

The Challenge

Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, CA

March 2006

Vol. 62 No. 3

Employee leaves depot to join the Marines

By Lori McDonald
Public Affairs Officer

Outgoing. Ambitious. Perfection. Goal oriented. Those are just a few words that describe an individual who came to work at Sierra Army Depot when he was just a junior in high school.

Joseph Nicholas Musulin came here to work at SIAD the summer of 2004 through the Summer Employment Program, and continued for the next year and Christmas breaks from school. Musulin a 2005 Lassen High School graduate learned about this job opportunity program from friends who have worked at the base or are still working at the base. They told him that he would acquire experience working on different projects.

As a 17 year old junior in high school that was not used to waking up when it was still dark outside was one of the biggest challenges Musulin faced with his new employment. When he first started working, other employees referred to him as "Spikey Joe" because he had long spiky hair. After a month of employment, Musulin decided it was too much of a hassle to fix early in the morning, so off to the barber shop he went for a more conservative look.

Another challenge he endured were the long hours. The alarm clock rang at 4:00 a.m., and by the time he arrived at home around 6:00 p.m., he was too exhausted to do anything and would fall asleep. It may seem like a lot for a teenager to adjust to, but Musulin did.

Musulin began working in the Receiving Branch and continued there for about a year. He then went to work on the M939 project, but during the summer of 2005, he was stacking Air Force pallets for Zoltan Andahazy.

Although he enjoyed working for Andahazy, Musulin said his greatest contribution to the mission at SIAD was being able to work on the M939 conversion kits. He said that having a direct contribution with a project that has a significant impact on saving lives in Iraq was very gratifying. Musulin also enjoyed when the depot commander would stop by the building because he motivated the employees

by letting them know how much they are contributing to the safety of the war fighter.

When Musulin first started working at SIAD he said he felt like a gopher because of his age and inexperience. But, as time went on, more and more responsibilities were given to him. By the time he resigned in August 2005, Musulin said he was treated less like a summer hire and more like a true member of TEAM SIERRA.

Since September 2001, the mission at SIAD has definitely affected the Soldier in the field. Musulin said, "All the equipment sent over to Iraq in the beginning went over without additional protection. Knowing that my hometown is doing their part to make the battlefield a little safer for the Soldiers and Marines, to me, is the greatest helping hand anyone could ask for."

In the fall of 2005, Musulin joined the Marines and went down to San Diego for basic training. Although he left SIAD, Musulin took with him the friendship of a few individuals that were an inspiration to him. Andahazy remained in contact with Musulin while he was in basic. Musulin said the correspondence he received from Andahazy gave him encouragement to complete basic training.

So when Andahazy, Leonard Dowdy and Robert Daniels rented a

My hometown is doing their part to make the battlefield a little safer for the Soldiers and Marines

van and drove down to San Diego for Musulin's graduation, he was very surprised and excited that they did this for him.

Musulin said he joined the Marines because he wanted something challenging and wanted to better himself. He said that his future with the Marines was going to be very challenging to him on a daily basis.

Musulin credits his parents, Chad and Rhonda Musulin, of Janesville, Calif., for the person he is today. He said his parents had a large transformation on his personality of ambitious and

See MUSULIN page 5



Photo by Lynn Goddard

After graduation from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Joseph Musulin came back to the base he first gained experience with the military. Joined by his wife Crystal, Musulin stands next to Dave Osborn, left and Joe Henderson in the warehouse he worked in at Sierra Army Depot.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Sierra Army Depot
Lean/Six Sigma

By Allen Jones

Project Submission and Scheduling

Supervisors need to submit requests for process improvement events for 2006. Planning is critical to the success of any Lean Six Sigma event. Projects must be submitted for approval as early as possible, prior to any event being placed on the calendar. The earlier a request is submitted, the better the chance for success. There are currently numerous openings available for this year.

Change in the organization can only be accomplished through strong leadership support. In selecting projects for approval, leadership must understand the burning issues, boundaries, scope, goals, level of support and planning required for a successful event etc. It is also important to understand the goals of Higher Headquarters

and the Command Group. Once submitted, selection of a project must then be examined to determine whether a VSA or an RIE should be completed, in what priority it should be placed and in some cases, what order it should be scheduled to effectively compliment other events.

Process improvement events and activities can get triggered in various ways. They can be identified by a customer due to various reasons from complaints to additional work load, or by a supervisor to attack specific problems too big to correct at the floor level. Often they can be a result of previous event action plans. Other factors can be (but are not limited to) things such as strategy alignment, de-

See LEAN on page 12

Commander's View

I have asked that a letter I received from Col. William T. Crosby, Project Manager for Cargo Helicopters be displayed in this month's edition of The Challenge. The letter is in appreciation for all the hard work and dedication you as depot employees have displayed when called upon to complete a task with such short notice. At a later date, I will be recognizing those individuals that were responsible for accomplishing this task. Congratulations to all those individuals who help prove that Sierra is totally committed to their customers.

SAFETY

As you drive through the Main Gate, you will see a new sign that shows the number of days Sierra Army Depot has worked without an accident. I hope that you will think about this as you drive to your work site and help increase this number on a daily basis.

To be successful, employees have to be willing to take appropriate risks for things that they are being called upon to do and leaders must understand the difference between



Lt. Col. Brian D. Butler

appropriate risk and totally unnecessary risk.

The basic rule of good workplace housekeeping is that individuals are responsible for themselves and responsible to their co-workers. The National Safety Council lists slips, trips and falls as the most common cause of injuries in the workplace. In fact, office workers are twice as likely to be injured in a fall as workers outside the office

environment. Falls happen so suddenly many people are unable to react in time to prevent serious injuries. But with proper housekeeping, workers can reduce the risk to themselves and their co-workers.

Don't Wait - Take Action! If you see broken or missing floor tiles, or worn carpet and stair treads, you should contact your supervisor. Pick it up! Pick up dropped pencils, paper clips and rubber bands. They can cause you to skid. Move it out! Do not leave boxes and other items unattended in walkways, even if you plan to come right back. Walkways should never be blocked, not only to prevent falls, but to facilitate escape in a fire or other emergency.

We all are busy doing our jobs. But that should not be an excuse for causing or allowing hazardous working conditions. Take a little time each day to straighten up your workplace.

In order to recognize outstanding work centers on the depot, I have asked that we develop a flag to be

Budget VSA event

By Lori McDonald
Public Affairs Officer

During a recent Value Stream Analysis event, team members, which I was a part of, were astounded how there could be so many different methods and steps to achieve one single goal. The single goal - Sierra Army Depot's budget.

Over a three-day timeframe, team members looked at the current and future processes that directorates have taken and will take prior to submitting a proposed budget to Resource Management.

At first, we were all asked to breakup into groups and list how our organization currently gathers data and submit that to RM. Eyes were opened in disbelief to the fact that every organization was collecting, compiling and inputting data differently.

The team members at this point began brain storming what they felt the ideal process would be. After a short time, a process was formulated to automate the budget system. With help from the Information Technology office, the automated process could be in place by fiscal year 2008.

But how do organizations go about fixing the problem now? Before we could begin, it was deemed that a timeline was absolutely essential to make this process a success. After that was identified, a future process was designed to streamline the process. The number of times the budget was sent back and forth to offices was reduced considerably.

The idea and concept of a VSA or Rapid Improvement Event is to identify areas that waste can be eliminated. This team saw where the waste was and formulated a plan to ensure the budget was completed with accuracy and on time; thus eliminating WASTE.

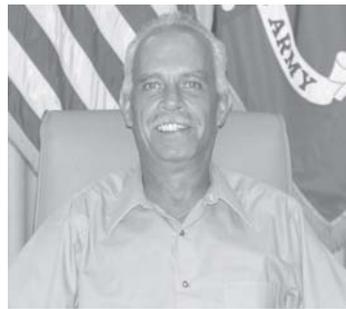
See VSA on page 3

The Union's Position: AFGEL, Local 1808

The future of Sierra Army Depot is in the hands of all its' employees, from the Depot Commander on to the WG-5 Support Worker. We all have a vested interest in the future success of the Depot.

Sierra Army Depot is an Army Working Capital Fund Installation, which means we operate like a business. We have to monitor production vs. labor hours and make sure that we stay within budget. The Command Group and their staff work hard at marketing the Depot for workload and like any business. Decisions have to be made to make us competitive with all the other Ddpots and arsenals in the Army Material Command (AMC) and the Tank Automotive Command (TACOM).

It seems, since the summer 1994, this depot has had to fight for our mere existence. We have survived BRAC '95, the lawsuit that was filed against



Jim Swistowicz, President

Open Burn/ Open Detonation of obsolete ammunition and the foresight of our command group to transfer us from the Joint Munitions Command (JMC) to the TACOM and part of the Ground Support Industrial Enterprise (GSIE). We won the Competitive Sourcing Activity (A-76) in 2000. We are now going threw A-76 again, and I am confident that we will win again. In 2005 we again survived another round of

BRAC, no matter what, we always prevail. The reason for that is you - the workers - make it happen. You have proven it with the High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles armor door program, the 939 armor program, Bailey Bridging, Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit program, and now you are doing with the generator reset program and also with AJ1. With the current workload we are able to keep the Terms up to May 27, 2006, and with the possibility of more funded workload we will be able to keep the Terms employed longer. There is workload but funding is the problem.

Department of Defense has announced a delay in the implementation and training on NSPS. Apparently based on feedback from managers, DoD realized that it was not ready to begin the spirals as originally planned. Originally 65,000 DoD employees

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The Challenge

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SIERRA ARMY DEPOT HAS WORKED --- DAYS SINCE OUR LAST ACCIDENT



Look for this sign near the main gate

Fire extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Safety tips:

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS: -Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism. - Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire. - Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly. - Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all

types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a plan and working smoke alarms.

NFPA does not test, label or approve any products.

Contracting 101

Federal Supply Classification (FSC) Codes

This bulletin is mainly directed at individuals that initiate purchase requests in the Procurement Desktop Defense (PD²). However, if you are an end user, you could be called upon to provide the appropriate FSC for your requirement because you may be more familiar with the item/service than the person initiating the request in PD².

Each purchase request generated requires entry of an FSC code. Choosing the correct FSC within PD² can be confusing when it comes to services.

For services, many requestors tend to choose FSC's that begin with "C". Codes that start with "C" represent Architect and Engineering (A&E) services.

The Sierra Army Depot Contracting Office is not allowed to purchase A&E services (specifically reserved for



the Corp of Engineers). So, you should be looking at other appropriate categories.

If the service that is being performed is construction, most likely your FSC will begin with "Z".

Also, be careful using FSC codes that begin with "R". These types of services usually signal that it's a "consulting" type of service. Consulting services require reviews, approvals and monitoring. In most cases, it's determined that there is a more appropriate FSC that could have been used, as a the service being performed was not a "consulting" service.

An Irish Poem

*May the road rise up to
meet you,*

*may the wind be al-
ways at your back,*

*May the sun shine warm
upon your face,*

*and the rain fall soft
upon your fields,*

and until we meet again,

*May God hold you in
the palm of His hand.*

VSA:

(continued from Page 2)

The RM will be providing further guidance to managers and supervisors with a standard operating procedure with complete details of the new process.

For those individuals that have not had the opportunity to participate in a VSA, RIE or a 6S, sign up now! Not only will you feel like you have given some insight on an improved process, but it allows non subject-matter-experts to provide valuable input.



UNION:

(continued from Page 2)

were to begin Spiral 1.1 for the new performance management and pay system as of July 2005. That was initially delayed until January 2006. With the new announcement, the Spiral 1.1 will be downsized to 11,000 employees to begin May 2006. No bargaining unit

employees will be in Spiral 1.1. Spiral 1.2 is now scheduled for October 2006 and Spiral 1.3 for January 2007.

AFGE Local 1808 has it's monthly on the 1st Tuesday of the month in Building 58 after work at 5:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

There will be a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) graduation for the Fort Sage Elementary School 4/5 grade class, held on March 24 2006, at 09:00 a.m. at the Skedaddle Inn. All family and friends are invited to attend. There will be pizza, cake and a movie after the graduation. Thank you, look forward to seeing you there.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE, AVIATION
CARGO HELICOPTERS PROJECT OFFICE
5678 HICKS ROAD
REDSTONE ARSENAL AL 35898-5000

SFAE-AV-CH

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Sierra Army Depot, LTC Brian Butler, Headquarters
Building 150, Herlong, CA 96113

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

1. Sierra Army Depot (SIAD) continues to demonstrate that there is nothing too hard or impossible to accomplish with their support to the Project Manager, Cargo Helicopters. Sierra always has a proactive attitude when supporting the CH-47D/F aircraft. Their support programs cross all spectrums of technical, acquisition and logistics functions, and sub-systems of the aircraft.
2. Recently, Sierra was tasked to support short fuse requirements to move aircraft from CONUS locations to support humanitarian efforts of Task Force Quake. Depot personnel had to locate, pull and pack 12 sets of CH-47 Transportability Equipment. They then had to find a commercial airliner who would accept overnight delivery and also be willing to fly one set of equipment to Fort Hood, turn around and fly back to Reno, and then continue on to Fort Sill.
3. Sierra Army Depot continually exceeds the expectations of the Cargo Helicopters Project Office. The Program Executive Office, Aviation, and the US Army take great pleasure in recognizing Sierra Army Depot as the preferred source for assistance in aviation logistics support to the CH-47D/F Fleet. The location and storage capability along with their expertise make SIAD the logistical choice for continued support of Army Aviation and the Cargo Helicopters.


WILLIAM T. CROSBY
COL, AV
Project Manager, Cargo Helicopters

The following individuals are to be recognized for their support of High Priority Shipments of Transportability equipment in support of PM Cargo Helicopter mission requirements. Transportation Division: Linda Brown, Belinda Banks, Johanna Pitt, Cecil Fain and Dan Donovan. Storage and Distribution Division, Shipping Section: Steve Watkins, Michael Dahl and Jennifer Hranac. Storage and Distribution Division, Warehouse Storage Section: Susan Huston.

Flag Contest

Commander to recognize a work site for outstanding performance.

The flag will be displayed at the winning site each month.

The theme of the flag will be
Excellence In The Workplace.

The prize is undetermined, but will be worth your efforts!

Submit your design
to the PAO

MUSULIN:

(continued from Page 1)

out-going. His dad raised him to try and achieve everything he wanted. He said his dad provided the basic life skills and the Marine Corps is now refining those skills. No matter what he does, Musulin said that family is the most important part of his life.

His greatest achievements are becoming a parent and becoming a Marine, but the most rewarding is being a parent to his daughter Juliet.

Musulin said that his key values are integrity and discipline. He said maintaining your integrity is extremely important because you never know who is watching and that if you live up to the standards you set for yourself, then your integrity will never be discredited.

Crystal Musulin is very proud of her husband and all the he has achieved. She said that he is fulfilling his life time dream of becoming a Marine.

If the opportunity arises, Musulin is excited about going over to Iraq. Not because he wants to fight in a war, but for the experience and knowing that he was able to serve his country the best he could.



COMMANDER:

(continued from Page 1)

awarded each month to an outstanding branch, directorate or work center. The flag will be mounted on the exterior of the work area and flown continuously for an entire month as a visible display of excellence. Since the flag will recognize the performance of our work centers, I would like your input for design. The designer of the winning entry will be publicly recognized by the Commander during the first unveiling later in the spring. Get your designs in today!

Until next month - Let's Get to Work!

Attention post office box holders!

By Christine Olson
Herlong Postmaster

HERLONG, Calif. - Some things never change, but one can always try to effect a change. I am referring to the huge amount of mail that arrives at our post office addressed to a street address instead of to the customer's post office box number. A lot of time has been spent in the past trying to match the addresses to the customers. I have touched on this problem before through letters to my box holders. The problem continues, but our methods of dealing with the problem have changed.

We are not required to spend hours trying to find correct addresses. If we immediately know the correct P.O. box number, that piece of mail will be annotated with the correct address and put into the customer's box. Sometimes this will not happen on the day the mail piece is received. We have three ladies who work here besides myself and sometimes we

have "guest clerks." These ladies only work part time and don't have the experience to remember all of the P.O. box numbers of our customers. Quite often, I am the only one who knows a correct box number but I am not present at the time, and consequently the mail pieces may languish over the weekend or overnight until I can look at them myself. If I do not know the box number off hand, the mail piece is returned to sender. Can you see how this might delay your receiving your bills on time? If I am out of the office for more than a day, either your mail piece will sit here until I return or it will be returned to sender because I am not here to give the box number.

Some of you have complained to me that some companies will not accept P.O. box numbers. There are ways around this problem. After giving your street address to the company, say "Box so-and-so" as if it were part of the street address. Some companies allow for a four-line address. This is your opportu-

nity to write the street address, then the P.O. box address on separate lines. I see lots of mail from the same company to different people, some with street addresses and some with P.O. box addresses. Obviously, these companies will accept P.O. box numbers, so give them a call or write the change of address on the part of the bill that you return to the company.

I hope you all realize that I am just trying to deliver your mail on the first try! I read about the Depot going "lean," doing more with less. The Postal Service is *leaning* in the same direction. The powers that be are not as *lenient* with our budget hours as they used to be.

Help us to provide better service to you by becoming more proactive in how your mail is addressed. You will then receive all of your mail on time and your local postal people will have a wider smile on their faces.



No Lost Injury

Depot employees were recognized as a team for achieving a No Lost Time Injury (NLT) record. The depot commander, [Name], and the employees above are employees from Motor Preservation and Packaging Division, Section, Storage and Distribution International, Mechanical Repair Shop and Fire Department.





Best Time Awards

at the work site by Lt. Col. Brian But-
ne Injury awards. Pictured clockwise
Pool Section, Box and Crate Division,
tion, Storage and Distribution COSIS
Internal Rail Section, Welding Shop, Me-
partment. Congratulations to all!



Navigating with technology

CYS 4-H Leader, Mr. Lee, will be offering Geo Positioning System (GPS) classes to our members. Youth will learn how to navigate with technology. Many youth have signed up to participate in this new program. This is a 4-H pilot program, and our youth will assist in the development of the materials.



In order for 4-H programs to be successful, it requires volunteers. Parents if you're interested in becoming a 4-H leader in GPS, photography, crafts, or citizenship, please contact Marsha Olsen, 827-4696. Come and have fun with our youth.

MySpace.com website

By Chris Graves
Director of Emergency Services

If you have not heard of MySpace.com by now, you are either older than 30 or are living under a rock. It is a networking Web site featuring profiles of people and bands that are linked to other profiles. Users can send messages, leave comments on other's pages, post pictures, blog, promote things or just waste time.

With tens of millions of members, it seems like everyone is on MySpace. It's a great way to keep up with your friends and meet new ones. But with that comes the danger of knowing just too much about everybody.

First there are the bulletins. These are supposed to be used to make announcements to your friends about an upcoming party or a free couch up for grabs, stuff like that. Some people also post their phone numbers, private and

personal information about themselves and what kind of illegal substances they prefer.

A feature that sometimes leads MySpace to be referred to as

"MyStalker" is the fact that when you send someone a message, you can tell if and when they've read it. This leads to a lot of needless hostility. You send someone a message that requires a response. You know they read it. They haven't written back. "Why?" you ask yourself. "What are they waiting for? Don't they like me?" All this when you know very well the person might not feel like writing back, or might not have time. You know this because you do it yourself all the time!

So relax and stop checking that "sent messages" folder. Pretend it's just an e-mail, like back in the good old days of 2004.



Depot Commander applauds safe drivers

Lt. Col. Brian Butler, depot commander, congratulates those individuals listed below for their continued efforts in safe driving for the past year.

Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire and Emergency Services Division: Greg Tavalero, Chris Zahara, Barry Spratt and Bobby Root.

Directorate of Base Support, Buildings, Roads & Grounds Branch: Melissa Boatright, Larry Brown, Kimberlina Cleman, Gary Cox, Gary Davison, Arthur Gomez, Andrew Halsey, Steve Hastie, Edith Higgins, Bill Jackman, Camron Maynor, Edward McKee, Pat Mesloh, Ashley Nassari, Steve Newton, Jerry Rose, Ralph Schroepfer, Robert Thom, William Wilkie, Michael Winters, Gary Chandler.

Directorate of Base Support, Utilities Branch: Bernie Asuelo, Fred Bird, Bob Bowen, Greg Ensor, Dave Gentilcore, Phil Gonzales, Tom Heneghan, Don Johnson, Larry Micone, Richard Rock, Jerry Simpson.

Supply and Maintenance Operations: Lee Harris, Gerard Olsen, Wayne Green.

Directorate of Information Management: Bill Beddingfield, Mark Paytas, Paula Taylor, Lynn Goddard, Jim Toner, Dave Potts, Roger Meurer, Darin DaBell, Ruel Romasanta, Kent Hinderlider, Virginia Eckroat, David Robertson, Jeremy Day, Jyme Moore, Richard Lambert, Babe Fain.

Community Services, Morale Welfare and Recreation: Christopher Long, Don Cook, Ray Gallagher, Merle Pendleton, Valenna Francone.

Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division: Paul Maxey, Jimmy Ross, Anthony Alvarez, Paul Pendleton, John Pendleton, Lattrice Robinson, Jerry Rose, James Garrick, Paul Maxey, Carver Russaw, Kelton Freitas, Arthur Stedman, Robert Herrick, Bob Brent, Parker Heisey, Jackie Battles, Barry Morgan, William Harris, Kenneth Holmes, Douglas Manfull, David Rose, James Everett, Lawrence Friend.

Directorate of Mission Operations, Internal Rail Branch: Rhandy Freeman, David Russell, Frank Hernandez, Fred Shelden, Casey Humphrey, Tracy Tescher.

Directorate of Mission Operations, Receiving Branch: Robert Boulanger, David Osborn, Gloria

White, Thomas Kirk, Richard Schade, Nick Long, Marcus Teat, Jason Anderson, Lee Danner, Jason Stevens.

Directorate of Mission Operations, Containerization & Assembly Branch: Kevin Arredondo, George Cobbs, Glenn Flanary, Timothy Gray, Evan Heckenliable, Michael McDaniel, Robert Ray, Charles Roach, Lee Schroeder, Genevieve Shoemaker, David Wilson, Hoyt Cain, Anthony Edwards, Gaosa Tautolo, Kimberly Greenwood, George Hunt, Gale Meyerdick, Deborah Richardson, Richard Schmidt, McDaniel Scott, Norma Tong, Arturo Zapanta, Herman Lucero, Robert Stapp, Jerome Azzano, Joshua Chandler, Raul Faustino, Paul Gollnick, Brandon Harvey, William Igo, Drew Owen, Anna Rippetoe, Thomas Schock, Chris Sheets, Kimberly Tschirhart, Donald Montgomery, Chad Alexander, Danny Colgain, Al Shoars.

Directorate of Mission Operations, Storage & Distribution Branch: Zoltan Andahazy, Alton Carroll, Jae Crockett, Kerry Gimbel, Susan Huston, Ryan Linn, John Mooney, Mistie Soares, Leroy Babb, Fred Chandler, Robert Daniels, D' mitria Green, Dale Johnson, Arlis Lundstrom, Mike Reed, Brian Bliss, James Cinnamon, Eddie Eger, Patricia Hodgson, Roxanne Lamb, Randy Mabry, Donna Sanderson, Leonard Dowdy.

Directorate of Mission Operations: Mike Chastain, Edward Hopkins, Lovina Retterath, Henry Chavez, Eric Hull, Jeffery Honea, Gerald Mode, Jamie Calvert, Jennifer Hranac, Michael Dahl, Jason Moss, Becky Houdyshell, Michael Gress, Blake Marsters, Patrick Helmka, Jason Tong, Chet Chicotka, Gary Gover, Stephen Lopez, David Peterson, Adam Zamora, Eric Cowart, Robert Grivel, Carl Oaks, John Rumsey, Johnny Erwin, Gloria Long, David Ortiz, Edward Stoutenburg.

Directorate of Mission Operations, Movement Branch: Cemira Shaw, Charles Barton, Ronald Hopkins, Lawrence Laughlin, Louis Page, Jeremiah Seers, Larry Larimer, Thomas McClure, Jeffery Rock, Timothy Stout, Robert Hildebrand, Michael Lathrop, Larry Mossi, Scott Rode, Christopher Turek, Robie Linn, Jesse Wilder.

The safe driver certificates will be presented to these individuals at a later time by the installation commander.

Springtime is fall time

By Larry Gallego, Jr.
Safety Specialist

Spring begins March 20, 2006. For many people, the arrival of spring and the return of warm weather means it is time for yard work and outdoor repairs. But working around winter's debris and climbing up ladders for painting and repair work can lead to the biggest cause of home deaths - **FALLS**. According to medical references, an estimated 8.5 million people are injured in falls every year and are more likely to be killed in a fall, but people age 25 - 64 are more likely to be injured by a fall.

Here are some Do's and Don'ts so springtime doesn't become a fall time for you:

- Don't stand on the top step of a ladder. This makes the ladder unsteady and leaves you with no handhold.

- Don't reach out too far while on a ladder. If your waist or belt buckle is outside the rails, you are unbalanced.

- Don't set your ladder on soft ground. Your weight can cause the feet to sink in, tipping the ladder to one side.

- Don't place a ladder at too steep an angle. The ladder could fall back away from its upper support.

- Do stop at the second-highest step on a step ladder, or the third from the top on a straight ladder.

- Do keep your body centered between the rails. You can still reach to the side, but without losing your balance.

Army Suggestion Program

A win-win situation

By Clifford Louie
Industrial Engineer

You do the work and you know your job. You probably have ideas on how to make your job safer, easier, more productive or more efficient. If you do, you might consider submitting your ideas to the Army Suggestion Program.

It is a win-win situation for everybody. For the suggester, he or she can receive recognition and a monetary award. For the depot, it can help to produce goods and services at a lower cost, meet production schedules, satisfy the Army customer, and promote more business.

Here is one example of a good suggestion. The current procedure is, when the depot repairs 3K Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units, it throws away the used nylon retaining straps and uses new nylon retaining straps. Annual cost for the straps is about \$120,000. Richard Grentzer, Mechanical Repair Branch, Directorate of Mission Operations, thought that the cost could be lowered. Instead of buying new straps, the old straps could be refurbished by discarding the old nylon straps and sewing new nylon straps to the existing metal buckles.

Recently, the depot has contracted the Canvas Shop at Fort Lewis, Wash., to perform the work. The result will be an estimated \$108,000 annual cost savings!

Here is another example. The current procedure is, before an employee leaves the depot, he or she cannot have any outstanding obligations to 14 depot organizations. That employee has to take a checklist to each organization to obtain clearance. This procedure is very time-consuming. Ramona (Mo) Korver, Finance and Accounting Division, Directorate of Resource Management, thought the procedure could be made more efficient. She came up with the idea that the checklist could be put on the depot's Local Area Network, I:\drive, and clearances could be obtained via electronic signatures. A Standing Operating Procedure has been written and more details will be given in the near future prior to implementation.

Do you have a suggestion? You can submit it on the online Army Suggestion Program at <https://armysuggestions.army.mil> or, better yet, if you need assistance, contact the Army Suggestion Office at extension 827-4330.

Basketball Word Search

t m y c x s r e p p i l c s e l e g n a s o l k l l
t g o l d e n s t a t e w a r r i o r s n r t r h r
k c s m l j h j p t s t t k k t d s m e k q z n f d
m d g l m d l o t h f r m j x r c x w j h w n k c y
x q e c l h n t u c i f u t y i m j k d t v h i h m
f c n n y u j r k s k l n p t f e v e x l t g n n t
c l b m v r b g h q t v a l s r h t n s y a t h m k
v e m n l e k o r w l o e d s o r j k n m l t p m l
n v t l x c r j g w p c n e e o i c r o k b j i l k
b e s b m w k n m a n p y r i l i n d k f z a k b z
s l r v y y t c u o c n v t o r p n o n h m v h m c
e a e s u d c k t g e i p q e c a h w t i t f l l r
a n k g t x r s l t g i h v j l k t i h n v j k n t
t d a n a x o c s w s e a c r r l e e a y a t h d s
t c l i h b r l j t j m t o z h z a t f 7 h n f b r
l a s k j l q w o x s d z s j l t q w s h 6 t a l e
e v e o a l l n l a p h o e n i x s u n s l e w s c
s a l t z n s g l s r o t p a r o t n o r o t r m a
u l e n z g r l p y n n t x z j t l l y m x r b s p
p i g e m t a r s e i l z z i r g s i h p m e m p a
e e n m y d c s t a c b o b e t t o l r a h c z m n
r r a a n s r e z a l b l i a r t d n a l t r o p a
s s s r l r c h w z r n e w y o r k k n i c k s k i
o r o c p q l f m y s k w a h a t n a l t a r l g d
n r l a k g p c n e w o r l e a n s h o r n e t s n
i b w s n s k c u b e e k u a w l i m f m j z v p i
c l t m s d r a z i w n o t g n i h s a w q r m n n
s n t k n m i n n e s o t a t i m b e r w o l v e s

Atlanta Hawks	Golden State Warriors	Minnesota Timberwolves	Sacramento Kings
Boston Celtics	Houston Rockets	New Jersey Nets	San Antonio Spurs
Charlotte Bobcats	Indiana Pacers	New Orleans Hornets	Seattle SuperSonics
Chicago Bulls	Los Angeles Clippers	New York Knicks	Toronto Raptors
Cleveland Cavaliers	Los Angeles Lakers	Orlando Magic	Utah Jazz
Dallas Mavericks	Memphis Grizzlies	Philadelphia 76ers	Washington Wizards
Denver Nuggets	Miami Heat	Phoenix Suns	
Detroit Pistons	Milwaukee Bucks	Portland Trail Blazers	

Disaster - Be informed

Are you and your family ready if a disaster strikes?

In the event of a disaster, emergency medical response may be delayed because of the remoteness of your home or by adverse conditions, such as roads blocked by floodwater or debris. While precious minutes slip by, your emergency training could mean the difference between life and death. Properly administered first aid or CPR can help stabilize an injured or ailing family member until help arrives. Make sure at least one family member is trained in first aid and CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator. It could save a life.

Know How to Treat Contaminated Water - When water is of questionable purity, it is easiest to use bottled water for drinking and cooking if it is available. When it's not available, it is important to know how to treat contaminated water.

In addition to having a bad odor and taste, water from questionable sources may be contaminated by a variety of microorganisms, including, bacteria and parasites that cause dis-

eases such as dysentery, cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis.

Use one or a combination of these treatments:

- **Filter:** Filter the water using a piece of cloth or coffee filter to remove solid particles.

- **Boil:** Bring it to a rolling boil for about one full minute. Cool it and pour it back and forth between two clean containers to improve its taste before drinking it.

- **Chlorinate:** If it smells of chlorine. You can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, add 16 more drops (1/8 teaspoon) of chlorine bleach per gallon of water, let stand 30 minutes, and smell it again. If it smells of chlorine, you can use it. If it does not smell of chlorine, discard it and find another source of water.

- **Learn how and when to turn off utilities.** In some emergencies you may be required to turn off your utilities. To prepare for this type of event:

- **If you turn off the gas, a professional must turn it back on.** Do not attempt to do this yourself.

Visit www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org

CYS Monthly Update Corner

CYS Basketball teams are now in full swing with two boys' teams, 5/6-grade and 7/8-grade, and a 5/6-grade girl's team. Teams have been playing for four weeks and will continue through the end of March. The 5/6-grade boys are 0-4, with one game going into double overtime with a "sudden death" challenge to end the game. The boys continue to enjoy their season and play hard against competitive teams.

The 7/8-grade boys' team creates a first for any CYS Basketball team, joining a female, Kirsten Croghan, to an all boys' league. They continue to

be a strong team with only seven players, and one having an injury. With a current record of 1-3, the team entered the Quincy Tournament on February 4th to face highly advanced and organized teams, and remained competitive.

The last of the three CYS Basketball teams, 5/6-grade girls, end their 3 game winning streak to put their record at 3-1. Though the girls lost their first game, they remain optimistic about continuing the season strong.

Thanks to all our volunteer coaches who have made the season possible:

Sean and Vanessa Vazquez, Ron Cuevas, Steve Victory, Marie LaVoy, and Catrina Kosub. Without these selfless men and women, CYS would not be able to participate in sports. Thank you!

Look for schedules posted at CYS to support your local teams. With the Basketball season coming closer to an end, CYS looks forward to the startup of Soccer and Baseball Leagues. Signups for these sports will be coming in March. For questions, contact Marci Smithers, CYS Sports Director, at 827-4696.



Commuting Corner



We want to thank Mr. Marcus Teat for his entrepreneurial spirit—he started the very first commuter van pool at Sierra Army Depot. This van pool has been successfully operating since November 2005 and is completely filled up. Out of this first effort another van pool has been started which is filled up with Public Works and Information Management employees.

We want to provide the operators of these vans a means of advertising openings and educating other employees of the possibilities of starting another van pool.

Did you know the Government subsidizes these van pools? The Government will reimburse up to \$105 dollars. This greatly reduces the cost of commuting to the Depot. There are a number of other benefits for riding these vans besides the reduced commuting costs.

Experienced drivers reduce the possibility of accidents and the vans reduce the number of cars on the road which reduces gasoline consumption and pollutants. It's a win/win for the depot, employee and the environment. Some of the riders have told me that the best benefit of riding the van pool is that they get to sleep an extra hour in the morning.

Want to start your own van pool? Contact Lori McDonald at 4343 and we will arrange meetings with the current van pool owners and provide both parties a place in the Challenge to advertise available space and potential riders.



MWR Services

Skedaddle Inn Meeting Center

The Skedaddle Inn Meeting Center/Lounge is now open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursdays until the last customer leaves. It is also equipped to cater large or small events.

Call the manager at 827-4360 or email: skedaddle.inn@sierra.army.mil. Business hours are Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sierra Lodge/Guest House

Call the depot lodging manager, 827-4544, or email: skedaddle.inn@sierra.army.mil for information. Room rates from \$50.00-\$60.00 per person.

Sierra Bowling Center and Snack Bar

Open Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 827-4442 for information. Check out the Lunch Specials that are advertised Monday through Thursday. Delivery available on all orders received before 10:30 a.m. Contact the Snack Bar to book your birthday packages and holiday parties early.

Physical Fitness Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is no charge for general use for military and depot personnel. For other authorized patrons, there is a \$2.00 daily charge with special monthly rates available. Regular membership is \$20.00, premier membership is \$40.00. A tanning bed is also available at a rate of \$6.00 per tan or a monthly rate of \$35.00. Use of the Racquetball Courts is only \$3.00 per hour.

Now available - Prepaid orders for custom hats, jackets, and shirts with depot logos.

ITR is available at the Physical Fitness Center. For more information call 827-4655 or email ITR@sierra.army.mil or ok.fern@sierra.army.mil.

Outdoor and Equipment Rental

New party rental items are now available along with new ATVs. A safety class is required to rent ATVs and Boats. Also don't forget if you have not already taken the State of California test for water craft, now is a

great time to get it done - Warm weather is just around the corner. Books and test are available at the gym during regular business hours - THIS IS A NEW REQUIREMENT TO RENT WATER CRAFT THIS SUMMER. For information call Chris Long at (530) 827-4354 or send an email to Christopher.Long@sierra.army.mil.

Laundromat

Open daily, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in building 142. Cost for wash, \$1.25 and \$.50 cents with a longer drying cycle. Please call 827-4655 for additional information.

Recycling Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 827-4504 or email vending@sierra.army.mil to schedule a pick up or service.

MWR Office

The Administrative Assistant can be reached at (530) 827-4497, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., or send an email to diane.plaster@sierra.army.mil. Business Office is (530) 827-4178 or (530) 827-4609.

Geology of Sierra Army Depot



By Tracy Totten
Civil Engineer

In working here at Sierra Army Depot, few people realize how much the natural geologic setting influences our daily lives as we go about our routine to support our nation's Army.

In Wheeler's *Nevada's Black Rock Desert* the author describes that "During the 1882 and 1883 field seasons detailed geologic studies were completed", and in 1885 the U.S. Geological Survey published Russell's monograph, *Geological History of Lake Lahontan, a Quarternary Lake of Northwestern Nevada*. This large book has been the starting place for most of the later studies of the prehistory of the region.

Geologists agree that the valleys which formed the long, irregularly shaped Lake Lahontan began to fill with water approximately seventy thousand years ago during a prehistoric time period called the Pleistocene epoch. During the following sixty-thousand years, while the last great ice sheet

formed the north-central and northeastern United States, the climate changed many times. When the weather was cooler and wetter and relatively small glaciers formed in the Sierra Nevada and other mountains of the West, Lake Lahontan responded by increasing in depth and surface area so that several times it covered more than 8,000 square miles.

Lake Lahontan completely covered what is today the Honey Lake Valley, the Smoke Creek Desert, the Black Rock Desert, Pyramid Lake, Winnemucca Lake, Fallon and Carson Sink areas as well as the Humboldt River back up through the Rye Patch Reservoir. Lake Lahontan's maximum surface elevation is reported in literature as 4,380 feet above sea level. This means that the lake was approximately 250 feet deep at the depot main entrance and around 375 feet deep at Amedee Army Airfield at the foot of the Skedaddle and Amedee Mountains on the north edge of the depot. The lake dried up approximately ten thousand years ago leaving what we see today.

This vast deep lake was the destination of the ancient Long Valley Creek and all the decomposed granite sands that moved down the drainages over time and ended up as a river delta into the ancient Lake Lahontan. It is upon

this ancient Long Valley Creek fan-delta deposit that the community of Herlong is built. This fan-delta is saturated with ground water of relatively good quality as over time the ancient lake evaporated and the annual recharge of upstream fresh waters provided for the potable use that we enjoy today. These soils are also the strongest for supporting building foundations, roads and hardstands, the natural area provided for relatively easy development. That is why the community is located at its current site.

On depot, just north of Susanville Road the land falls off to the old lake beds. Around the ammunition building on the south side of the first igloo block is the area where the sands give way to old lake beds. There are many different soil types within the lake beds, each of which are unique with respect to mechanical properties and natural strength. No less than a dozen categories of these soil types have been identified by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in their March 1968 report "Soils of the Sierra Army Depot". Within each of the categories are specific types and associated mechanical and structural properties. SIAD land use and mission support capabilities are influenced by these different soil environments. The engineering for projects

must take into consideration the advantages and challenges of utilizing a given piece of land for a particular need - always evaluating the relative strength of the soil in both wet and dry conditions.

The Skedaddle and Amedee Mountains are volcanoes rich with geothermal hot springs and construction aggregate deposits on the lake shore of ancient Lake Lahontan.

SIAD has maintained a number of borrow sites over the years on depot properties along the southern flank of the volcano. The Litchfield Amedee fault zone that runs essentially east-west along the southern flank of the volcano allows groundwater to circulate deep into the surface of the earth whereby the water contacts something very hot, absorbs heat rises at hot springs in both the town sites of Wendel and Amedee adjacent to Honey Lake. The water is just at boiling temperatures and electric generating stations are built at both locations to produce power for commercial sale.

This article briefly outlines the geologic setting where we live and work. Many people find it fun and interesting to study the landscape that surrounds us and of course there is so much more that we have yet to discover about the geology that we don't know. It is a never ending endeavor in science.

CYS hosts financial aid parent night

Financial Aid is very important for high school seniors to apply for in the event financial assistance is needed for them to continue their education in college. Lanaya Chapman, Outreach Director for CYS coordinated with Herlong High School and Lassen College in putting together the Financial Aid Parent Night for seniors.

Lisa Amrein the Financial Aid Outreach Facilitator for Lassen Community College gave a presentation during the Financial Aid Parent Night. She presented a line-by-line overview of the

Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The FAFSA is a free application for financial assistance for college. Lisa Amrein did a wonderful job presenting the information and meeting the individualized needs of our parents. Amrein provided giveaways, pizza and snacks for our guests. The event was held at the CYS and we had a good turn out.

CYS would like to thank Lisa Amrein for her continued support of our youth!



Celebrating Black History Month



Photo submitted

In celebrating Black History Month, Julie Mason our Community Support Director volunteered her time in presenting a dramatic speech to the local schools. The character that she played was Harriet Tubman. Julie went to Sierra Primary, Fort Sage Middle School, Community Day School and Long Valley Charter School to educate the youth on the life of Harriet Tubman. Julie did a wonderful job portraying Harriet Tubman in her dress and character. It is great that the youth can receive education on Black History. The schools and CYS would like to thank Julie for her time and commitment to the community.

Lockout/Tagout

On July 27, 1999, OSHA issued citations to Coastal Lumber Company, Hopwood, Pa., for alleged safety and health violations and proposed penalties totaling \$245,000. The company, headquartered in Weldon, NC, produces hardwood for wholesale trade. The Hopwood site employs 71 workers. The inspection was initiated after reports of an accident in which an employee lost both of his legs while performing routine machine maintenance. According to Robert Szymanski, area director of the Pittsburgh OSHA office, Coastal received three willful violations, with a proposed penalty of \$210,000 and seven serious violations, with a proposed penalty of \$35,000.

The willful violations were due to the company's failure to conduct annual reviews of lockout procedures, which are necessary to prevent the inadvert-

ent start of machinery during maintenance operations; failure to conduct retraining on employees when the employer observed deviation from lockout procedures and failure to provide a walkway or fall protection for employees required to perform machine maintenance at an elevated work location. The serious violations resulted from deficiencies in the company's lockout program, including: the absence of program enforcement procedures; inadequate employee training in Lockout/Tagout; and employee use of improper lockout procedures. **Lumber Company Cited \$225,000**

Lock-out/Tag-out or as it's called by OSHA, the **Control of Hazardous Energy** is serious business. Nothing can kill or injure someone more quickly than electricity or charged equipment. When a worker reaches for a power line

or puts an arm inside a piece of heavy machinery, he or she acts in good faith that all hazardous energy has been locked out from the work zone.

General industry uses electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, chemical, thermal and other energy types to power machines. Energized machinery makes possible the advantages of our modern culture. Unless the energy is controlled, however, it also poses serious hazards to employees. Uncontrolled energy is a hazard to operators and other employees in the area of the machinery, equipment or processes. Those who service and maintain machinery or equipment are especially vulnerable because it might become energized while being serviced.

There is no detailed national data available on the number of workers killed each year by contact with uncontrolled hazardous energy. However, during the period 1982-1997, NIOSH investigated 1,281 fatal incidents as

part of its Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program. Of these, 152 involved installation, maintenance, service or repair tasks on or near machines, equipment, processes or systems. Because the FACE program was active in only 20 states between 1982 and 1997, these fatalities represent only a portion of the U.S. workers who were killed by contact with uncontrolled hazardous energy.

According to OSHA, approximately 39 million workers are protected by this rule. (The 3 million workers who actually service equipment—i.e., craft workers, machine operators, and laborers—face the greatest risk). OSHA estimates that compliance with the standard prevents about 122 fatalities, 28,400 lost workday injuries and 31,900 non-lost workday injuries each year.

If you believe there is a deficiency in your lock-out/tag-out program, contact your supervisor, collateral duty safety representative and/or the SIAD Safety office.



LEAN:

(continued from Page 1)
ployment and by metrics showing opportunities for improvement in quality, schedule, production and cost. Process improvement is not limited to only the workload currently being accomplished, it can also be very effectively used in preplanning and preparing for new workload that has been identified but not yet arrived.

Each supervisor with the assistance of their division chief should develop/compile a list of three or more projects for review. Once events are approved, they can be placed on the calendar and the supervisor can then begin making the preparations needed for a successful event, from selecting/requesting team members to capturing baseline data. Like post event follow-up, early identification and preparation are crucial steps to process improvement. Questions and/or requests for assistance should be directed to the Quality Engineering Office, Process Improvement Branch.



Photo By Lynn Goddard

The 40-hour LEAD class that was held at the Skedaddle Inn here on Jan. 30 to Feb. 2 was a learning experience for all who attended. Kneeling from left to right are Puett Wilcox, Kim DeLeon, Chris Zahara, John Dingman, Fred Bird and Mark Vandeburgh. Second row l-r: Lori McDonald, Leonardo Gervacio, Rhonda Brantley, Kitty Halstead and Gail Meyerdick. Back row l-r: Russell Collier (Instructor), Bill Watson, Dave Osborn, Tim Kaarbo, Steven Maldonado, Kay Schneider, Robert Harnden (Instructor), Jason Haggerty, Dennis Buchanan and Mike Winters.