

The Challenge

Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, CA

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TACOM VIPs tour Sierra during conferences

By Larry Rogers
Public Affairs Officer/Editor

The Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Executive Council and the Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise (GSIE) Strategic Planning Group were hosted by Sierra Army Depot during a tour of the installation which provided these groups an opportunity to look at operations and talk with many employees.

"Management and Union officials need to realize job security can only come to those who are competitive," Maj. Gen. Thompson said in opening remarks to the Executive Council session, held at the Skedaddle in.

"I am committed to doing all I can for all you very capable people, but if you can't deal with the rate of change, and don't like what you see, it's time to move on," Maj. Gen. Thompson said, stressing the need to be flexible as change is constant.

Attending the meetings were: Maj.



Lynn Goddard

Maj. Gen. H. Ross Thompson III, Commanding General, Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, talks with members of a Sierra LEAN during break in their Rapid Improvement Event. Jerry Chapin (center), Deputy to the Commanding General, and other Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise members toured the Depot as a part of their strategic planning group session.

Gen. H. Ross Thompson III, Commanding General, Tank-automotive and Armaments Command; Mr. Jerry L. Chapin, Deputy to the TACOM Commanding General; Brig. Gen. Larry

Newman, Commanding General, TACOM-Armament Research, Development and Engineering; Mr. Thomas C. Boyle, Deputy for Commodity Business Operations, TACOM; Mr. Vemula Rao, Executive Director of Engineering Business Group,

TACOM-Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center; Col. Gary Carney, Chief of Staff, TACOM; Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Crandell, Command Sergeant Major of TACOM, and the Commanders of other GSIE installations.



Lynn Goddard

Chris Vaughan (right), Woodworker, Box Fabrication Branch, Shops Division, Directorate of Operations, talks with Maj. Robert Bean (left), and other members of the Force Provider Reset Team during their tour of Sierra Army Depot, about various methods used to box and crate materials for shipment,

while several other depot employees look on.



Lynn Goddard

Paul Mizeur, Mechanical Equipment Repairer, Mechanical Repair Branch, Shops Division, Directorate of Operations, discusses issues with a 100KW generator with Maj. Robert Bean, a member of the Force Provider Reset Team, during the teams tour of Mission Operations.



Lynn Goddard

As this issue of *The Challenge* went to press, Soldiers from Medical Detachment 5, Nevada Army National Guard, picked up expired medical supplies from Sierra Army Depot. This deal provides them valuable training material while saving the Depot the cost of processing expired items. Those involved include (left to right) Andahazy Zoltan, Material Handler, Assembly and Containerization Branch, Storage and Distribution Division, Directorate of Operations; Sgt. 1st Class Rick Beck, Staff Sgt. Lamont Boyles, and Staff Sgt. Roy Shaw, all members of the National Guard; and Cemira Shaw, Motor Vehicle Operator (Stacker), Shipping and Receiving Branch, Storage and Distribution Division, Directorate of Operations. The Shaws are husband and wife and Cemira was instrumental in connecting Sierra and the Guard in this arrangement. A full report will be provided in the next issue of the paper.



Commander's View

It is a privilege to have this opportunity, as acting commander, to address you through this forum. Although Col. Plemmons is down range we communicate regularly and he asked that I pass along to you his congratulations on many jobs well done.

"I'm living in a Force Provider tent that was stored, maintained, and deployed from Sierra Army Depot," Col. Plemmons said.

The pace at the Depot has remained high as we continue to support the soldiers in the field, bring customers and potential customers in to get a first hand look at our operations and host various groups.

Most recently we took advantage of a great opportunity to show members of the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command Executive Council (TEC) and the Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise (GSIE) Strategic Planning Group, our mission operations



Vincent Sabatino

while they were meeting in the area. My thanks to everyone involved. You did a great job from the club to mission ops.

Our Commanding General, Maj. Gen. H. Ross Thompson III, brought the TEC here for a meeting to show them what "A great Depot this is."

My thanks also to each of you who continues to contribute to the important work we are doing. Day in and day out you continue to plug away. We have a

tremendous amount of potential work we are bidding on. The future (next year or two) looks bright.

We continue the Lean Conversion and each of you has an opportunity to participate. This program offers a way of thinking to adapt to change, which is something we all must do to remain competitive. Contact Rick Anderson, 4146, with your ideas on ways to improve quality, cost, and delivery performance or to participate directly in the program.

With the increasing temperatures of summer comes the need for more fluids. It is very easy to become dehydrated in this high desert climate.

When you're outside, whether at work or play, take precautions to prevent dehydration or sunburn.

As always, watch out for the other person who may not realize they need to take a break, get out of the sun, and get a drink.

For you own good think Summertime Safety!

Army Secretary bids farewell

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as your secretary these last two years; the absolute high point of my professional life. Our soldiers and civilian employees have distinguished themselves in peace and war befitting our heritage and reputation of service to the nation since before its founding. I could not be prouder of the outstanding contributions you have made to our nation's defense and the honorable manner in which you have shouldered the immense sacrifices required of you and your families.

The Army remains at War and transforming. We have significant challenges ahead. We will win the War on Terrorism as part of a Joint team regardless of duration and difficulty. Additionally, it is absolutely vital that we build on our successes and sustain our momentum to realize the vision of Army Transformation as part of the Joint Force.

America's Army turns 228 years old next month. Our enduring commitment to our fellow citizens is to be ready to defend the United States and her allies when called. As I conclude my duty with you I am proud to report to the American people that their respect and admiration for their Army is well founded. God Bless you, the United States Army and the United States of America.

Tom White
74th Army Secretary

(The Department of Defense announced April 25 that White submitted his resignation to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The reason for White's sudden decision to step down was not given.)

Army Secretary Thomas White stepped down from the job during a ceremony on May 6. Two tours in Vietnam and the War on Terrorism are bookends to a career that spans over 36 years.

The White House announced May 7 that James Roche, who is currently the secretary of the Air Force, was nominated as White's replacement. Roche now must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.)

The Union's Position: AFGE, Local 1808

Safety: It's your responsibility to make sure that you perform all jobs in a safe and responsible manner. The Depot is responsible for providing all safety equipment but it is the employee's responsibility to use it. If you are operating a motor vehicle of any kind, wear your seat belt. If you are using banding tools, then you should be wearing safety glasses, face shield, and gloves.

Alcohol and Substance abuse in the work place. In 1986 President Ronald Reagan signed into effect Executive Order 12564, Drug-Free Federal Workplace.

On May 1, 2003, Vince Sabatino, Acting Commander of Sierra Army Depot, signed the Substance Abuse Policy for the Depot. This Policy is supported by the Union. The use of controlled substances is unacceptable behavior and it jeopardizes not only the safety of your co-workers it also is illegal. If you have not seen or read the



James Swistowicz

policy, ask your Supervisor for a copy or call George Neiss at 827-4792.

The Civilian Welfare Fund

The Civilian Welfare fund pays for each Division Christmas Party, supports Organization Day, and many other

events. The CWF gets a percentage of revenue generated from the vending machines on depot and the Laundromat.

AFGE MEMBERSHIP PAYS

When a new member joins the union, they have access to AFGE's Union Plus benefits. These benefits are backed by the collective strength of over 13-million members of AFL-CIO unions. Just one or two of these programs helps members save more than the cost of their annual dues. Members can access these benefits at the AFGE website: www.afge.org. **You must be a member to access this website.**

AFGE Local 1808 has its monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the Union Hall, located at building 58, behind the Fire Station. the Union Office phone number is 827-5375. Hope to see you at the next Union meeting. Also, remember to bring a friend.

The Challenge

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Question of the Month

What do you most like about working here at Sierra?



Charles Alvarez
Security Officer

“The family of quality people that come in and out of our gates.”



Leon Huffman
Welder

“I like that my shop is always well stocked with what you need to do your job.”



Alice Allison
Director

“After the transition from ‘Bombs and Bullets’ to Operational Project Stocks, the items that we field are humanitarian items.”



Tim
MacDonald
Power Support
Systems
Mechanic/
FEDS Trainer

“I really like working four, ten hour shifts. It gives everyone the opportunity to spend more time with their families.”

Commentary:

Counting my blessings on a cool Mosul night as I wait to return home

By Pfc. James Matisse

MOSUL, Iraq (Army News Service) -- Tonight (April 30) I watched the sun set on the glowing Tigris River, and as I smelled the marshland water in the cool breeze that washed over me, I wondered if a few months ago, Saddam Hussein himself wasn't watching the same scene -- I am sitting on his balcony, after all.

After months of vehicle hoods, tents and foxholes, the ground and concrete schoolhouse floors, nasty critters, stray dogs and sandstorms, I'm sleeping in a palace tonight overlooking the lights of Mosul.

It's incredible to look back. We've accomplished much in the past month of fighting. We've liberated a country, broken the back of a firmly established totalitarian regime, begun to provide for the masses and are teaching a nation how to stand on its feet. I've had so many experiences, seen and done so many exciting, strange and sometimes crazy things; I cannot begin to describe them.

Some might say we had a little luck; others would say the campaign was simply well planned. I couldn't say whether luck was a factor, but looking back, I see many things I am thankful for having happened:

For the successful campaign of the coalition forces, who freed the noble Iraqi people from 30 years of oppression in less than 30 days.

The smiles and cheers of the resilient citizens I've met in An Najaf, Karbala, Baghdad and Mosul, and their iron will to learn how to support themselves without the Ba'ath Party infrastructure, are all the reasons I need for being here. For their happiness, their kind hospitality, the little girl who gave me a rose, I am thankful.

For the leadership of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), my fellow Screaming Eagles, who had little time to prepare but were still able to successfully orchestrate the unique capabilities we have so that we could participate in Iraq's liberation.

For the 3rd Infantry Division, whose tanks charged relentlessly across the Iraqi desert and set the fastest invasion pace ever seen. Behind them, the 101st Airborne Division was able to set up fuel points that enabled our helicopter-heavy brigades to conduct combat air assaults and allowed our Apaches

to strike deep into the ranks of the Republican Guard -- helping us get home that much sooner.

For the Marines, especially for sticking it out at Al Nasiriyah, the bloodiest battle in the war with the possible exception of Al Basrah. The liberation of Nasiriyah will forever be preserved in their legacy, along with Okinawa and Tripoli. Semper Fi.

For the British, who fought bravely and successfully secured the Al Faw peninsula, averting ecological disaster, and liberated Al Basrah, although the Ba'ath Party intended to make its streets run with British and Iraqi blood alike.

For the Kurdish Peshmerga, who dared to enter the fight even after failing before and facing the wrath of Saddam Hussein, and for being victorious.

For the Air Force and the Navy, who took the skies over Iraq and whose bombing campaign swiftly cut off the regime's ability to communicate with its forces.

For the Iraqi soldiers who, faced with torture and death if they were caught, braved those risks and capitulated. Those who realized Saddam wasn't worth fighting for will live to participate in the building of a better Iraq. Their people owe them a greater debt of gratitude than they will ever know.

For the weapons of mass destruction that were not used, even though our intelligence said they would be. Perhaps they heeded our warnings, or perhaps we eliminated their capability to unleash them early on in the war. If it's the latter, the credit belongs to the Navy and Air Force for diminishing that capability. That they had such weapons is no longer a question.

For the Patriot missile batteries from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Division out of Fort Bliss, Texas. The new Patriot Advanced Capability 3 technology has been targeted with harsh criticism, but all I know is that it kept Iraqi missiles from hitting us.

For the safe return of our prisoners of war -- roughed up, but alive. I knew Spc. Joseph Hudson of Fort Bliss, Texas from high school, and the sight of his grizzly, weary, but smiling face as he walked down the tarmac has been a highlight of my deployment.

For the opportunity to take time and grieve with my brothers of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, when

we lost Capt. Chris Seifert during a grenade attack in Kuwait. It really helped speed the healing process and prepared us for what could lie ahead for any one of us. We must carry on the work of the living, but not forget the fallen, the most noble among us. Chris and Air Force Maj. Greg Stone, who later died from injuries suffered in the incident, are no exception.

For the fact that nobody has planned my memorial service yet, as well as almost 250,000 others. I've been shot at enough to distinguish an incoming AK-47 round from one fired away from me, enough to earn my Hostile Fire Pay five times over. And many service members have endured more than I. To the higher being in all of our lives, for seeing that so many soldiers on both sides of the fight escaped harm -- including me -- I thank you.

For those brave souls who will never return home, whom more than self their country loved and mercy more than life. We must always remember that those soldiers, Marines, seamen and airmen, and their families, paid a price so high it can never be repaid.

For those men and women I serve beside, who understand and have seen the ultimate sacrifice we all may be called upon to make for America, yet choose to serve anyway.

Certainly not least, I am thankful for the support we've been given by those who are back home, by the families and friends of soldiers and perfect strangers. For the letters, the care packages, and the rallies. Americans, you are the ones who remind us what we're fighting for.

Our work in Iraq is far from over, true, and we're not out of danger yet. Even as I write, the night sky is painted with the bright orange and red streaks of tracer rounds, and sporadic small-arms fire crackles like popcorn, sometimes interrupted by the quivering explosion of a grenade. And there's no telling what tomorrow might bring.

So tonight, I'll sleep on my cot in this palace, listening to those sounds in a foreign, far-away land, and count my blessings that when I do wake up, tomorrow I'll be one day closer to coming home.

(Editor's note: Pfc. James Matisse is a public affairs specialist with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).)



Larry Rogers

Dave Holsey (right), Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, is recognized by Keith Byrd, acting director, for 25-years of federal service.



Larry Rogers

Directorate of Public Works employees (left to right) Hugh Blosser, Jr., Gary Davidson, Glenda Azevedo, Robert Bowen, Phillip Gonzales, and James Vinson are recognized during an awards ceremony for their outstanding performance (not pictured, Michael Winters).



Larry Rogers

This group of Directorate of Public Works employees receive recognition during a directorate safety meeting for their excellent performance last year. Pictured are (left to right) Jack McDonald, Billie Robinson, Jerry Simpson, Sharon Steele, Michael Butcher, Thomas Heneghan, and Ray Turek, Jr. (not pictured, John Dingman).



Larry Rogers

Lee Harris (front), and (second row, left to right) Ricky Ridenoure, Susan Collins, Bernabe Asuelo, Mary Cook, Kathryn Godwin, and (third row, left to right) Russell Newell, Arthur Gomez, Donald Johnson, Dennis Thomas, and (back row, left to right) Richard Rock, Gary Chandler, Lawrence Brown, Joseph Horner, and William Booher, Jr., gather for a group photo after being recognized for their superior job performance last year (not pictured: Gerard Olsen, John Paine, Sr., Dan Reid, and Donald Goekler).



Lynn Goddard

Art Colgain (right), Painting Worker Supervisor, Painting Branch, Shops Division, Directorate of Operations, gets a special memento from Dave Foxworthy, Shops Division, Mechanical and Industrial Equipment Repair Supervisor, one of many he received at a lunch bidding him farewell and good luck in his new position at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. He has been the paint shop supervisor since 1991.



Lynn Goddard

Ron Vossler (right), Director of Administrative Services, is congratulated by Jim Manfred, Acting-Commander, upon receipt of a Commander's Award for Civilian Service. Vossler also received a United States flag that had been flown at the Depot, a Commander's Coin, and a Retirement Certificate and pin, in addition to several personal mementos from his friends at the Depot. He received a heartfelt send off from Sierra Army Depot employees recognizing the many contributions he made in numerous areas during a special retirement lunch. He served in many positions during his career including management employee relations and personnel officer in the United States and in Germany.



Lynn Goddard

Martin Abernathy, Key and Locksmith Assistant, Directorate of Information Technology and Special Services, receives numerous items recognizing his retirement from federal service including a United States flag which was flown at Sierra Army Depot.



Lynn Goddard

Beth Marcum, Secretary, Directorate of Information Technology and Special Services, is honored at a luncheon held at the fire station to recognize her many contributions to Sierra Army Depot. Vince Sabatino, Acting-Commander, presents a United States flag that was flown over the Depot. Beth and her husband, Ira, both retired in May and are moving to Utah.



Lynn Goddard

Ira Marcum (right), Welder Leader, Metal Working Branch, Shops Division, Directorate of Operations, receives a United States flag which was flown at Sierra Army Depot from Scott McDowell, Operations Deputy Director, at a special lunch held to recognize his retirement. Marcum came to Sierra in 1990 as the first full time welder in Operational Project Stocks.

Nevada ROTC cadets return to Sierra for summer training

As they have done each year during the past decade, hundreds of Nevada High School Cadets converged on Sierra Army Depot to take advantage of a confidence course where they can test their individual and team building skills.

"This week we had some bad weather but that is good because it shows these cadets what real soldiers must go through to protect freedom," Col. Alex Woods, Director of Washoe County School District, High School Reserve Officer Training Corps Programs, said in the middle of the week long program.

Ten schools participated this year with approximately 120 cadets per day during the five day cycle. Each day two schools competed in a variety of events, all designed to take cadets out of their comfort zone.

Climbing a pole challenges cadets individually while scaling a wall as a team demonstrates the importance of team work. Working together is also the only way to success in the 'acid river.' Teams must figure out how to move from one point to another with very limited resources, all the while not losing anyone in the 'river.'

Vince Sabatino, Acting Depot Commander, presented Commander's Coins on behalf of Col. Paul Plemmons, currently serving in Kuwait and Iraq, to several cadets selected by Col. Woods for their outstanding performance during the week. Receiving coins were: Cadet Colonels Kevin Ung, Kelly Graber, Katie Anderson, Brady Ellis and Joe Salazar, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Jenna Carmichael, Cadet Commander Anthony Florez, Cadet Captain Zachary Baskara, Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Kyle Jones.



Hug High School Hawks cadets realize it takes a lot of things to succeed in a confidence course.



Sparks High School Railroaders compete in the Dying Cockroach, teams join hands and transfer a hoop from one end of a team to the other, passing the chain of teammates during their training at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course.



Lynn Goddard

Kelli Baldwin (left), freshman, Jackie Rigsby (middle), junior, and Michaela Waldhauser (right), sophomore, 'Team Shorty' from Reed High School, scale the tower at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course during their training.



Lynn Goddard

Team "Yo Mamas," Nathan Hal (far left), sophomore, Heather Larson (middle), senior, Monika Mala (right), junior, McQueen High School Lancers receive instruction from Instructors, Master Sgt. Kurt Stafford (far) and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hale (near), prior to climbing the tower at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course.



Lynn Goddard

The Vice Principle of Wooster High School, Nikki McClouskey, is 'pinned' as an honorary ROTC cadet by Col. Alex Woods, Director of Washoe County School District High School ROTC Programs. She said that the training received at Sierra Army Depot is a fabulous opportunity for students to achieve individual and team building skills.



Lynn Goddard

Working and team effort to successfully cross the Acid River at the Sierra Army Depot confidence



Lynn Goddard

a game in which two
e other without break-
Depot confidence



Lynn Goddard

Galena High School Grizzly sophomore, Heather Fraser, gets encouragement from Instructor, 1st Sgt. Larry Porter, as she attempts the Commando Crawl at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course.



Lynn Goddard

Wooster High School Colts, Cadets Brianne Mann(left) and Ray Jacinto (right), both sophomores, cross the High Y at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course.



Lynn Goddard

North Valleys Cadet April Fallon, senior, gets a hand down from the wall during the ROTC challenge held at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course.

All Photographs by

Lynn Goddard



Lynn Goddard

Reno Huskies march thru the front gate of Sierra Army Depot after completing a hard day of training on the confidence course. It is no easy task for those in charge to move the cadets through the maze of barricades.



Lynn Goddard

Alexis Van Pool, senior, Spanish Springs High School Cougars, is the first in his group to complete the pole climb at the Sierra Army Depot confidence course.



Lynn Goddard

Merle Pendleton, Education Technician, Family Support Division, Directorate of Administrative Services, is congratulated by Vince Sabatino, Acting Commander, Sierra Army Depot, as he presents her a certificate recognizing her for her annual performance.



Lynn Goddard

Sherei Underwood, Command Group Secretary and Protocol Officer, is congratulated by Vince Sabatino, Acting Commander, Sierra Army Depot, as he presents her a letter from Dr. Mario P. Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment) thanking her for all she did during his recent visit to the Depot. Dr. Fiori also sent a letter to Lori McDonald, Base Realignment and Transition Specialist, Directorate of Information Technology and Special Services, who was unavailable when this picture was taken.



Lynn Goddard

Vince Sabatino, Acting Commander, Sierra Army Depot, joins a group of Child and Youth Services Employees, Family Support Division, Directorate of Administrative Services, to present them their annual

performance appraisal awards. Pictured are (left to right), Barbara Toner, Dorothy Lange, Vince Sabatino, Jennifer Fuller, Shandra Anderson, and Renata Jones.

CYS News: Summer plans full of fun

The Child and Youth Services staff is putting final touches on the summer calendar. After conducting a survey with the youth, the final top summer trips have been included in this year's activities. The first trip will be a teen movie to Reno. Wave runner, Hilton Fun Quest, Total Sports and our annual Family fun trip to Eagle Lake are just a few of the exciting summer plans. Some trips may have a fee. Most activities are free to enrollment members. Spaces are limited.

CYS is starting of the summer break with the "Out of School BBQ" on June 10. A variety of different sport and computer camps are being offered throughout the summer. Flyers will be posted, or you can come by and pick up a calendar. Call 827-4696 for more information.

School Age Services is offering swim lessons to those children who are enrolled in the summer program. As a matter of fact, SAS is offering a variety of sports camps, computer camps,

4-H activities, field trips, swimming, arts and crafts, and more. All this, plus breakfast, lunch, and snack are included in your monthly fees. Fees are based on your household income.

Summer hours are from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

If you need a structured and supervised environment for your child and if your child needs some fun activities during the long summer days, come by building 145 to pick up an enrollment packet. Spaces are limited.

Walking: 'Earth's easiest exercise'

Walking can add years to your life and life to your years. And it couldn't be easier. You don't need to join a health club, wear special equipment or go into training to reap the rewards:

The Conditioner

Walking conditions your heart and lungs and raises your body's ability to use oxygen more efficiently

Fact: In one study, women who walked briskly (3 to 4 miles per hour) at least three hours a week cut their risk of heart attack and stroke by more than half.

The Protector

Walking helps beat other health problems, too.

It reduces your risk of some forms of cancer and osteoporosis.

It fights the battle of the bulge, taking off fat and building muscle.

Walking can even help people with diabetes reduce or eliminate their need for medication.

The Joint-Saver

Walking can burn about as many calories per mile as jogging does. But it delivers only about a quarter of the jolt, so it's much easier on your joints and muscles.

The De-Stressor

Walking is easy on your mind, too, since it lessens stress and lightens depression.

Beginning walkers usually report that they feel better, sleep better and that their mental outlook improves.

The Winner

Best of all, walking has the lowest dropout rate of any form of exercise. So you're more likely to stick with it and get all these benefits and more, like

better digestion, improved regularity and lower blood pressure.

An excellent program, the Sierra Army Depot Command Fitness Program available to depot employees, offers a chance for you to take a walk or participate in other forms of exercise.

The eight week program, from June 8 to July 31, is offered to encourage employees to engage in healthy habits and to get regular exercise. Anyone who begins the program after June 8 will be required to end it July 31.

Productivity and moral can be improved by this program through reduction of stress, absenteeism, and injury.

Individuals must coordinate their desire to participate in this program with the Safety Office, 4431. A copy of the Command Fitness Program regulation, which spells out program requirements, (SIAD Reg. 600-63) is available at the Safety Office.

Pool open to community

The Pool is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday and holidays. Get you daily or season passes at the Physical Fitness Center, building 143, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays or from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

A daily pass (single) for active duty military personnel is free.

Family season passes are:

E1 - E5 \$60

GS1 - GS5 \$60

All others \$70

Single season passes are:

E1 - E5 \$20

GS1 - GS5 \$20

WG4, WG5, WG6 \$20

All others \$30

Swimming lessons first session starts June 16 and goes until June 27. Second session, July 14 to 25.

MWR Services

Skedaddle Inn Conference Center

Lounge is open Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Skedaddle Inn Conference Center is equipped to cater large or small events. Call the manager at 4360 or email: ok.fern@sierra.army.mil
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sierra Lodge/Guest House

Call the lodging manager, 4544, or email: ok.fern@sierra.army.mil for information.

Sierra Bowling Center and Snack Bar

EXPANDED HOURS Open everyday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 4442. Check out the Lunch Specials.

Physical Fitness Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Individuals are charged \$1 per visit (good all day) and \$3 for use of the Racquetball Court (per hour).

ITR is now available through the Physical Fitness Center. For information email: ok.fern@sierra.army.mil or call 4360.

Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental

For reservations and information call Joe Rosnack, 4354.

Laundromat

Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in building 142. Cost for wash, \$1 and .25 cents for 15 minute drying. For your convenience, there is a machine with laundry supplies located inside the facility and also a change machine.

Recycling Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 4504.

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

Administrative Office, 4563, Administrative Assistant, 4497, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. tamara.gage@sierra.army.mil or regina.stauffer@sierra.army.mil

Business Office: 4178, 4155, 4154.



Mystery Bowl underway!
Check out the weekly drawings.
One entry with every purchase at the Bowling Center.

Team Sierra At Work Box and Crate Style

The Box Fabrication Branch at Sierra Army Depot has an important role in the accomplishment of a wide variety of daily missions that Depot employee's work on.

Missions include the manufacturing of many different sizes of wooden crates and blocking devices for the Water Support System, Inland Petroleum Distribution System, Force Provider, Large Area Maintenance Shelters, and many other projects.

Box Fabrication employee's have helped to improve the already user friendly crates by redesigning them to be even more user friendly; like the collapsible crates that are now used in the various water systems.

This crate can be



Chris Vaughan, General Support Helper, Box Fabrication Branch, Shops Division, Directorate of Operations, assembles collapsible crates designed by the employees of the Box Fabrication Branch. A multi-use box, it can be easily taken apart and the bottom becomes a pallet. When the use of the crate is completed it can easily be reassembled to be shipped or used again.

assembled and disassembled using a screwdriver or pocket tool. It is designed to be easily transported as a unit or just with the skidded base.

All lumber being used at Sierra conforms

to the new European Union lumber standards requiring it be pest free.

The Box Fabrication employees also block and brace the rolling stocks that are shipped from Sierra. They also provide many of the fi-

berboard cartons that are used for various projects as well as for those Depot offices that are moving to new locations. The Box Fabrication shop manufactures and installs all of the blocking and bracing that is used

in ammunition shipments from Sierra, whether by rail or truck. They also assist the shipping crews by providing the needed lumber and blocking for air shipments.

(Editor's note: Special thanks to Melissa Boatright and Becky Wilder for their assistance in providing this article.)



Becky Wilder, General Support Helper, Box Fabrication Branch, Shops Division, Directorate of Operations, assembles various parts and pieces that make up an H-82 Heater Crate.

Anticipated Vacancies:

- Painting Worker Leader, WL-4102-07 (temp promote)
- Painting Worker Supervisor, WS-4102-07 (temp promote)
- Blocker and Bracer Supervisor, WS-4602-07
- Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer, WG-5738-10
- Marketing Management Specialist, GS-0301-12 and GS-0301-11
- Instrument Mechanic Leader (FEDS), WL-3359-11
- Instrument Mechanic (FEDS), WG-3359-11
- Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-07

If you are interested in applying for any of the anticipated vacancies, please access the CPOC web page at: <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/west>. You will find complete instructions for applying for positions and updating your resume!

New jobs are expected to be published next month...so keep your eyes open.

Don't wait until the last minute when you "hear" about a job, or even wait until it is announced through the Recruitment to Fill process.

There are RESUMIX Coaches to help you if you need it so phone and make an appointment today!

THE SNOOP:



I'm impressed

We all know of all the hard working people who work here at Sierra. I was fortunate enough to be walking by the Box Fabrication Branch (Box and Crate) the other day and was able to stop and chat with Gary Higgins who is the acting supervisor. Gary was kind enough to invite me into his work area and explained some of the mission functions they are responsible for. Wow! It takes a lot to impress me but let me tell you I was really impressed with all the folks. I heard how some people can work in a rhythm and make things look easy, now I know what that means! See my article on "Box Fabrication."

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (BDO)

Resetting Force Provider

Force Provider will be coming back and more of it, if Team Sierra is chosen to lead a reset project. There are 36 Force Provider modules deployed throughout the world. The modules need to be refurbished and rebuilt to the latest configuration (Reset).

Dan Brady, the IMMC for Force Provider, is looking for a partnership between installations to accomplish this workload. The first step in the partnership is to prototype a module, write a DMWR/process and provide a matrix of the cost. He wants partnering to create a "turnkey" operation. He also wants one lead depot

to manage the partnership and the reset program cradle to grave. The depot that receives the workload to reset the prototype module at Fort Polk, La., will also be designated the lead depot to manage the reset of all the modules.

A team at Sierra was formed to win the lead. Jim Manfred, Mission Operations Director, says we have already been contracted for 25 percent of the work, but we want the lead.

As the lead depot, Sierra could receive 18 modules. FOLKS, that's a \$70-million mission! If successful you could see those Tricons start arriving this month.

Happy Birthday

Employees that were brought to us in the month of June are: Steven Young, Dennis Shoemaker, Donald Seve, Jerome Azzano, Alex Salsbery, Jae Suk Crockett, Amy Brooner, Don Hassenplug Jr., Jake Knox, Steven Watkins, Ed Stoutenburg, Billy Field, Jan Jones, Chris Powers, Jason Cox, Rich Hill, Mark Vandeburgh, Ulpiano Naca, Vicky Chaffee, Alton Carroll, Albert Shoars, Barbara McGee, Blaine Bruffett, Gerald Mode, Bill Day, Sue Leslie, Donald Harris, Weston Musnicki, David Osborn, Lonnie Deuel, and Michael McKeown!

GEMINI: Shiny happy person. Your individuality will really shine. So for the best day possible, try showing off the qualities that make you different and unique. That could involve wearing your favorite clothes, sharing your hobbies and collections, or even telling others your most unique desires!



Director of Operations answers your questions

QUESTION: I noticed there is a handicapped elevator beside building 201. What if someone that is in a wheelchair comes there and the person he/she needs to see is upstairs? They take the elevator and continue with their business...whoops! The "urge" hits...where can this person go to the bathroom? There is no handicapped bathroom upstairs – they would have to take the elevator outside and go downstairs and use the facility there, then proceed to get into the elevator once again and go upstairs to finish their business. Now my real question...*who cleans up the mess?*

RESPONSE: You are correct in that there isn't any upstairs handicap restrooms. I have discussed this a few times with our Public Works team members, and the space limitations and expensiveness of trying to accommodate handicap rest rooms upstairs is pretty costly. The only feasible option at this point is to insure that we have any meeting involving a physical



James Manfred, Director of Operations

Staying at a Bed and Breakfast: What to expect

A Bed and Breakfast is a private home whose owners welcome visitors to stay as an alternative to hotels or motels. It could be described as the next best thing to staying with friends or relatives – but hosts are aware of guests' need for privacy.

If you have never stayed in a bed and breakfast inn before, here are a few thoughts to help in your planning.

Many B&Bs are homes converted to public inns because the house's charm, size, geographic location, or a combination of all three, make it suited to welcoming the traveling public. What you probably won't

find are large wing additions, elevators, large check-in desks in the lobby, room service or a porter to carry your bags. However, the feel and comfort of the B&B or inn is maintained and often enhanced with niceties and amenities not found in institutional hotels or motels. Innkeepers encourage guests to take advantage of all the comforts and amenities provided.

Bed and Breakfast inns provide private and very individually decorated quarters for their guests and usually common areas for the use of all guests at the inn. Innkeepers can be a great resource on the area you are visiting, and are available to assist you with whatever your particular needs might be, be it sight-seeing tours or diet restrictions, since many B&Bs serve breakfast as part of the room rate. Any allergies (cats, dogs, goose down quilts) are very important items to mention in advance also.

Often, the inn's owner will be your personal host throughout your stay. As such, it is helpful to ask at the time you make your reservation if there are particular check-in and checkout times. Most B&B inns do not have 24-hour check-in staff, so, if your travels delay you, call to arrange check-in, if that is possible. Some inns have both shared baths and private baths, and rates vary accordingly. Some allow children, pets or smoking, however many do not. Most require advance reservations and have a cancellation policy.

Many people travel to B&Bs for their individuality, the opportunity to interact with fellow travelers, and for the more home-like feeling. In recent years many travelers have enjoyed a measure of security and safety in the home of a local B&B Innkeeper; Hotel security is often regarded as a poor substitute.

Each bed and breakfast is different, depending on the character of each innkeeper, so policies are different. If you book a B&B through a travel agent, be sure to provide the agent with any special needs or requests and to have the agent provide you with the needed check-in and cancellation information, plus any special details you should know in advance.

So if you are traveling just to see the sights or if you are on official business, a Bed and Breakfast may come as close to home sweet home as one can get.

B&B's have long been the best-kept secrets of avid travelers.

handicap challenge held downstairs in 201. We do have handicap facilities on the first floor. There is a plan to build a totally new administrative building for Mission in the out-years. The elevator is not totally complete at this point, but it is operational. We will do everything we can to accommodate special limitation attendees until this is totally corrected.

Have a question for the Director of Mission? Here is your chance go get an answer directly from the top. As always, everyone is encouraged to use their chain of command but often times your question may also be on the minds of other employees and this forum reaches the masses. Submit your questions to the Director and get the straight scoop.

HELLO and GOOD-BYE!

Welcome New Mission Employees!!!

New General Support Workers are "Decking the Halls" once more! We welcome the following new employees: Leif Anderson, Sandee Bailey, Heather Ballard, Nathaniel Beland, Robert Bowen III, Helen Brown, Dolores Bruffet, Carrolle Burton, Jabari Chapman, Harold Collins, Tom Cooper, Teresa Domingues, Eddie Eger, Tim Gray, Kim Greenwood, Blake Hutchinson, Paul Igo, Eugene Jablonski, Roy Johnson, Brian Jones, Lucie Keck, Steven Kelly, Douglas Kern, Dana Landry, Caroline Maynor, Kelly Maynor, Keegan McMain, Pam Murphy, Staci Murray, Wyatt Munsicki, Leroy Olivas, Matthew Osuna, Chris Palazzo, Justin Parsons, Leola Price, Michael Price, Barbara Rausch, Daniel Rausch, Bob Ray, Sandra Ray, Philip Reavis, Tracy Rendall, Ray Rhamy, Deborah Richardson, William Robinson, Brian Rock, Daniel Rosas, Michael Rybicki, Donald Selsor, Jeremiah Severs, Damion Sheeks, Windy Siegfried, Chris Sneed, Tui Tooalo, Craig Swanson, Daryl Taufa'asay, Uiki Teo, Brandy Tong, JasonTong, Matthew Toothaker, Kelly Vesterby, Melissa Wagoner, Vernon Wilkinson...welcome one and all!

Good-bye and Good Luck!!!

Art Colgain (Supervisor, Paint Shop) will be leaving us to go to a new job in Utah. Art will set up house and then will be joined by his wife Jill. Good luck to the both of you – we will miss you Art, keep in touch!

Ira and Beth Marcum are both leaving us for the wonderful life of Retirement. Ira was the Leader in the Metal Working Branch for several years. You will know his wife, Beth, from Security. They also will be moving to Utah! We wish them both well and hope they enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Fat-free Stuffed French Toast

Ingredients:

12 slices whole wheat bread, crusts removed
6 ounces fat-free cream cheese
6 ounces fat-free yogurt
3 ounces fat-free sour cream
1 cup fresh blueberries
½ cup frozen raspberries, crushed
Two – 8 ounce packages Egg Beaters fat-free egg substitute
1 cup skim milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
Powdered Sugar
Maple Syrup (Sugar Free is fine)

In a bowl, combine cream cheese, yogurt, and sour cream (stuffing). In a separate bowl, mix egg substitute, milk, and vanilla. Coat 6 slices of bread with stuffing and place stuffing side up in large pan. Sprinkle fruit generously on top of stuffing. Coat remaining 6 slices of bread with remaining stuffing and place stuffing side down on top of fruit, making a sandwich. Pour batter over sandwiches and soak for 30 minutes. Cook on grill at medium heat until golden brown, turning several times.

Slice diagonally and place on large plate. Serve hot with powdered sugar and maple syrup.

Serves: 4

FOR SALE:

1997 Lincoln Town Car – Less than 40,000 original miles. Leather interior, new tires and loaded! Asking \$15,500 or best offer. Call Judy Victory at 827-2097, after 6:30 p.m.

8 Gallon Fuel Cell – \$50. Call Darrell at 254-6650/leave message.

Sierra sees role in development of future Army

By Meg Hill

Special to *The Challenge*

(Editor's Note: Last month we introduced readers to the Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) which represents the direction the Army of the 21st Century is taking. This article introduces Sierra Army Depots involvement and explains a Rock Drill. Next month will address Sierra's involvement with SBCT configured loads.

A joint effort is underway for the development of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team Configured Load (SBCT CL) and Sierra Army Depot is a participant in the Rock Drill. You may think that refers to some type of drilling equipment or as I first imagined being stoned by a large group. Actually the Rock Drill is an exercise that involved numerous organizations working together in order to develop a process and program to familiarize new members, work out possible scenarios and problems and in turn offer solutions to ensure a programs success.

The Rock Drill also allows senior decision makers, including general officers involved with a program, to interject questions, difference scenarios, and possible problems. Members of the group then work out resolutions to answer all the 'rocks' which have been thrown their way. Through this exercise all parties are



Meg Hill

Stryker Brigade Combat Team Configured Loads that could be assembled at Sierra

able to better understand, clarify, synchronize, integrate, and carry out their individual and group responsibilities to support the mission.

Configured loads contain all the equipment and supplies required to support the Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The configured loads are built like building blocks of materials, called modules, and are based on either a specific commodity or a specific capability. These modules are in turn packed into a configured load of multiple modules. The configured loads can be tailored to meet the needs of the specific

Army Depot are arranged on a flat bed trailer for participants of a Rock Drill to observe.

unit deployment sustainment requirements, a specific mission, or a combination of both.

This modular approach enables the SBCT to be fully supported, and yet lifts the burden of a bulk supply stream, shifting the sustainment activities outside of the SBCT area of operation.

The configured loads are marked for and identified to the specific unit, there by lessening work to separate supply for the dissemination to the forward areas and specific units with battalion. The configured load concept facilitates the transition from the current force, through the Interim (SBCT), and into the Objective Force, enabling maneuverability and lightening the support load.

Suggestion program in a nutshell

By Clifford Louie

Special to *The Challenge*

Do you have an idea on how to improve your job? If you answered this question with a **yes**, then the Army Suggestion Program is for you. Many times you, the employee who is performing the job, have great insight into how to do the job faster, safer or at a lower cost.

The purpose of the Depot program is to "encourage employees to improve present Sierra Army Depot policy, practices, and regulations . . . and improve morale by providing an opportunity for employees to voluntarily take part in the improvement of management within the Government."

When you have an idea, contact Dan Hankins, at extension 5223, or Clifford Louie, at extension 4330, Directorate of Resource Management in building. 201. They can help you develop your idea to its fullest potential and process it through the Army Suggestion Program.

Your suggestion will be evaluated and if it shows that it can benefit the Sierra Army Depot, you may be eligible for recognition and a monetary award.

The program's formula for calculating monetary awards is to award 10 percent for the first \$10,000 in savings plus 3 percent of any amount from \$10,001 to \$100,000. For savings of \$100,001 or more, the award is \$3,700 for the first \$100,000 plus 0.5 percent of any amount over \$100,000.

If the suggestion has a wider application beyond Sierra Army Depot, it will be forwarded to higher headquarters for consideration.

If the evaluator should disapprove your suggestion and you disagree with the evaluation, you have the recourse to request that it be re-evaluated, provided you submit new information that can alter the original evaluation.

The suggester has proprietary rights over his suggestion for two years. This means, the suggester is entitled to any recognition, credit, and monetary award should the suggestion be implemented within two years of its submittal.

To paraphrase the TV show, *The X-Files*, "The ideas are out there." Procedures and processes can always be made faster, safer or at a cost savings. Just put on your thinking cap and let your expertise show!



Larry Rogers

Larry Brown (on ladder) and David Hill, Carpenters, Building and Grounds Division, Directorate of Public Works, continue work underway at building 50 to convert it to the new Depot headquarters.



Paul Plemmons

Large Area Maintenance Shelters (LAMS), stored and maintained at Sierra Army Depot,

are essential to maintaining these Chinook helicopters in a field environment. While these

LAMS are for aviation, other configurations are used for vehicles and other purposes.