor and, overall, users have been extremely happy with the results.

Through the 23rd EMS testing, the unit believes this is another step towards the Air Force’s continual effort to take care of the planet, Holifield said. “This opens up avenues to test for more cost-effective, long-term environmentally friendly energy sources,” he said. “From this

point on, we are beginning to look at solar power, more energy-efficient lighting, and any other form of energy that the future may hold.

“We’ve really only scratched the surface of what we would like to do,” he said. “These vehicles are cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and easy to deploy. This is a win-win situation for all of us.”

Gallien writes for 23rd Wing Public Affairs.

ARMY NEWS SERVICE (JUNE 4, 2008) ARMY RECOGNIZES 85 ORGANIZATIONS FOR LOGISTICS EXCELLENCE

C. Todd Lopez

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Hundreds of members of the Army’s logistics community gathered to be recognized for their contributions to the Army during the 2008 Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony and banquet held on June 3.

Soldiers and Army civilians representing 85 winning and runner-up organizations were present at the ceremony to receive plaques on behalf of their organizations. Awards were offered for excellence in maintenance, deployment,



Electric vehicles are currently being used by members of the 23rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron for their daily duties instead of fuel-powered vehicles at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. The Aerospace Ground Equipment shop is testing the electric vehicles for efficiency, and delivering reports to the Air Force Materiel Command on the negative and positive aspects of the program. Photo by Airman 1st Class Brittany Barker, USAF

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and supply. Winners were chosen from across the total Army—including active, National Guard, and reserve components.

Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, deputy chief of staff, G-4, presided over the ceremony. Before announcing the ceremony's guest speaker, she told logistics soldiers that the Army is proud of them. "There is something about being in a room surrounded by a bunch of winners—it just feels really good," she said. "Our Army is extremely proud of you and so am I. To all of you, you represent what is good about our Army."

Lt. Gen. Stephen M. Speakes, deputy chief of staff, G-8, spoke to the soldiers and Army civilians, commenting on what they had done for the Army and comparing them to the logisticians who kept soldiers supplied during World War II.

"You have to go back to WWII to see an Army that has sustained combat formation, in combat, the way you have—to be able to compare and contrast what you have achieved. That is no small tribute to your accomplishments."

Among the units named winners during the ceremony was the 180th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), III Corps, from Fort Hood, Texas.

The battalion was named winner of the Deployment Excellence, Active Duty Supporting Unit award. Staff Sgt. Jose Latorre was in Washington to receive the award on behalf of his unit. He said teamwork amongst his peers is primarily responsible for the unit winning its award.

"We have been preparing for several months with the deployments we handle in the Fort Hood area," he said. "We have deployed several divisions. The last deployment we did was for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. On the last rotation it was the 31st Infantry Division. Our teamwork, our organization, has been very tight—which is why we have been so successful in deploying so many big divisions—like 4th ID and 1st Cavalry. This is the cream of the crop."

The U.S. Property and Fiscal Office, Camp Douglas, Wis., was named winner of the Supply Excellence, National Guard, Supply Support Activity award. Warrant Officer Duane Streeck, a warehouse supervisor there, received the award on behalf of his unit.

The USPFO at Camp Douglas runs a supply warehouse for the State of Wisconsin National Guard. The unit issues new equipment in addition to taking in old and unserviceable equipment for turn-in to depots or the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office. Streeck also said teamwork between the guardsmen there is responsible for helping the unit win its award.

"Among the people we have working for us, everybody is committed to the job we have to do," he said. "There's only 11 of us, so without the teamwork we have, we wouldn't be able to accomplish our mission."

Representatives of the winners of the Combined Logistics Excellence Award were treated to a day in Washington, D.C., to a tour of the Pentagon, and to VIP seating at the Twilight Tattoo.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NEWS RELEASE (JUNE 9, 2008) **DOD AWARDS GRANTS TO MINORITY INSTITUTIONS**

The Department of Defense announced plans to award 21 grants totaling \$14.1 million to 17 minority institutions as part of the fiscal 2008 DoD Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions Infrastructure Support Program. The grants will enhance education programs and research capabilities at the recipient institutions in scientific disciplines critical to national security and the DoD.

This announcement is the result of 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 2008 program solicitation received 73 proposals in response to a broad agency announcement issued in November 2007.

Research grants ranging from \$430,000 to \$785,000 will have a performance period of 36 months. Grants will be made by the Army Research Office. All awards are subject to the successful completion of negotiations between DoD and the academic institutions.

The list of recipients for fiscal year 2008 funding can be found on the Web at <<http://preview.defenselink.mil/news/hbcu.pdf>>.