

TRANS TRIBUNE

Chronicle of Warrior Logistics in Motion!

Volume 8, Number 4, April 2009



598th Transportation Group Rotterdam, The Netherlands



SDDC



Honoring
the NCO



Sgt. Scott Yeager, 598th, NCO of the Year 09

After a great deal of preparation, experience and mental focus, Sgt. Yeager was named the 598th Transportation Group NCO of the year. (See Page 4).



598th TRANS TRIBUNE

Volume 8, Number 4
April 2009

SDDC 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

This newsletter is an official publication authorized under Army Regulation 360-1 and is published quarterly by Chief, Command Affairs, SDDC 598th Trans Gp overseas. The 598th Trans Tribune provides information of people, activities and operations of the 598th Transportation Group. Views and opinions expressed in this electronic newsletter are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. All photos, unless otherwise noted, are U.S. Army photo's. We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, force protection and grammar.

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COMMAND TEAM

*By Col. Stephen E. Farmen, Commander 598th Trans Gp (SDDC)
and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Riddick, 598th Trans Gp CSM*

Command Sgt. Maj. and I would like to begin this month's command team corner by congratulating our 598th Transportation Group (SDDC) NCO of the Year for 2009 (in this, the Year of the NCO), **Sergeant Scott Yeager!**

Sgt. Yeager prevailed over stiff, yet healthy competition during CSM's best warrior challenge hosted "South of the Alps"! This is a superb accomplishment and we look forward to matching him up against SDDC's "best of the best" in the SDDC NCO of the Year competition scheduled for later this year. We know SGT Yeager is anxious, pumped, and will be ready when the time comes to show he is ARMY STRONG!

Well March blew by fast and furious and Spring is here! The famous Holland tulips are bringing us into Spring with new colors and more daylight hours to look forward to – HOO-AH! Of course the pace of things attributed to how fast our year is churning by. Our two high speed battalions continue to do great things as the 839th "Key to the Med" finished up its high visibility mission distributing war reserve stockage ammunition and the 838th "Gateway to Victory" went through inspections in competition for the prestigious Deployment Excellence Award as a finalist for the second year in a row. We expect them to come out on top as winners this year!

Another highlight for the month was a visit by our SDDC Deputy Commanding General, Colonel(P) Jack O'Connor which really energized our Workforce and AORs! It was an honor to have some quality time with him and both Battalions and Staffs did a fantastic job laying out who we are, what we do, and what we bring to make missions happen across EUCOM/AFRICOM with our supported commands and partners. The DCG told me repeatedly that he appreciated the passion, professionalism, and dialog exchanged on a multitude of issues affecting how we do business and what we can do to better posture or align to shape the future. During his visit and orientation, we were able to arrange meetings with Brig Gen Martin, AFRICOM Dir OPS/Sustainment and the ADDOC team; Rear Adm. Romano, EUCOM J4 and the EDDOC team; Maj.Gen. Fontaine, Commanding General 21ST TSC; and Brig.Gen. Bellini, USAREUR G4 (OPS/Sustainment) – while in Stuttgart we were also able to meet Lt.Gen. Gainey, current JCS J4 and former CG, SDDC and participate in a professional development presentation she gave. All told, the feedback during those sessions was very positive and reflects the hard work and efforts of the entire 598th Team as we move and deliver combat power and DoD cargo in support of many missions on multiple fronts.

**598th Transportation
Group (SDDC)**

**Warrior Logistics
In Motion!**



We wrapped up this month with our Semi Annual Operations Training Brief to Maj.Gen. Hodge which further amplified your ongoing efforts to link our mission sets to training and “train as we fight”. Operationally, it emphasized the historic nature of the movements conducted over the past two quarters! Great work!

Reference our pending move to Van Ghentkazerne (VGK), the energy and enthusiasm to bring this relocation project to fruition continues. In a meeting this past month with IMCOM, the City of Rotterdam, and DMOD an execution timeline began to emerge as the City of Rotterdam began providing status updates on completion of provisions in the consignment agreement signed in December 08. If all continues on glide-path, there is growing optimism that we could be moved into our new facility by December 2010. Of course, there is still much work to be done – but the “art of the possible” is beginning to emerge.

Looking into April, it appears that our rapid pace will continue. Operationally, the Northern Distribution Network remains a main effort and a lot of staff intensive planning and preparation is in motion to cover down on multiple conferences (SDDC Cdrs Conference and Symposium in Atlanta, GA, the EUCOM and AFRICOM Deployment and Distribution Conferences, and a visit by our Deputy to the Commander, Mrs Trish Young), to include setting the stage for an anticipated movement bubble this Summer and Fall in support of the strategic shift towards Afghanistan (OEF), repositioning out of Iraq (OIF), and the return of forces we deployed out of Central Region Europe last Fall.

We will also say a melancholy farewell to one of our 598th icons, Paul de Haan, Chief RM/Budget – who will be retiring in appropriate fashion on 23 April, after 38 years of distinguished service to 598TH Transportation Group and our Armed Forces. Definitely exciting times for us all!

As always, the enthusiastic spirit and professionalism displayed across our Workforce continues to make myself and CSM Riddick proud to serve! Activities linked to our themes for 2009, the Year of:

- **Information Technology/Knowledge Management**
 - Leap ahead 5 years
 - Win the information domain!
 - The Family Covenant at our FOB Rotterdam
- **Community and beyond...**
 - Deliver!
 - The SDDC NCO
 - Set expectations & define what it means to be an SDDC NCO...
 - Continue to flourish and take shape!

So our charter is: With these themes as a watermark, and the principles of innovate, pioneer, and transform to guide us – be a committed, dependable, relentless entrepreneur and let’s grow and expand who we are and what we do so our brand recognition inspires trust, endures, and resonates an aura of certainty, regardless of the nature of the fight or challenge across the spectrum of conflict.

There is much work to be done, yet I couldn’t be more pleased, proud, and grateful for all the hard work and efforts ongoing across our formation. I want you all to know that it is never taken for granted, nor is it going unnoticed; most importantly, it is making a profound difference across the spectrum providing strategic advantage and depth to our AORs and the War on Terror.

Keep up the great work and continue to fight complacency at all costs! Be a prudent risk-taker and Own the Edge – this will keep us in motion and tracking in all we do.

Keep Workforce Strong and let’s make a difference together! On that note, I would like to introduce a new thought worthy for all of us to absorb and it comes in the form of an African Proverb: “If you want to go quickly, go alone...If you want to go far, go together.”

Thanks for all you do!

*“Imagination is more Powerful than Knowledge”,
Einstein*

STRENGTH – VIGILANCE – RESILIENCE



To enhance your professional development, I offer the following books for your reading queue:

Day of Battle (enhanced title), By Rick Atkinson

Hot, Flat, and Crowded, by Thomas L. Friedman

Living Supply Chains: How to mobilize the enterprise around delivering what your customers want, by John Gattorna

Dark Star Safari: Overland from Cairo to Cape Town, by Paul Theroux

598th Trans Gp Soldiers Compete to be Named “NCO of the Year”

By Sgt. Ryan Hall, AFN Livorno
Photos by Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno PAO



Being a good leader requires a great deal of strength, determination and patience, which was evident as two very determined soldiers set out to prove that they were worthy of being called the 598th Transportation Group Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2009.

The two Soldiers, Sgt. Scott Yeager and Staff Sgt. James Phillips, made the trip from the Netherlands to Camp Darby to prove they were physically and mentally fit, as well as, being able to show that they could zero their weapons and put bullets on their targets.

“This competition has taught me responsibility. It has taught me to grow up and also to be a better person,” said Yeager *“It also taught me that there is something worth aspiring to.”*

Phillips added that touching the lives of so many troops makes his career worthwhile. *“To be able to mentor and train soldiers and to go through the things that I have over the years, that is what is most important to me and stands out the most.”*

Commander of 598th Transportation Group, Col. Stephen E. Farnen added that he couldn't be more proud of the Surface, Deployment, and Distribution Command's NCO's. *“They have embraced the Year of the NCO in a very profound way and reinforced this message in putting together this tough, spirited, yet healthy competition which proved to be a real professional test for our NCO's,”* said Farnen. *“Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick and his Sgt. Majors and senior NCO's put together a competition which amplified the main pillars of the Year of the NCO: education, fitness, leadership, and pride in service.”*

After a great deal of preparation, experience and mental focus, Sgt. Yeager was named the 598th Transportation Group NCO of the year.

“What an honor it is for Sgt. Yeager to win our Group's NCO of the Year competition, in this, the year of the NCO,” said Farnen. *“Congrats to all our competitors and I am confident Sgt. Yeager will be ready to rise to the occasion and make us proud at the upcoming ‘big’ SDDC competition in Hawaii.”* ■

- ▶ Staff Sgt. George Long tests Sgt. Scott Yeager on sending a NBC report.
- ▶ Staff Sgt. James Phillips and Sgt. Scott Yeager plot their points on a map for the land navigation portion of the competition.



■ Sgt. Scott Yeager and Staff Sgt. James Phillips shoot azimuths from the starting point at the Camp Darby training site.



■ Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Frijas, 839th Transportation Battalion tests Staff Sgt. James Phillips on his map overlay reading ability



839th NCOs Lead Camp Darby NCO Induction Ceremony

By Sgt. Maj. Felton L. Head, 839th Battalion SGM

In the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, the 839th Transportation Battalion Soldiers led the way during a flawless Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony held on Camp Darby, Italy on 6 March 2009, hosted by Command Sergeant Major Felix Rodriguez, CSM, United States Army Garrison, Livorno.

Sgt. 1st Class Logan McKenzie, 839th Transportation Battalion, Deployment and Distribution Support Team (DDST) NCOIC, was the Master of Ceremony and quickly became known as the voice of Camp Darby. Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Frijas, Senior NCO Marine Cargo Specialist was designated as the lead Ceremony NCO. Both McKenzie and Frijas were chosen over several other Senior NCOs within the Camp Darby Community to perform these very important roles.

The 839th Transportation Battalion plays a major role in supporting the Livorno community, but there are often times when mission precludes community involvement. With the dates shifting on an upcoming mission that both NCOs were scheduled to deploy for, concern arose as Command Sgt. Maj. Rodriguez was unsure whether his two key NCOs were still going to be on Camp Darby to conduct the ceremony. After conducting numerous rehearsals for the ceremony and the mission timeline sliding just one day, the ceremony team was ready to execute.

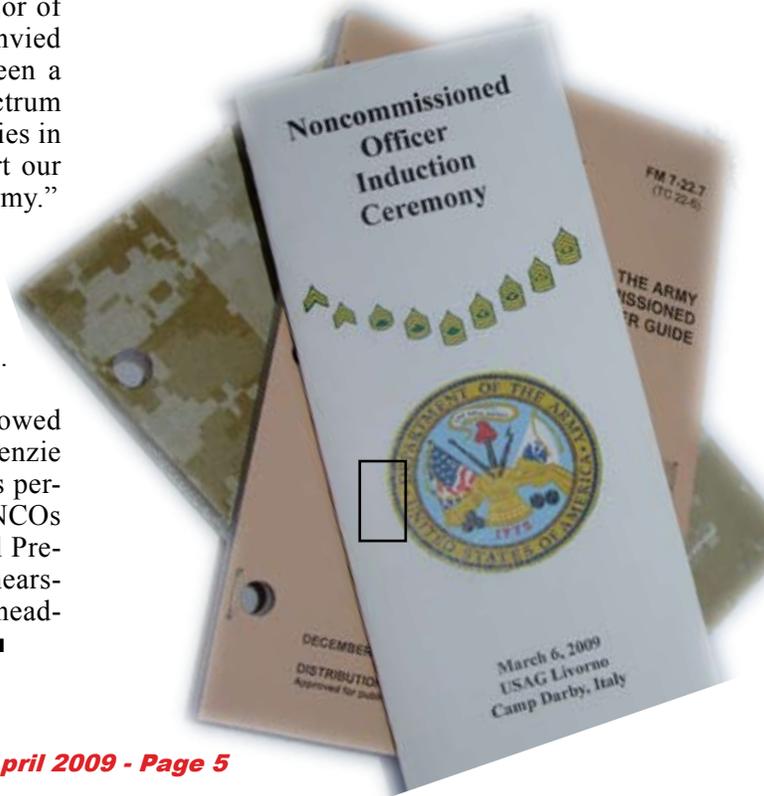
The ceremony took place in a packed room at the Camp Darby Community Club, with numerous VIPs in attendance. Col. Hiram Bell, Public Affairs, was the VIP who travelled the farthest, coming all the way from the Pentagon. Eight Soldiers were inducted into the time-honored United States Army Noncommissioned Officer Corps, which has distinguished itself as one of the world's most accomplished group of military professionals. Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston once stated, "Our NCO Corps is envied by many. Throughout the Army's history, the NCO has been a pivotal figure, but never more so than today with our full spectrum of operations. As we embrace our ever-growing responsibilities in the 21st Century, our leaders trust our judgment and support our decisions, because they know we are the 'backbone of our Army.'"

These eight newly-inducted NCOs now carry the duties and responsibilities that will continue to shape our Army and military as they will be confronted with more joint and full spectrum operations responsibilities than ever before.

The NCO induction ceremony concluded around 1700, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony where both Sgt. 1st Class McKenzie and Sgt. 1st Class Frijas received accolades for their flawless performances. However, the day was far from over as both NCOs returned to the Battalion Headquarters to complete their final Pre-Combat Checks, Pre-Combat Inspections, and battle drill rehearsals in preparation for their 0500 departure the next morning heading to the Republic of Georgia for their next DDST mission. ■



■ Sgt. 1st Class Logan M. McKenzie, 839th Trans Bn, during the NCO Induction Ceremony.



Lt.Col. Jim Anderson, Commander 838th Trans Bn inducted as NCO

On 18 March 2009, Lt.Col. James E. Anderson was appointed as an honorary member of the NCO Corps to the rank of Master Sergeant, for his unparalleled support to the NCO corps while serving as the 838th Transportation Battalion Commander

1. Guillermo Mosquera, Sgt. 1st Class Coel and Staff Sgt. Philips recognize NCO history by the lighting of the candles.

2. 598th Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick reads Lt.Col. Anderson the NCO Charge. 3. After the induction, Lt.Col. Anderson leaves the podium passing crossed sabres of a Dutch Sgt. (Ret.) Wesley Bruin) and U.S. NCO (Staff Sgt. Philips).

4. The happy Anderson family; daughters Sarah and Alexandra, Mrs. Melissa and her husband Lt.Col. Jim Anderson with the initiator of this induction; Sgt. Maj. Reginald Thompson, 838th Bn SGM.



POV SURGE

By Paul Weitenburg, 598th Traffic Manager

The Grafenwoehr Vehicle Processing Center (VPC) has encountered a "surge" of Privately Owned Vehicles (POV) shipments. The first surge was in effect, and consisted of approximately 300 POV's to be shipped out by 6 Feb 2009, not to exceed the end of February 2009. These are mainly ETS shipments. The second surge of approximately 700 POV's, mainly PCS moves, will blend with the first surge and continue until the April time frame.

The main unit involved is the 2nd SCR (Stryker) Brigade, along with pertaining sub units, from the Vilseck area.

The permanent VPC set-up consists of one inspection bay, which can accommodate a maximum of 3 POV's per hour. This results in lots of waiting time and delays for the customers.

The 598th COR, Anna Capolongo, requested the USAG Grafenwoehr DOL place a large tent on the POV Staging lot, so that heating and lighting connections can easily be attached. This requested tent is large enough to support an additional 2-3 POV's. IMCOM agreed and issued a temporary location. The Fest Tent was delivered and erected at the VPC Grafenwoehr, two seven hundred liters fuel tanks and heaters are also in the package. The garrison DPW has installed the electricity and delivered the fuel. The VPC personnel were asked to inform DPW on the time to maintain the fuel tanks.

The USAG Grafenwoehr personnel (esp. Jose Rodriguez) are providing outstanding support in equipment and supplies. On the right you find photos of the USAG Grafenwoehr personnel installing this tent.

■ For the great support given by USAG Grafenwoehr, a Certificate of Appreciation was signed by Col. Farmen, Commander 598th and presented to Mr. Rodriguez by Manfred Schueler, Grafenwoehr GPC VPC COR and Anna Capolongo, Mannheim GPC VPC COR. ■



■ Photos by Giselle Heller, Anna Capolongo and Manfred Schueler

838th's DDSTs- 'SDDC Special Operators'

By Captain Anderson Raub, 838th Transportation Battalion Current Operations Officer

March 19, 2009 marked the successful completion of yet another Deployment and Distribution Support Team (DDST) operation for the 838th Transportation Battalion. The DDST mission was conducted in Illesheim, Germany and its success was a collective effort between the deploying unit; 3-58 Air Traffic Services Battalion, 21st Theater Support Command (TSC), and 838th Transportation Battalions DDST. The DDST team assembled to conduct the mission was Cpt. Raub (DDST OIC), Sgt. 1st Class Blanson (DDST NCOIC), Anthony Armstrong (Cargo Control Rep), Michel Van Marle (MCS), and Wolfgang Scherer (MCS).

The significance of this particular mission was it demonstrated the agility and flexibility of the 838th and their ability to assemble and push out DDSTs any time or place. Operating with little to no advance notice of the 3-58 mission, and just coming off of a port operations mission in Antwerp, the team was able to devise a deliberate plan of attack that guaranteed the deploying unit's equipment was prepared for ISA inspectors.

Major Luke Meyers, the Executive Officer for the 838th Transportation Battalion when asked about the importance of DDSTs stated; *"They are uniquely qualified and therefore strategically positioned as an asset within SDDC to help facilitate the success of units during Installation Support Activity operations."*

The purpose of the DDST is to provide support to deploying and redeploying units. Areas that the DDST provides support in are: containerization processing, identifying and documenting hazardous materials, preparation of Intransit Visibility Tags, and supporting the onward movement.

Sergeant 1st Class Dozier, one of the select few that make up the 838th DDSTs put it best when discussing the capability and importance of DDSTs – *"These teams bring a highly specialized skill set to the fight. In the SDDC arena, they are our equivalent to special operators, these guys are the first ones in, they are our main effort, they prep the SDDC battlefield, and ultimately ensure mission success- time and time again."*

As the 838th Transportation Battalion continues its mission to support units deploying and redeploying, DDSTs will continue to be the key to guaranteeing success. ■

■ Wolfgang Scherer, Rhine River Detachment and Michel van Marle, 838th Trans Bn, place HAZMAT decals on Army containers to prepare them for deployment.

Photos by Anthony Armstrong., 838th Trans Bn and Wolfgang Scherer.



■ Cpt. Anderson Raub briefs the Soldiers from the 3-58 Aviation Traffic Service Battalion in Illesheim, Germany, as they prepare for deployment. 838th supported 3-58 BN with a Deployment Distribution Support Team.



838th Hosts I-CODES Rodeo 2009

By Anthony Armstrong, 838th Trans Bn Intern - Photo by Martin Weteling, 598th Trans Gp PAO

■ Photo by Martin Weteling, 598th Trans Gp PAO



■ Participants from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, U.K. and Turkey fighting for the ICODES Rodeo 2009 trophy.

The 838th Transportation Battalion kicked off the three-day annual ICODES Rodeo on March 9th. Representatives from each 838th detachment and guests from the 839th Transportation Battalion joined together for an opportunity to refresh, maintain, and learn new skills in this valuable stow planning system. Representatives traveled from the U.K., Italy, Turkey, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The Integrated Computerized Deployment System, or ICODES, is a software application developed by CDM technologies to give stow planners the ability to quickly react to the fast-paced and ever-changing transportation requirements. It was first deployed by USTRANSCOM through SDDC in 1999 and is currently used at over 60 sites, including fielding to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Participants were provided refresher training by Gary Rucks from the 838th Azores Detachment and then divided into teams. The teams competed against one another based on time and teamwork to complete practical exercises based on class instruction. This year's winners were Heiko Lehmann out of Bremerhaven and Cengiz Koc from the 839th Detachment in Turkey.

Lehman said about the event: *"This is my third rodeo and as always it was a very good experience to teamwork with other colleagues from all over Europe."* He finds it very important to train with people from different locations in order to share various methods of problem solving.

Each participant took away new insights into the capabilities of the system and recognized some flaws. Johan Trachsler out of the 838th Operations observed the new "Carry Away" machines were much faster than the older models. However, he also noticed that too many saved plans on the system slow down the application.

Johan Benner, 598th Transportation Group presented changes that can be expected in ICODES by 2011. These changes were received with mixed feelings. Expanding ICODES to include other modes of transportation other than sealift and moving it to a server that can be accessed from multiple locations are steps in a positive direction. However, giving others the ability to see stow plan development in real-time may actually interfere with the process.

"Planners have their own methods of stow-planning. If somebody is watching me go through my process, they may try to correct me because they do it differently when either way will work," voiced Mr. Guillermo Moscara out of 838th OPS.

Overall, ICODES Rodeo 2009 was a success in that every one walked away knowing something or someone they did not know before. This is one of many activities coordinated by the 838th Transportation Battalion to bring teams together to learn from each other and share experience and techniques within their skill sets. ■

Safety in the Port

By Rudy Magereij, 598th Trans gp Safety Manager

The 598th Transportation Group (SDDC) concerns itself with the handling of military equipment through water ports. These operations may range from occasional shipments through one port, regular full shiploads through others, or the movement of all wheeled and/or tracked equipment of entire divisions. Contracts between U.S. Army and commercial stevedoring companies do contain safety requirements. Safe ways of operation will be established, which will without fail lead to a decrease in the amount of damage to material and lessen the chance of personnel injuries.

Local regulations, customs and habits have considerable influence on worker behavior at water terminals in different parts of the world. They apply different principles. To ensure safe operations, the 598th Transportation Group's (SDDC) own safety standards for port operations must be considered as a minimum requirement.

While participating in Port operations, SAFETY will be the first priority. By paying close attention and obeying the safety rules we can avoid accidents and injuries.

Before any operation, a Risk Assessment must be prepared. Risk Management is the process of identifying, assessing and controlling risks arising from operational factors and making decisions that balance risk costs with mission benefits.

When participating in port operations, protective clothing, like hard-hat, reflective vest and safety shoes, are mandatory for all military – and personnel assigned to the 598th. When on board a vessel, hearing protection is mandatory and gloves are optional. Primary mode of communication, during port operations, is a hand held radio with different frequencies for all sections. The frequencies are posted on the back of the radios, so everyone knows how to contact each other.

Before each shift, a safety briefing is conducted for all personnel and includes contract labor. During the safety briefing, the emergency procedures and the danger of port operations will be brought to every ones attention.

Special attention will be given to the vessel's ramp. A walking path will be created on the ramp entering or exiting the vessel and ground guides are positioned on top and bottom of the ramp to control the traffic flow. In particular, watch that there is only one vehicle at the time on the ramp and stopping and or parking is not allowed on the ramp. Vehicles are stopped if there are people walking on the ramp. Ground guides are positioned throughout the vessel on every ramp. Also, an ambulance is positioned at the ramp for immediate response and U.S. Life Savers are positioned on the decks where vehicles are loaded or discharged. Ground guides are also used for tracked vehicles on board the vessel and on staging areas. The operation can only be a success if there are NO injuries or accidents. ■



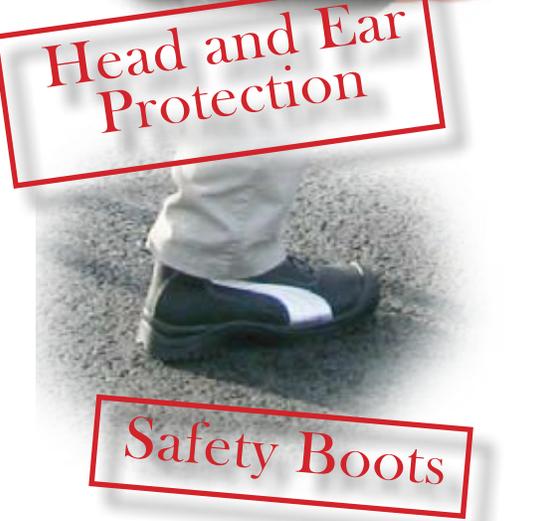
Safety Briefing



Reflective Clothing



Head and Ear Protection



Safety Boots

UK Detachment continues to build the team, by reaching out!

Article and photo by Steve Hooper Lawrie, UK Det.

The United Kingdom Detachment (UK Det) continues to build supported command relationships, which are having positive impacts on the volume of cargo moved by the Detachment.

The Defense Contract Management Office Northern Europe (United Kingdom) (DCMA) is located in Loudwater, Buckinghamshire part of the commuter belt area surrounding the London capital. DCMA is the DOD component that works directly with defense suppliers to help ensure the timely delivery and cost effective production of quality goods and services. Prior to the appointment of Mark Richardson, Traffic Manager in November 2007 the SDDC UK Det had only minimal involvement with DCMA sponsored cargo moves. Historically, DCMA would use SDDC only as a last resort when all other commercial options had been exhausted which usually resulted in only one or two shipments annually.

Thankfully, this situation has now turned full circle with the UK Det being given the option of first refusal on all surface moves. Shortly after taking up his post in Loudwater, Richardson and the leadership from the UK Det conducted an initial, introductory meeting in February 2008. This proved to be a profound and educational meeting for both parties with UK Det personnel making the most of the opportunity to openly promote and extol the professional services that SDDC had to offer. This preliminary meeting was followed by an invitation from DCMA to visit their facility and receive a Command briefing in April 2008. This transpired into what can only be described as an eye opening event of huge proportions.

Never before had UK Det personnel any conception of just what DCMA was about; the scope of their operation or the dollar value of the contracts they administer. And so began what is now a firmly established and massively beneficial working relationship between the UK Det and DCMA. Two contracts to date have dominated the throughput of workload from DCMA. The first of these two contracts is with the UK company, Mabey & Johnson Limited who specialize in the manufacture of Logistic Support Bridges. Thus far, the UK Det has been responsible for coordinating and overseeing the shipment of 603 containers to various destinations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hesco Bastion Limited, the second of the two contracts, focuses on the manufacture of Protective Wall Barriers which again, have been shipped in support of the two theaters previously mentioned. Total number of containers shipped so far is 547.

Encouraged by the professional service and value for money offered by the UK Det, DCMA has continued to forward a variety of shipments. These include 195 motorbikes for the



Iraqi security forces and military personnel; a consignment of 30 F16 canopies; 2 separate shipments, each consisting of 5 launch vehicles and parts; specialized staircases; propellers; and fire trucks all amounting to a total of 2,963 MT's.

More recently, DCMA requested support in the shipment of smoke grenades and warheads. Unquestionably, being involved in such diverse and varied shipments provides the ideal opportunity of UK Det personnel to foster new working relationships and promote the attributes of SDDC far and wide.

Mark Richardson commented on the relationship between DCMA and SDDC; "Since my arrival in November 2007. I have focused on maximizing utilization of the SDDC UK Detachment for ocean cargo shipments originating in the UK and the regional SDDC offices for ocean cargo movements originating outside the UK in our area of responsibility. Working with the SDDC UK Detachment, the SDDC offices in Germany and OCCA-North we have been able to move sensitive CAT 1 AA&E cargo via commercial sealift, something that until recently was not easily accomplished. With the assistance of the SDDC UK Det, we have moved motorcycles for the Iraqi police and military, dry support bridges for fielding by the U.S. Army, suspension bridge systems for U.S. forces and Iraqi forces in Iraq, thousands of CS smoke grenades for the U.S. Army, Navy munitions supporting Joint Standoff Weapon. The list goes on and on for contracts totalling in excess of 42 million dollars.

The SDDC UK Det has proven to be an invaluable partner in getting the warfighter the goods and materials they need quickly with the ability to trace the goods en-route and in a serviceable condition when delivered. ■

AAFES Commanders visit Rotterdam Shoppette



Rotterdam, NL, 10 March 2009 -- Major General Keith Lee Thurgood, Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, made a visit to Europe, where he took the opportunity to visit AAFES shops at different installations. The Rotterdam Community Shoppette at the 598th Trans Gp had the honor to receive Maj. Gen. Thurgood who was accompanied by Colonel Chuck Salvo, Commander, AAFES Europe and Mike Deerhake, General Manager, Tri-Border Exchange.



After Colonel Stephen E. Farnen, Commander 598th Transportation Group welcomed the AAFES delegation at his Group headquarters, Darla Vermeulen, the AAFES Rotterdam Shoppette Supervisor Manager, showed Maj. Gen. Thurgood, Col. Salvo and Deerhake her shop and reported about the daily business within the Rotterdam Community.

AAFES is an important customer of the Rotterdam Port. The AAFES guests also visited the Rotterdam Port Center where they were briefed about the Rotterdam Port. ■

Dep Commanding General SDDC visits 598th

■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th Trans Gp CAO



■ Colonel (P.) John O'Connor, Deputy Commander SDDC, visits the 598th Staff.



Capelle aan den IJssel, NL -- The SDDC Deputy Commander, Colonel (P.) John O'Connor visited the 598th Transportation Group (SDDC) during the second week of March 2009. Col. (P.) O'Connor was introduced to the 598th staff. Through presentations and discussions he was updated about 598th mission and daily business.

O'Connor addressed 598th personnel and visited the Van Ghentkazerne in Rotterdam. He was informed about the activities related to the relocation of the 598th and its tenants to the Van Ghentkazerne. At the Van Ghentkazerne, he was briefed by Capt. Lt. Fons van Oorschot, VGK Chief of Staff and Acting Commander that day. (Picture 2).



Later that week, he travelled to Germany, where he met Lt. Gen. Gainey, Joint Staff J4 (Picture 3). At HQ U.S. EUCOM, he was introduced to Rear Admiral Steven J. Romano, director of Logistics (Picture 4). At HQ U.S. AFRICOM, he met Brig. Gen. Frederick H. Martin, Deputy Director Operations and Logistics and Denny D'Angelo, Chief Deployment and Distribution Operations Center. ((Picture 5). The HQs USAREUR, Brig. Gen. Bellini, Director of Logistics and 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Commander, Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, were also visited.

(Text 598th PAO).

■ Photos by Cpt. Andrew Meyers, 598th Trans Gp



838th Trans Bn Awards Presentation

This page shows pictures of the highlights during the 838th Transportation Battalion Awards Presentation on 6 April 2009.

Captain Anderson Raub, the new 838th Battalion Current Operations Officer received awards which he earned during his one year deployment in Afghanistan working with the 1st ID training team. Lt.Col. Jim Anderson, Commander 838th Trans Bn presented him the Meritorious Services Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Action badge. Capt. Raub consequently thanked his wife, Shauna, for her daily support with a bouquet of flowers.

Lt.Col. Anderson also passed certificates for long service recognition. Martin de Voogd (*below*), John Slee (*Bottom Left*) and Wiek Vastenburg (*bottom right*) received certificates in recognition of 35 years of service with the Government of the United States of America. (*Text and photos 598th PAO*)



African American Black History Month

By Lt.Col. Faris Williams, 598th Trans Gp S3

February was "African American/Black History Month". The S3 section hosted several activities throughout the month to make the 598th Rotterdam community better aware of the significant events and individuals who made our country great.

This year's event concentrated on African Americans from both past and present, while Master Sgt. Gilbert Scott was also able to incorporate SDDC's adage "Year of the NCO" into the learning as well.

First, "Glory" starring Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman was shown during lunch to accentuate both of these themes: (1) the strength of the NCO Corps, and (2) the desire of the African American fighting for his right for freedom.

This event only tempted the palate of what was yet to come. Next, the S3 section hosted "African American/Black History Month" Day on 27 February 09. Staff Sgt. Joseph Phillips and Sgt. David Kehrer presented a time line of events throughout history depicting noteworthy events which culminated with the election of President Barrack Obama. Following this, Ernest "Judge" Allen and Master Sgt. Gilbert Scott shared their personal life experiences with everyone. Their struggles, to include Allen's 50 years of service, brought both education and awareness to the entire work force.

The closing montage of people, places, and events throughout Black History was a fitting end to an excellent presentation.



■ Master Sgt. Gilbert Scott introduces his wife Tammy.

However, the best was yet to come. Master Sgt. Scott then proceeded to introduce his lovely wife Tammy, who with help from the MWR staff brought a little more African American culture to the forefront of the Rotterdam Community in the form of food.

All in all, this year's event was something really extraordinary. In addition, it's always more pleasurable when a training event can become a little personable. Many thanks to Mr. Allen, Master Sgt. Scott, Tammy, and the MWR Staff for bringing everything together! ■



■ Colonel Stephen E. Farmen Commander 598th Trans Gp officially opens the African American Black History commemoration in the theater.

On the first row, from left to right; Staff Sgt. Joseph Phillips, Sgt. David Kehrer, Sgt. Scott Yeager and Ernest 'Judge' Allen.

■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th Trans Gp PAO

Easter Egg Hunt at the Rotterdam Community

Sponsored by the
598th Family Readiness Group!

Photos by
598th Trans Gp PAO

