



The Challenge



Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, Calif.

FEBRUARY 2013

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AMC Commanding General tours Sierra Army Depot for first time

By Lori K. McDonald
Public Affairs Officer

Sierra Army Depot welcomed Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general of Army Materiel Command for his first visit here, Feb. 5-6.

Maj. Gen. Michael Terry, TACOM LCMC commanding general and TACOM LCMC Command Sgt. Maj. Karl Schmitt were on hand for the first visit by the AMC CG. Additional AMC visitors with Via were Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, Col. Michael Peterman, and Lt. Col. Mark Parker.

Via started off the visit having dinner with a crew from the Fire Department where he then presented the group with a certificate of appreciation for their extraordinary leadership, technical and tactical skills which enhanced the overall readiness of Sierra Army Depot.

On Tuesday morning, Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter, SIAD commander, began the day with a tour through the Containerization and Assembly
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Gen. Dennis Via, AMC commanding general (far left), talks to Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter, SAID commander (second from right) about the retrograde materiel arriving at Sierra from theater. Maj. Gen. Michael Terry, TACOM LCMC commanding general (center) and Mr. Jason Tong (left) listen on to provide some input.

First visit for California and Nevada Congressional delegates

By Lori K. McDonald
Public Affairs Officer

Congressional delegates and representatives from California and Nevada arrived at Sierra Army Depot, on 28 Jan., for a quick visit to become familiar with the mission of the Depot.

Visiting the Depot for the first time were US Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-R) - District 1; US Congressman Mark Amodei (NV-R) - District 2; Ms. Pam Robinson, Nevada Policy Director for SEN Dean Heller (NV-R); Mr. Mark Spanagel, Chief of Staff for REP LaMalfa; Ms. Lisa Buesher, District Director for REP LaMalfa; Mr. Tim Holabird, Northern Representative for REP LaMalfa; and Ms. Stacy Parobek, District Director for REP Amodei.

The visit began with a command briefing by Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter where the delegates asked numerous questions about the mission of the Depot. Dexter hit on areas that were directly related to them: Demographics of our employees (blue collar, engineers, etc), as their constituents work at the installation; and the huge economic

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Ms. Susan Getty (far right) talks about the receipt section for the add on armor with congressional delegates and representatives. From left to right Ms. Pam Robinson, Ms. Stacy Parobek, Rep. Doug LaMalfa and (CA-R), and Rep. Mark Amodei (NV-R) were in attendance.

Commander's View

I'd like to start this month's article with the topic that is on all of our minds, fiscal uncertainty. We are all being inundated with information via multiple media outlets; however, there are many questions that still need to be answered for us to understand how this will impact us directly at Sierra Army Depot. Our Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Terry and I are committed to transparency in all fiscal uncertainty discussions. I will attempt to answer the most frequently asked question many of you have on your minds:

"If I'm a temporary or term employee, will I be terminated immediately or at the end of current appointment?"

We are awaiting further guidance concerning the timing of the release temp/term appointments. Per Department of the Army (DA) Memorandum, dated 22 January 2013, paragraph 3b; "term appointments will lapse upon the expiration of their current appointments."

We are currently reviewing our Temp/Term positions that we believe to be mission critical.

I understand that this may not answer your questions or concerns or provide solid infor-



Lt. Col. Christopher E. Dexter

mation to allow you to plan for the future, but we are constantly monitoring this situation and will provide you information as it becomes available. As we receive updated information, I assure you, it will be distributed in the fastest means possible.

On a more positive note, we recently conduct-

ed two distinguished visits (see articles on Page 1). The first was with Congressman LaMalfa (CA-R) and Congressman Amodei (NV-R) and the second was with our AMC Commanding General, Gen. Dennis Via and our TACOM Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Michael Terry. Both the Congressmen, Gen. Via and Maj. Gen. Terry expressed how impressed they were with you, our workforce and how committed you are to supporting our Soldiers. I want to thank each of you for your direct contribution to the success of these visits.

**Pride in Excellence!
Army Strong!**

LTC Christopher E. Dexter

#38



THE UNION'S POSITION- AFGE LOCAL 1808

They are trying to destroy you. Are you going to fight back?

AFGE celebrated its 80th anniversary as the largest federal public sector union in the country.

However, at the same time that we are celebrating the good times, we must recognize that the storm clouds are gathering on the horizon and the days ahead will be potentially hazardous for federal workers and the public in general. Threats of a continued pay freeze, serious and debilitating cuts to Medicaid, Social Security Benefits, Eliminate or privatize Federal Jobs, Pell grants, Fiscal Cliff, Sequestration, Furloughs, the disabled, the elderly, and poor children would lose their health insurance. People with pre-existing conditions would be denied insurance or ask to pay exorbitant premiums. Families would go bankrupt because of medical bills. Seniors who have worked hard all their lives and paid into Medicare could end up paying more out of their own pockets as Medicare would be turned into a voucher program. And job training programs are on the horizon. Yet, as always, AFGE refuse to see these proposals as a done deal. We take it in stride as part of the process in negotiating a contract or

an agreement. However, the other side of the table has been amassing their forces for years and is now prepared for a full frontal assault. We need to build a strong defense to this aggression. Our leaders should make changes to these programs with the goal of protecting and strengthening them for current and future generations to come.

You've paid into Medicare and Social Security during a lifetime of hard work. Social Security and Medicare must be put on stable financial ground so that Americans who work and pay into the system will be guaranteed the benefits they've earned.

To build a strong union movement though, it takes more than a strong President, it takes you. All of us, staff, each of our Locals, all of our members must re-dedicate ourselves to the fight



that is taking place. In small towns and big cities, in the workplaces and in the neighborhoods, AFGE should be a force to be reckoned with fighting for the 99 percent.

Looking back at labor's history, there were two eras when a substantial section of the labor movement were engaged in the struggle for progressive change. The early 1900s saw the Populist movement influence the economics and the politics of the era and the 1930s saw the CIO and other organizations push forward the New Deal and progressive changes that benefited the majority. Labor and our allies were in the halls of Congress, but equally important, we were in the streets winning over sympathetic organizations and individuals to our cause. The reason was simple; in labor's cause people recognized their own cause. The fight for the 8-hour day, the struggle for social security, and standing up for establishing a minimum wage are not simply the struggles of yesterday. Today issues, equally if not more important, are being discussed and debated and we need to build our forces to have influence on the issues.

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The Challenge

Depot Commander/Publisher _____
Public Affairs Officer/Editor _____
Photographer _____

Lt. Col. Christopher E. Dexter
Lori K. McDonald
Lloyd Gubler

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Some winter energy facts

Sustain Train Operate Renew Measure

By **Steven Johnson**
Energy Awareness Coordinator

Last winter was a mild one here at Sierra Army Depot. Last year it was in the high sixties the first week of January and in the 40's and 50's the rest of the month. This past fall was fairly mild too. Then winter came right on schedule, and the mild weather ended. December and January temperatures have been lower than average this year, so this seems like a good time to review some energy facts.

Electricity makes up about 30 percent of Sierra's yearly energy consumption, and demand remains fairly constant, with usage not changing much from month to month – season to season. Natural gas and propane account for the other 70 percent of the energy we use yearly. The fact is that the lion's share of these heating fuels is consumed in the cold months of November to March. This means that more than 70 percent of our yearly energy consumption is accounted for in about 40 percent of the year.

It is a fact that turning thermostats to reset points when a building is unoccupied is a sure way to reduce energy. Over an eight hour period, energy savings can be approximated at 1 percent per degree of set-back (lower set point) for heating, and 2 percent per degree of re-set (higher set point) of cooling. So in the winter, if a buildings temperature is set 15 degrees lower when unoc-

cupied, for every eight hour period there should be about a 15 percent reduction in energy use.

It is a fact that some of our biggest natural gas using buildings are unoccupied for up to three days at a time.

It is a fact that although personal heating devices are sometimes necessary and authorized, they are not part of the building system. This means that when they are left on when no one is there they continue using power. Usually electricity, a more expensive energy commodity than natural gas, which can defeat any savings gained from the use of set-backs elsewhere.

It is a fact that windows and doors left open will also kill your energy reductions. Open windows are easily forgotten, until you arrive on Monday morning to find the heating system working hard, the building hot, and the cold room or area. If you open a window, please be sure to close it before your day is done.

It is a fact that large, open doors are a part of doing business here at the Depot. It is also a fact that we have made a lot of door and window improvements and many of those large openings now have doors which power open and close, so once your cargo is in (or out) close the door. It will keep the rest of the building warmer for everyone else, and yourself too, once you are back inside.



New Hires at SIAD

As you go about your day to day operations, in some type of fashion you have probably come in contact with one or several new employees. Take a few minutes to welcome these individuals to the Depot. Here are a few more names to be added to the welcome list.

Angela Keister
Timothy Moore
Raul Orozco
Kandis Powell
Austin Songer
Bill Threatt
Beth Underwood

Union (From Page 2)

Whether we are talking about privatization, voter suppression, or the government shutdown, we along with our allies have to mount a strong defense against the ongoing assault.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the National Office with questions. You can call Acting Field Services and Education Director Peter Winch at 202-639-6408 or Jacque Simon at 202-639-4010 and they will try to provide assistance. In the meantime, I urge each of you to contact your members of Congress and have every single member of the bargaining unit do the same. Tell them that federal employees have already given 'til it hurts and that we've done our share.

For the latest updates on your pension, pay, budget cuts, and other news, text "No Cuts" on your personal phone to 225-568.

Join AFGE and Win This War!

Ms. Roxane Lamb AFGE Local 1808 Secretary/Treasurer is starting a Birthday Program for pickup and delivery of your birthday sandwich. Ms. Lamb can be reached at extension 5148.

Union meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, at 5:15 p.m., in the Union Hall unless it's an Election Day; meeting will then be held on the following Tuesday. All members are invited to attend and voice their concerns. Contact the union office at (530)-827-5375.

Employees recognized for efforts transitioning into LMP



Recognized for their untiring efforts for the successful deployment of LMP, employees pictured above received Achievement Medals for Civilian Service with one individual receiving the Superior Civilian Service Award. Back row (l-r) Steve Balmer, Lyle Crinklaw, Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter, Jennifer Howard, Kelli Foxworthy, Sherry Padilla, George Engeln, Sommer Beddingfield, and Robert Beach. Front row (l-r) Lester Cooper, Richard Ward, Sherei Williams, Barbara McGee, Bill Bahl, and Maribel Figueroa.

facebook



EEO/Diversity Update

Sexual Harassment -Not just in the military

By Sherie' L. Trone
EEO Specialist

We have talked about sexual harassment. "It is unlawful to harass a person (an applicant or employee) because of that person's sex. Harassment can include "sexual harassment" or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature." Past and present generals and military officials have passed down many articles on the topic.

"Why is there always something in the Challenge or email that talks about sexual harassment?" "There is only a sexual harassment problem in the military, so why do we have to hear about it all the time?" The very reason why information is passed down so frequently is because (1) the law applies to everyone regardless of who you work for, and (2) there is just as big of a problem in the civilian world as it is in the military. The only difference is the military considers itself to be the model in discipline and guidance, and when it happens in the military, the entity that everyone looks to as an example in employment practice and policy, it is a blow to everyone. That is why such swift actions are taken when there is an allegation of sexual harassment – military and civilian. It is

also unlawful to retaliate against an individual for opposing employment practices that discriminate based on sex or for filing a discrimination charge, testifying, or participating in any way in an investigation, proceeding, or litigation under Title VII.

Facts about Sexual Harassment include:

1. Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature; however, and can include offensive remarks about a person's sex. For example, it is illegal to harass a woman by making offensive comments about women in general.
2. The victim does not have to be the person harassed but could be anyone affected by the offensive conduct.
3. Both victim and the harasser can be either a woman or a man, and the victim and harasser can be the same sex.
4. Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted).
5. The harasser can be the victim's supervisor, a supervisor in another area, a co-worker, or someone who is not an employee of the employer, such as a client or customer, i.e., a contractor.



Lynette Hall
EEO Manager

Prevention is the best tool to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace. Supervisors are encouraged to take steps necessary to prevent sexual harassment from occurring. They should clearly communicate to employees that sexual harassment will not be tolerated. They can do so by providing sexual harassment training to their employees and by establishing an effective complaint or grievance process and taking immediate and appropriate action when an employee complains. Supervisors should contact the EEO Office immediately following an allegation of sexual harassment.

If you have any questions regarding, feel free to contact the EEO Office at (530) 827-4414. Your inquiry will remain anonymous.

African American Black History Month - At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality

By Lynette Hall
EEO Manager

The year 2013 marks two important anniversaries in the history of African Americans and the United States. On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery. A century later on August

27, 1963, hundreds of thousands of Americans, marched to the memorial of Abraham Lincoln, in pursuit of the ideal of equality of citizenship.

The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1st, 1863, declared slaves in all confederate states then at war with the Union "forever free" and made them eligible for paid military service in the Union Army. Although it did not end slavery in the nation, it did transform the character of the war. After the proclamation was made, every advance of Federal troops expanded the domain of freedom and black men were allowed to serve in the Union Army and Navy. By the end of the war almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for freedom.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place on August 28th, 1963 in Washington D.C. More than 200,000 demon-

strators took part in the walk. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, noting that the Emancipation Proclamation gave hope to black slaves. The following year Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as a concrete step towards fulfilling the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation. The March played an important role in the constitution which banned racial discrimination in public facilities as well as voting. It was a demonstration of power in a peaceful manner. In fact many historians even went on to describe the march as 'a high tide phase of the Civil Rights Movement'.

Looking back on 150 years of history, the fight for equality is a story that continues to grow every year. Learning from the past helps ensure the same injustices are not repeated. The strides made by a community set an example and show how a dream can create change.



Farewell Team Sierra - Hello Ft. Leonard Wood!

Yes, you read that right – I am leaving you Team Sierra! I have been blessed to have received a new position at the EEO office at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

Many are asking, “Why are you leaving?” Well as my husband says, “It is time for a change!” I was born and raised here in this great town of Herlong, California. My Dad retired after 35 years from this Depot. I have seen a lot of changes around here and most of them for the better. I have left Herlong and always came back because it was such a great place to raise my kids. I must admit that this is a bitter sweet.

I have worked in many areas on this Depot and have learned so much from so many of you. Just because I am leaving doesn't mean that the work of the EEO office stops.

Ms. Hall, for what we hope to be limited, will be a one person office. Please be patient with the EEO office and offer your support when you can. Thank you all for the wisdom, trust, and compassion that you all have shown me.

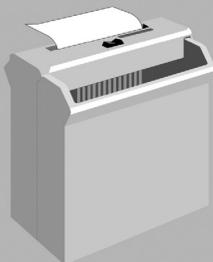
It is my hope that I have helped you all with my counsels, trainings, articles, and just a listening ear. I will miss you all.

Sherie 'Trone



To the enemy your trash is a Virtual Treasure Chest!

Only **UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION** should be placed in the **RECYCLE BINS.....**



Documents marked **FOUO** should be **Shredded**.

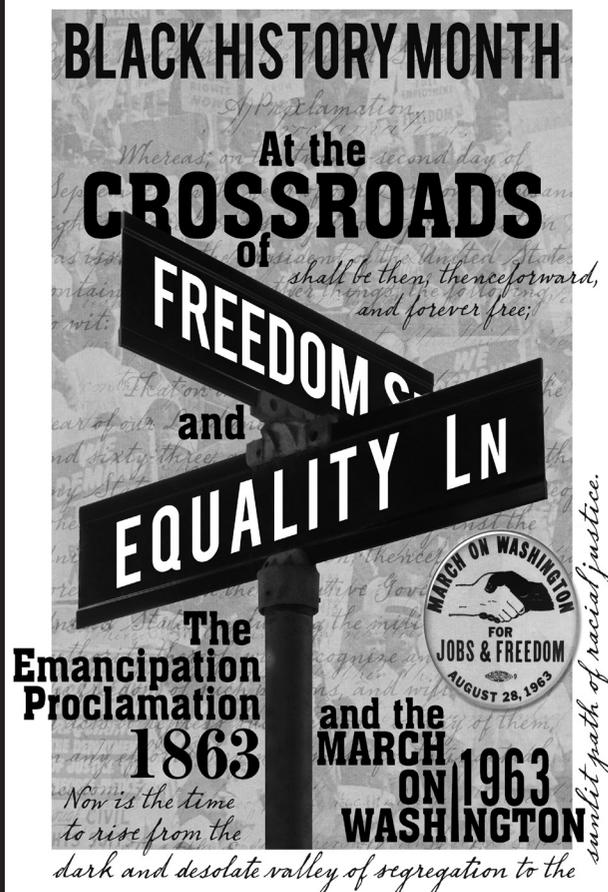


Remember, more information can be found out about you, based upon what you throw away....

Visiting Commanding General presents length of service awards



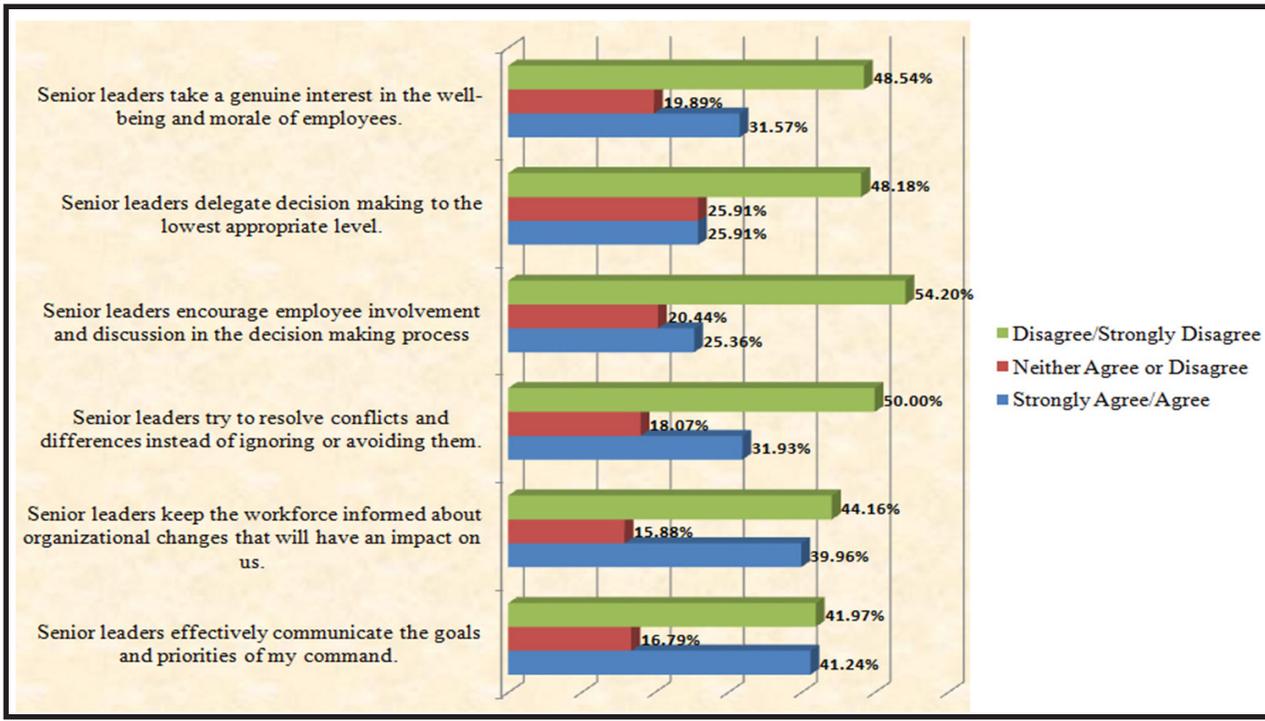
It is not every day at Sierra Army Depot when an employee is presented their length of service award from a four-star general officer. During his visit to the Depot, AMC commanding general Gen. Dennis L. Via presented Ms. Susan Getty (left) with her 30-year length of service award and Mr. Walt Zinko (right) with his award for 35-years of service. Congratulations to both Sue and Walt.



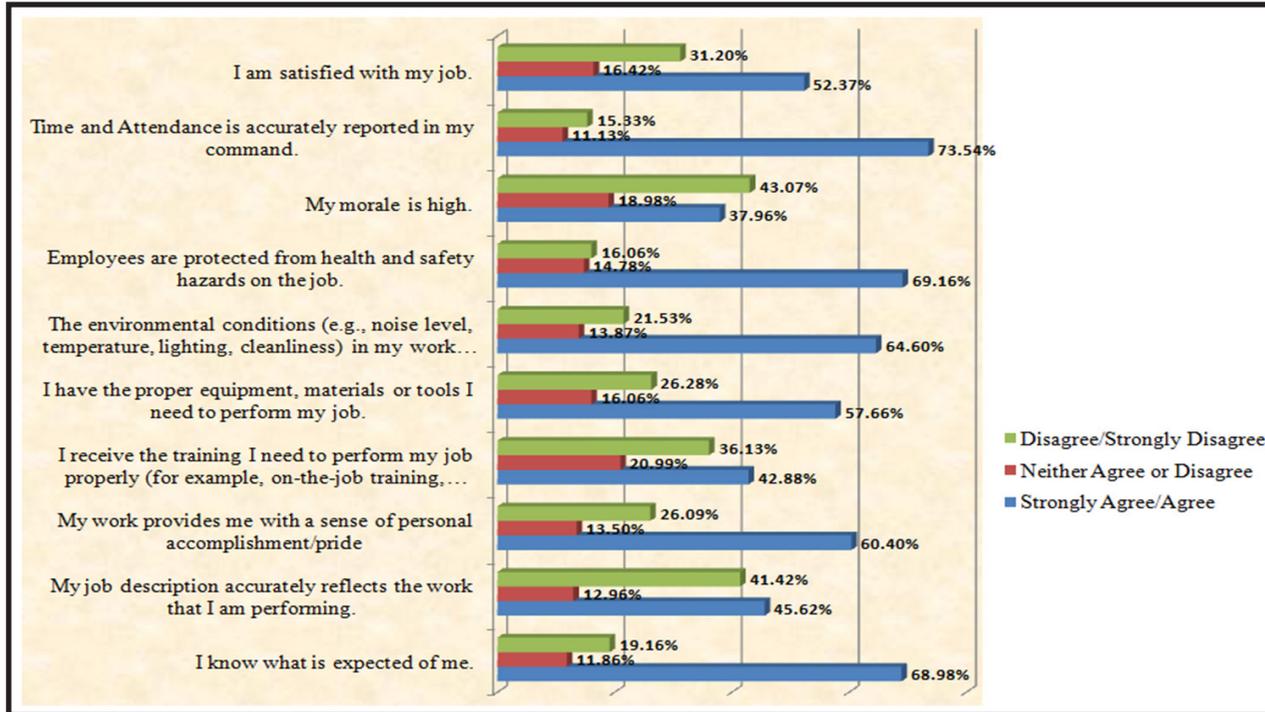
The SIAD results from the recent AMC survey are identified in the below chart. We will use the feedback to help identify actions which can be initiated to address shortfalls and look for ways to enhance the workplace here at SIAD. In order to gain more insight and specificity on systemic problems, we will organize a team of non-supervisory/non-lead employees from across the organizations to disseminate information, gather factual details and suggestions. The team will then use this information and formulate a plan of action to correct the identified problems.

The immediate focus will be the issues or negative perceptions that have an overall impact on SIAD. As these are worked through, many of the area specific problems should also get resolved.

LEADERSHIP

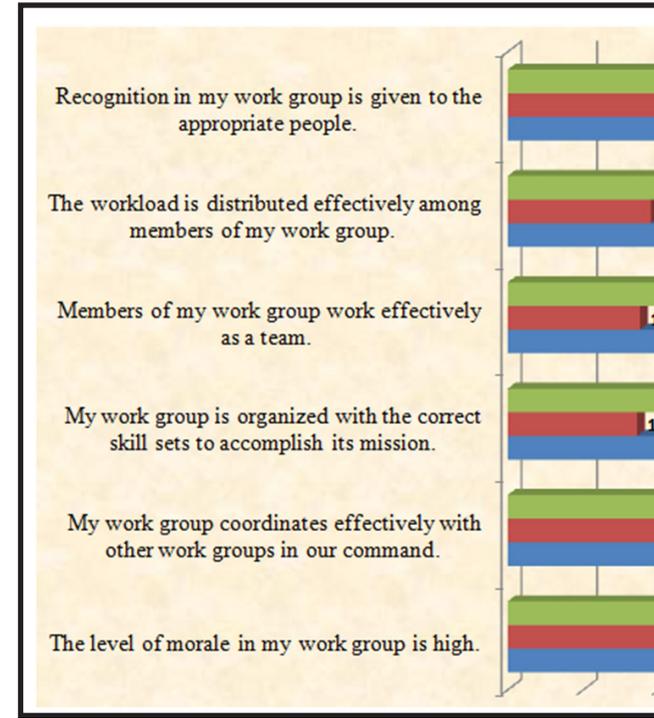


YOUR WORK

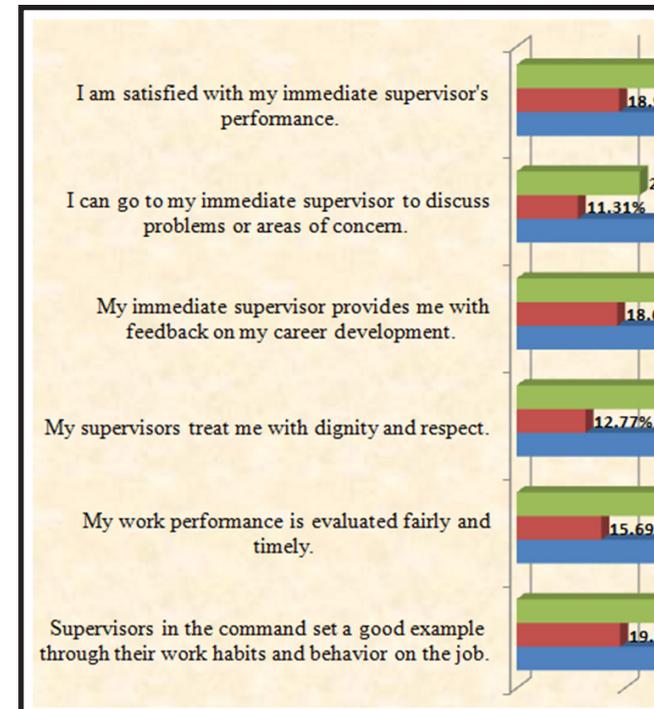


AMC Climate Survey

YOUR WORK

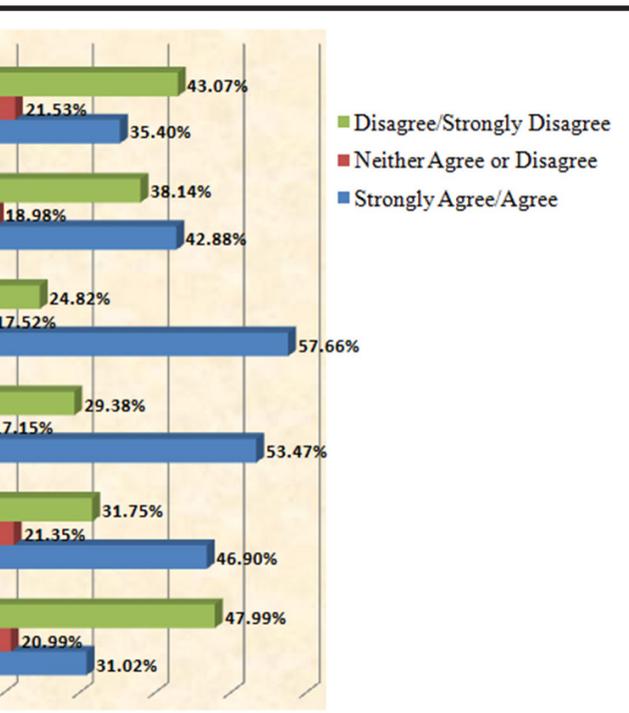


SUPERVISORS

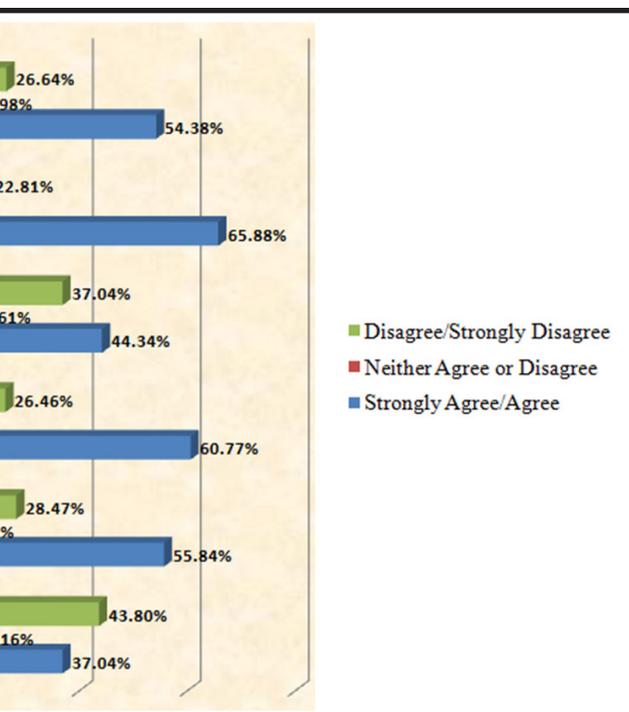


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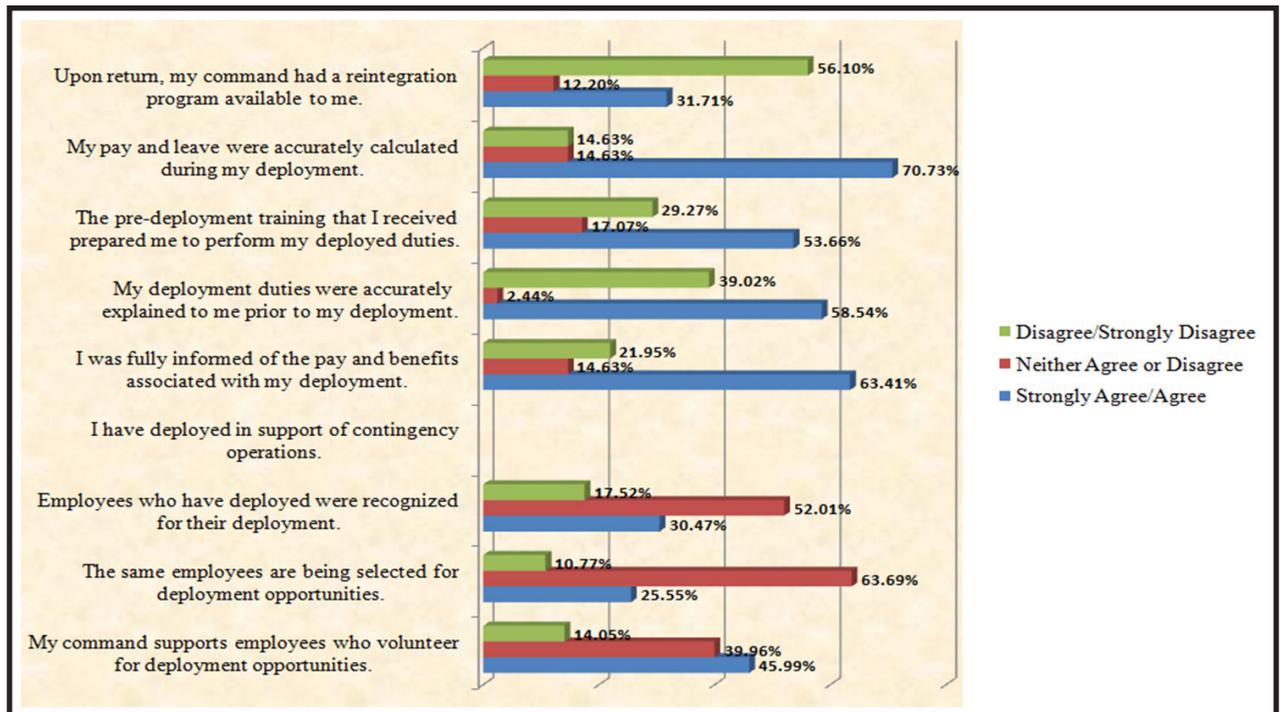
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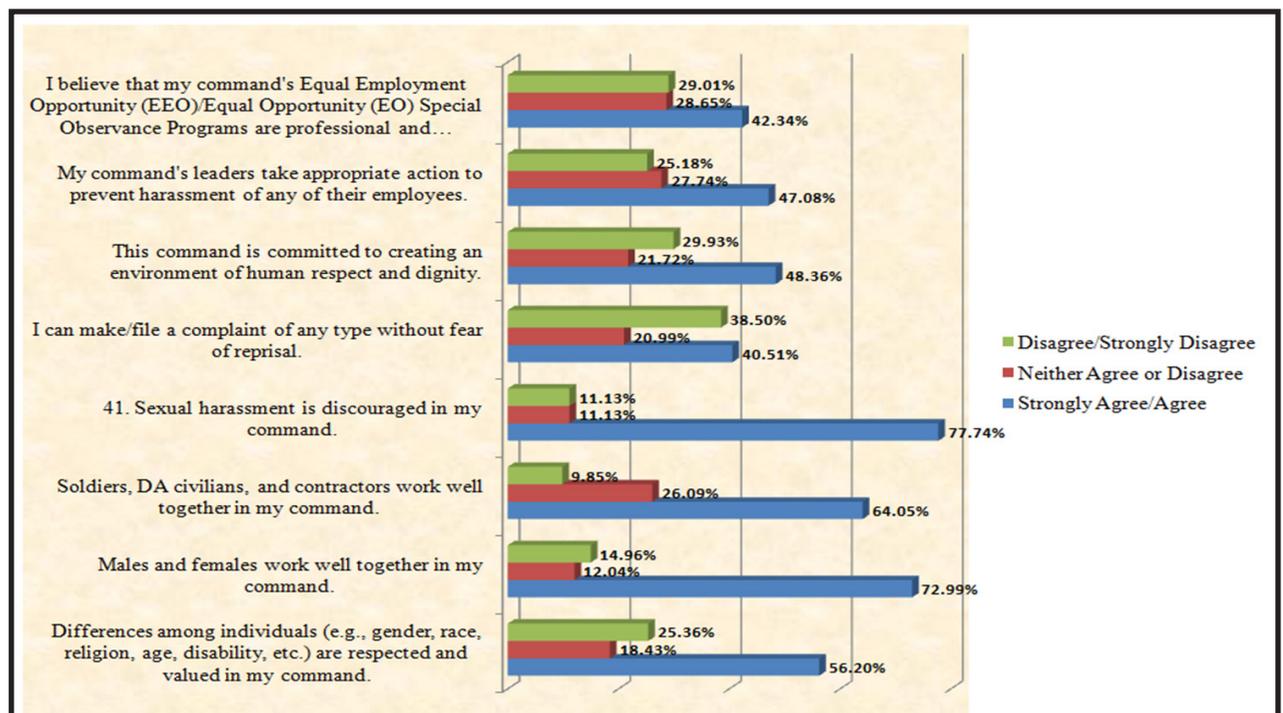
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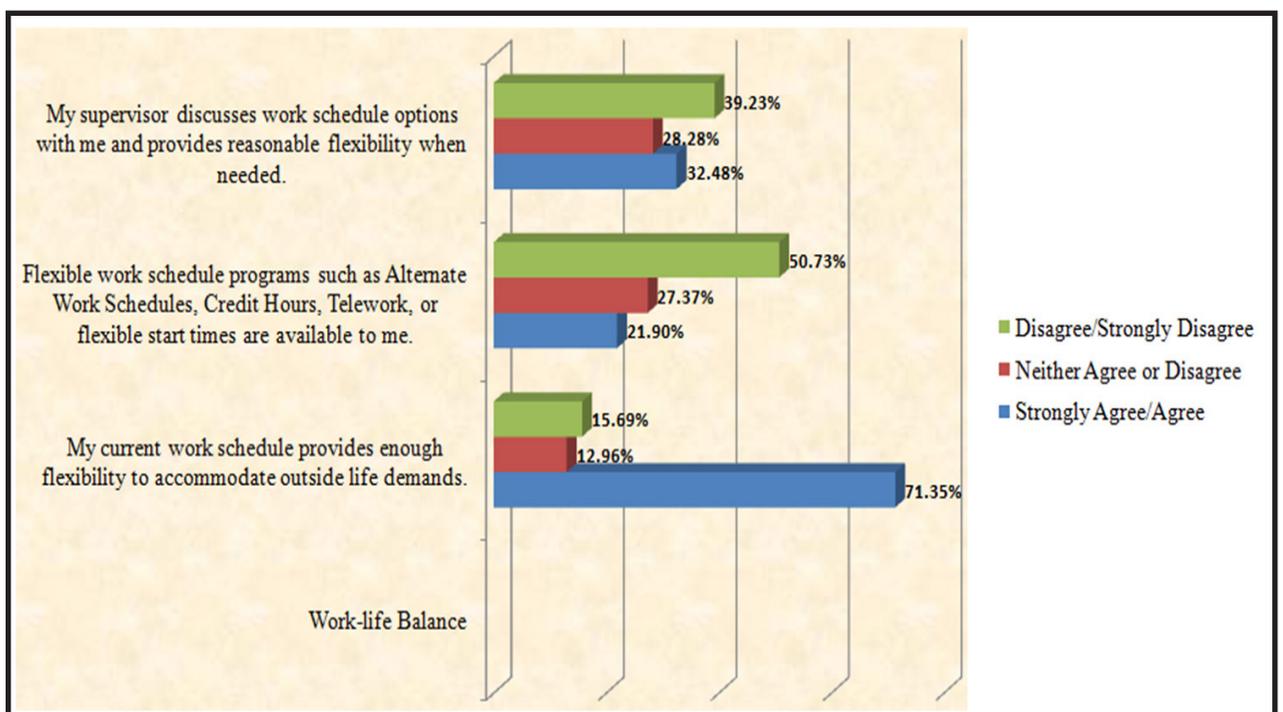
DEPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



HUMAN RELATIONS



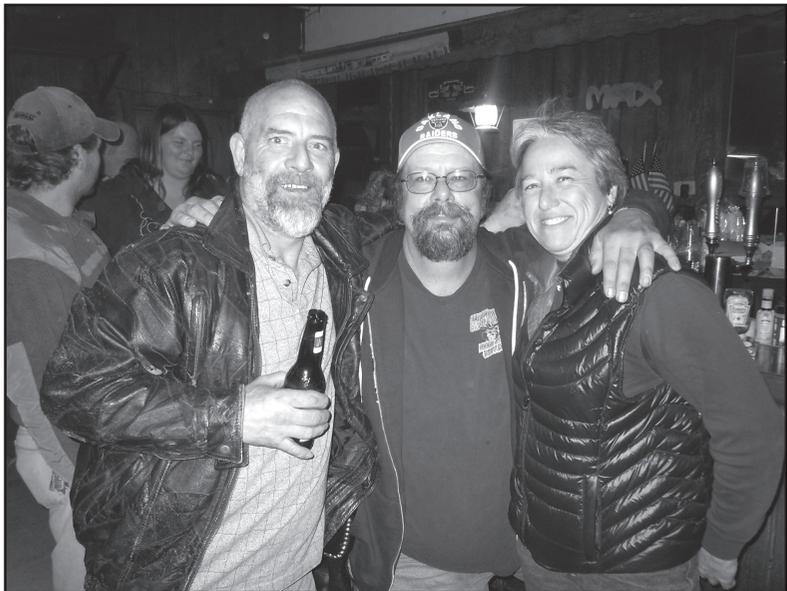
WORK LIFE BALANCE



2012 Civilian Welfare Fund Blue Collar Ball



Thanks to
the Civilian Welfare
Fund Committee for
sponsoring the 2012 Blue
Collar Ball that was
held at the Herlong
Junction.



Delegates (From Page 1)

impact SIAD has on their respected districts.

During the briefing, Amodei commented on the high percentage (42%) of veterans that are currently working here.

Upon completion of the briefing, the group began a tour of the installation. A drive through the End of First Life Center gave the group an overall perspective for the number of tactical wheeled vehicles and other types of equipment that can be stored out in the open for long periods of time.

The next stop was the Containerization and Assembly where they walked through the newest mission acquired by the depot - rekitting of add on armor. Ms. Susan Getty explained the process from receiving up through the time the items are packaged in containers and placed in storage, ready for shipment.

Due to the limited time for the delegates, the group made a quick walk through the shipping and receiving for Retrograde and Redistribution.

At the end of the day, several comments were made how impressed the delegates and staffers were regarding the Depot's utilization of land for storage and how there are so many potential opportunities for future growth.



Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter, SIAD commander, (right) explains to Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-R), center, and Mark Spannagel how the Depot conducts inspections on armor plates to ensure they are in working condition before the plates are shipped to specific units.

AMC (From Page 1)

Directorate. Ms. Susan Getty, C&A Director, began with the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Add on Armor reclamation and kitting mission. Getty explained how reclaimed armor from the Reset operations being performed at other installations is sent to SIAD, refurbished, and packaged. The complete Armor Door kits are then stored as contingency stock assets until they are needed for future use.

As the group walked through the remaining areas of C&A, Getty stopped to explain Sierra's

role in producing brand new 120K Fuel System Supply Point systems. She expanded the discussion to include our role in supporting New Equipment Training (NET) and subsequent system hand-off procedures to units designated to receive the equipment.

"I have been to a lot of places in this command, and the one thing that impresses me the most here is the quality and appearance in the organization," Via stated. "It gives me the confidence this equipment is going to arrive to the Soldier and is going to be ready to meet all the objectives it is supposed to meet."

Before departing C&A, Via looked around the warehouse and said, "Be very proud of it. Neat and Organized - Looks like there is a place for everything where it needs to be. Reminds me of doing inspections in barracks. It looks like how things are supposed to be. It says a lot about an organization just by looking at it."

The next stop along the tour was the equipment Retrograde and Redistribution warehouse. Via was introduced to Mr. Jason Tong who walked him through the production lines of the receiving area. Tong explained that Sierra operates the Army's largest SARSS site dedicated to processing excess and retrograde material from units in Afghanistan and South West Asia (SWA), as well as all other OCONUS and CONUS Army sites.

Tong continued to say the Depot currently provides for the receipt, identification, condition code classification, storage, Care of Supplies in Storage (COSIS), security, accountability, disposal, and shipment of excess Non-Army Managed Items (NAMI) and some Army Managed Items (AMI) from SWA. Via gained an understanding how these unique operations clearly provide a readiness and operational value to the Army and the Nation through management and controlled redistribution of this equipment to meet urgent unit demands (for units in combat in Afghanistan, as well as those returning from deployments).

As the group transitioned over to the Organizational Clothing & Individual Equipment (OCIE) operations, Mr. John Dingman explained to Via how this is an AMC directed and TACOM CMO managed mission to process newly purchased and serviceable retrograde clothing and heraldry material from Southwest Asia/Afghanistan for issuing

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During his visit to Sierra Army Depot, Gen. Dennis Via, AMC commanding general, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Fire Department for their extraordinary leadership, technical and tactical skills which enhanced readiness of the Depot.

Child, Youth and School Services Monthly Update

In partnership with CYSS the Fort Sage Resource Center hosted this year's Boys and Girls Club of America Fine Arts Contest. Local primary and high school youth competed in several categories, such as monochromatic drawing, oils and acrylics, and collage. In all there were over 100 entries which is double that of last year!

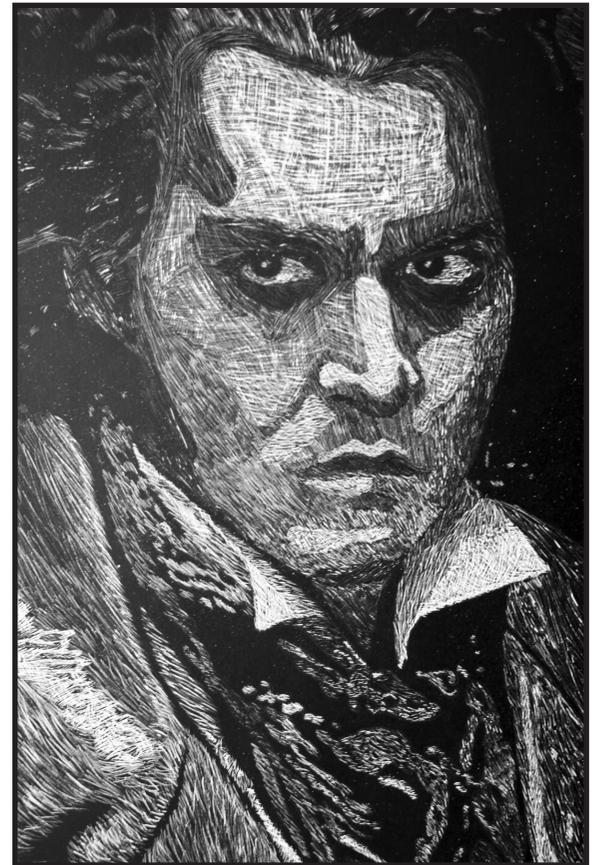
This year the Herlong High Art Teacher Pam Dusenbery has been able to teach some art to the

younger students at Fort Sage Primary, so the art contest expanded this year to allow the younger youth to compete. Judging the contest were SIAD employees Lori McDonald, Lynn Goddard, and Lloyd Gubler. The judges, along with many community members who stopped by to view the art, were very impressed with the local talent.

Parents, friends and family gathered at the Resource Center during the monthly dinner to

congratulate the students' hard work, and to view the many amazing entries. Those who placed first in each category moved on to the Regional competition in Bellevue, Washington.

Those moving forward to the Regional Contest are as follows: age 6-9 in Mixed Media: Samantha Wolf; age 10-12 in Mixed Media: Christina Szot; Age 13-15 - Ashley Kessler in Mixed Media,



Some of the art entered in this year's Boys and Girls Club of America Fine Arts Contest and will be moving forward to the next level were submitted by Ms. Donna Hinson, (above photo) and Ms. Alexandra Kiel (photo right).



Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter presented an on-the-spot award to Mr. Billy May for exemplary performance in the execution of SIAD's first Suicide Prevention Stand-Down Campaign. Mr. May single handedly trained 1,137 employees in 30 days.



Daylight Savings
March 10

LEAN into my CORNER

Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, we have taken a slightly different approach to Lean. In the past, we have generally worked on those areas where directors and supervisors have seen a need for process improvement at their level. Now we are trying to address process improvement from a more strategic perspective.

Starting with the first quarter of fiscal year 2013, the Command Group, along with the three Managers (Mission, Garrison, and Resource Management) selected several areas that they felt needed to be addressed. The Lean team scheduled Value Stream Analysis (VSA) events for these areas through most of the first quarter and a lot of the second quarter as well. As most of you know by now, a VSA is designed to look a process (or "value stream") in great detail to enable us to identify areas of waste that can be addressed in follow-on events, projects, or management actions. This approach should generate a lot of Rapid Improvement Events and other activities that will enable us to meet the financial goals set for us by AMC.

A more important reason for this approach is that it allows us to better focus our efforts on those areas that will benefit the Depot in a



William Deming
QEO Director

strategic sense. That is, we can conduct process improvement initiatives in the areas considered most important by the senior management. We have often selected Lean projects in the past by looking for obvious targets and "low-hanging fruit." That's fine, as far as it goes. But we can really enhance our Lean efforts by concentrating on specific targets that are more important to the installation as a whole.

We have to keep something in mind as we execute this approach. It will do us no good to run a VSA if we don't put the resulting information to good use. We have conducted VSAs in the past that resulted in robust action plans with several attractive RIEs that would probably have resulted in a lot of benefits for the areas involved. Unfortunately, because everyone is busy, we often find reasons to avoid conducting these events. We know what we need to do, we just don't do it. In other cases, we run a VSA, then avoid even making follow-on events a part of the action plan, although we usually devote some effort to improving the problem areas identified in the VSA. This is unfortunate because a VSA almost never produces savings. The value of these events is that they show us where our pain points are and help us high-value targets. If we fail to follow up on these, we lose much of the value of a VSA.

I don't want to leave the impression that we can't conduct a successful VSA. We can do this and have had many of them in the past. We do need to realize that a VSA is just the first step in a process that will ultimately result in better processes and a better Depot.

CYSS (From Page 10)

Jamie Dominguez in Multicolored Drawing, and Krista Carpenter in Collage; age 16-18 - Alexandra Kiel in Monochromatic Drawing, Rebecca Caldwell in Multicolored Drawing, Donna Hinson in Pastel, Alexandra Kiel in Oil or Acrylic, and Kasey Berry in Collage.

If a youth places first at Regionals, they will then compete in the National competition and their art will tour the United States. Last year, graduate Lindsay Stevens placed second at Regionals. We wish all of our artists the best of luck in the next stages of the competition, and we thank the judges for their participation in this year's competition. Keep an eye out for the BGCA photo contest in the spring!



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back to troops worldwide.

Dingman started out by describing how Sierra receives/identifies/classifies and brings to record returned clothing items directly from units redeploying from SWA, new OCIE from DLA, "excess" OCIE from Clothing and Issue Facilities (CIF's) and posts/camps/stations worldwide, and subsequently builds and ships reset "kits" to CIF's worldwide in direct support of units getting ready to deploy. After talking about the clothing, the group moved over to the area where body armor plates are received and are scanned through the portable, deployable, self-contained system - Non-Destructive Test Equipment (NDTE) -that detects physical or structural defects in the plates.

Continuing on with the armor plates, the group walked through the ESAPI/ESBI Plate Repair program. Dingman described how the Depot repairs small holes in the fabric covering or frayed edges of the plates in accordance with instructions from the Program Manager, Soldier Protective Equipment (PM SPE). Via was impressed how SIAD devised a mechanism to "patch" these plates and return them to inventory as serviceable assets, at a cost of approximately \$16.00 each, in lieu of purchasing a new body armor plate for about \$550.00 each.

The production lines caught the attention of Via as the group began a quick walk through the OCIE Support to the Reserve Component OCIE area. Via commented on how Sierra has captured the true essence of successful production lines. He went on to say how other sites dealing with excess material should come here to gain a better understanding how to set up lines and how they work. Once again, Via turned to the group and said, "Be proud of what you are doing."

The last stop for the tour was the Non-Standard Equipment mission area. Mr. William Junk talked about how Sierra operates the Army's main Non-Standard Equipment (NSE) centralized retrograde mission which receives NSE Retrograde from theater and provides receipt and final disbursements to units and to individual States throughout the Nation through the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property

(NASASP).

Prior to Via's departure, the group traveled through the End of First Life Center where Mr. Donald Olson, deputy to the SIAD commander, talked about Sierra's management of the more than 22,000 pieces of equipment (Rolling Stock, Tracked Vehicles, Materiel Handling Equipment (MHE)/Construction Equipment (CE) and Flatracks) stored here. Olson continued to highlight critical importance to the Army once the vehicles are declared excess, with support to the Foreign Military Sales program through on-site Joint Visual Inspection visits.

At the conclusion of the visit, Via emphasized Sierra's uniqueness - 37,000 acres. Olson informed Via, "We are uniquely postured to support the Army's continued drawdown of material from SWA, consolidation of equipment as the Army contracts in size, and project power westward as the Army continues to increase its focus toward the Pacific Theater of Operations. We can also support the other Services' equipment storage and redistribution needs. We are not constrained by urban encroachment, have over 30,000 buildable acres inside the depot available for expansion, with "unlimited" outdoor storage capacity."

"Our unique high desert environment experiences an average of less than 5 inches of precipitation annually, which allows equipment to be stored here indefinitely with little-to-no rust and corrosion protection," Olson stated. He went on to say, "Sierra is the Army's Western-most Depot, with an extensive internal road and rail network (linked directly to the Nation's interstate and Union Pacific railroad main lines), with organic Army airfield capable of supporting all military and commercial cargo aircraft."

Sierra Army Depot provides rapid expeditionary logistics support and long-term sustainment solutions to the Army and the Joint Force. They serve as our Strategic Power Projection Platform providing logistics support for asset receipt, classification, management, storage, distribution, maintenance, assembly & containerization, and the rapid worldwide shipment of material in support of the war fighter.



In the photo above, Ms. Susan Getty explains the packaging process of the add on armor to Gen. Dennis Via during his visit to Sierra Army Depot.

Below, Mr. John Dingman, far left, explains to Gen. Dennis Via, far right, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, Lt. Col. Christopher Dexter, and Maj. Gen. Michael Terry the receipt process for unit clothing that is being returned from Soldiers.



Above Maj. Gen. Michael Terry inspects a piece of equipment that is part of the Non-Standard Equipment coming to Sierra Army Depot from theater as Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling looks on.