THE Outlook

Oct. 12, 2004

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Looking forward

A platoon leader with the 2nd Plt, Delta Battery, 319 Field Artillery, verifies sector of fire with his Soldier as the platoon's gunnery sergeant (second from right) and a German interpreter (far right) look on during a cordon search training mission. The interpreter is the platoon's only way of communicating with civilians on the battlefield in the replicated Afghani village. The civilians are played by German actors and add realism to the scenarios. (Photo by Pfc. Jon Arguello, 173d Brigade Public Affairs)

Army aviation unveils life without Comanche

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
ARNEWS

The Army's aviation fleet is undergoing a total overhaul, and the main priority is increasing survivability to protect the aircraft and the Soldiers it carries.

Aviators, crewmen, commanders and the technology community gathered to unfold the Army's aviation transformation plan during the Army Aviation Association of America Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn., in March.

By 2011, the Army will purchase 903 new aircraft, upgrade the current fleet to be more survivable, lethal and agile and work with the sister services to develop a Joint Multi-Role Helicopter.

During a four-and-a-half month study, members on the Army Aviation Task Force made more than 120 recommendations on how to turn aviation brigades into joint and expeditionary forces that are modular units of action. The total bill comes out to $12.8 billion, the Pentagon official said.

"We're going to ask industry what weapon systems our potential adversaries may have, and we're going to be very innovative in how we deal with those threats," said Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, G3.

Out of the recommendations came the idea to develop three new aircraft – a light utility helicopter, an armored reconnaissance helicopter and a cargo aircraft.

"It would be premature to talk about what the helicopters are going to look like. Right now we're in the capabilities phase," Cody said.

In a concerted effort, Fort Rucker, Ala., Training and Doctrine Command and the Headquarters Department of the Army Staff will decide on the capabilities they want, and then let industry meet the niche, Cody said.

A more immediate addition to the aviation ranks will be unmanned aerial vehicles. The Army was given three I-GNAT UAVs as a congressional plus up and two are deployed to Iraq.

It's not just about I-GNAT, UAVs in general are a great contribution to the war fighter, the Pentagon official said. They perform reconnaissance and surveillance missions, and are becoming more and more important, the official added.

The Army will spend $390 million toward UAV acceleration. Currently in the Central Command area there are Ravens, which are tactical UAVs used at the platoon level. The smaller UAVs are referred to as Shadow and the larger ones – I-GNAT and Hunter – are used at division and brigade level.

The Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle may be armed with Viper Strike munitions to provide a counter strike against mortar attacks in Iraq, under an initiative being worked by the Spiral Developments Division of the Futures Center. (Official U.S. Army file photo)

The Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker advised the Aviation Task Force to improve survivability, increase deployability, optimize capabilities and shorten the logistics tail, the Pentagon official said.

Now the aviation field is following the infantry's example of the Stryker by creating a "common cockpit." Like the Stryker, which has 10 variants but with same or similar parts, helicopters will share the same hardware and software.

In 2003, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., implemented their version of "common cockpit" referred to as the Common Avionics Architecture System or CAAS.

By placing common hardware and software in three of the regiment's aircraft, training was simplified and the logistics demands on the unit were reduced, the G3 official said.

The open avionics architecture also will make it easier to upgrade the aircraft with third-party vendor software.

The use of CAAS by the conventional Army is one initiative that will be adopted from the Special Operations community, Cody said.

"We always want the 160th to be the premier aviation force in the Army," Cody said. "We always want them well ahead of the conventional force."

Schoomaker, who has served with both conventional and Special Operations forces, challenges the aviation community to use Special Operations initiatives that can be sustained and resourced, Cody said.

In an interview at Fort Rucker, Schoomaker said that in the future there will be a closer relationship between what's occurring in Special Operations aviation and conventional aviation. Army Aviation in the conventional sense will move to another level – a higher level. At the same time it allows the 160th to move to an even higher-level capability, he added.

The need to purchase and upgrade the current fleet is the reason behind the Comanche termination, officials said.

"Had we not terminated the Comanche, I would be absolutely concerned," Cody said. "By 2011 we would have had to cut our aviation fleet by a sizable number."

At the termination of the Comanche program, only two aircraft had been built, and $6.9 billion spent since 1983, said the Pentagon official. If the Army had continued to fund the program it would cost $14.6 billion more to purchase 121 aircraft by 2011 and up to $2 billion more to add the survivability equipment that is being added to the rest of the Army's fleet, the official added.

However, the technology that was developed for the Comanche will not be lost, but will be harvested in other Army aviation programs.

"We needed a place where we could take the Comanche technology and ensure that it was retained," the Pentagon official said.

The goal is to work through a joint solution with the sister services and decide on a new rotorcraft by 2020 or 2025, the official added.

Transformation plans for the aviation field complement the combined arms fight, Cody said. If you take any one weapon system, a Bradley, Abrams or UAV and put it up against an enemy, the enemy will learn to deal with it, the pentagon official said. It's a combination of all those weapon systems, the official added.

(Editor's note: This is one of the Army's 17 immediate areas of focus. Other articles include: The Soldier; The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Current to Future Force; The Network; Modularity; Active Component/Reserve Component Balance; Force Stabilization; Actionable Intelligence; Installations as Flagships; Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability; and Logistics. To view a brief synopsis of each area, visit the U.S. Army Web site: www.army.mil/thewayahead/focus.html*)*

What type of indicators are you sending out?

By Harry Wolfe
Interagency Operations and Security Support Staff
Special to the Outlook

'Indicators' are clues that an adversary pieces together to determine critical information. An indicator can be almost anything. It can be something habitual, such as taking the same route to work everyday or frequenting the same restaurant at the same time, that lets a criminal or terrorist predict where you will be and when.

Varying your itinerary can also be an indicator; telling an adversary you're doing something different, interesting or unique that day.

Indicators exist because people like to do things in an orderly way. We usually stick to routines that work for us. This enables an adversary to note our routines and when we deviate from them the adversary tries to figure out why.

Most of us are logical and tend to do most things in a logical manner. Therefore, if we are planning an activity we do certain things ahead of time to ensure the activity goes as planned.

Indicators can be the presence or absence of almost anything. That being the case, how are indicators identified? Activities that take place must be looked at from the point of view of the adversary to see what a particular action (or lack of action) would mean to an adversary.

For instance if we are planning a police raid, reconnaissance of the area and target is conducted. The target or adversary would be aware of persons or vehicles that would appear out of place or unusual.

When planning for a presidential or VIP visit, an advance party is deployed. The preparations made for such a visit may indicate itinerary, schedules, number in party, etc.

Sudden changes in schedules (e.g., canceling leave, increasing training, etc.) are logical things to do but, if noticed or advertised, they give the adversary clues as to what we are or may be planning.

Does this mean that all these indicators must somehow be suppressed? No, it means that they all must be identified, analyzed and minimized when appropriate to the extent possible.

The following list of indicators, while not all-inclusive, has been sorted into the functional areas of operations, communications, administrative and logistics/maintenance support.

Operations Indicators:

■Visits of VIPs and other personnel associated with particular events.

■Purchasing specialized equipment that has never been or is seldom used.

■Sending employees for increased mission related training.

■Increased telephone calls, conferences, and longer working hours (including weekends).

■Holding rehearsals to test concepts of operation.

■Sudden increase or decrease in patrols.

Communications Indicators:

■Trying to talk around a sensitive subject.

■Insisting that information be provided over telephone or fax in order to inform or brief senior officials.

■Sudden and selective use of encrypted radios.

Administrative Indicators:

■Convening of planning and pre-execution conferences.

■Distinctive emblems or logos; markings on equipment and supplies.

■Transportation arrangements.

■Medical care, preparation and facilities.

■Leave cancellations or restrictions.

■Sudden change in property control procedures.

Logistics/Maintenance Support Indicators:

■Volume and priority of requisitions

Procedural disparities in requisi-tioning and handling

■"Crash" maintenance programs.

■Unusual equipment modifications.

■Deviations or special logistics support procedures.

■Providing unique or highly visible physical security arrangements for guarding special equipment or facilities.

In order to deal with these and other indicators you identify, you should decide their relative importance. Some may be more likely to give away your operation than others. Determine which of the indicators are most important to suppress and which can be lived with.

The suppression of indicators can be a costly exercise, but it doesn't need to be. With a little foresight, planning and the use of OPSEC principles from the beginning, in many cases the costs can be kept to a minimum or greatly reduced.

Community Action Council

Editor's note: *The Outlook will be highlighting some of the community issues that are brought to the SETAF and 22nd Area Support Group commands through the CAC. If you have an issue that you would like to submit, e-mail your issue to CAC@setaf.army.mil or call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community as a whole.*

There are multiple issues within this CAC question on telephone billing. The responses are from the Tax Relief Office.

Issue: *I would like to know why I have received over $3,000 in billings for Telecom over an 18-month period. This is only for local and Internet services because we use phone cards for long distance service. It seems excessive.*

Details indicate calls to cellular phones (12,222 minutes) and local/Internet connectivity (54,762 minutes) comprise 69.3 percent of the total cost over the period of 22 months. We have forwarded a request to Telecom to provide complete phone numbers for cellular calls so the customer can verify accuracy/identity of numbers called.

Issue: *Why are Telecom bills six to eight months late?*

Agreement with Telecom Italia Business South, stipulates the service provider will provide the TRO with billing information within 75 calendar days of the last date in the billing cycle. Telecom has not been successful in meeting its obligation. We have taken a number of steps and met with senior management on several occasions. Unfortunately our efforts have not resulted in significant improvements. Timeliness and accuracy of billing are among the principle reasons the TRO has requested discontinuation of the telephone program.

Issue: *Why does the format of the Telecom bills vary every month?*

Billing format varies based on customer usage and are limited to details that are pertinent to the billing cycle. Categories of expense that are not used are simply purged by the system. For example, if the customer does not place any international calls during the billing cycle this line item/category will be excluded from the billing details. It should also be noted that the summary was excluded on all invoices by Telecom during the fourth bimester of 2003, due to a billing problem.

Issue: *Why is UTEPs billing cycle monthly and Telecom bi-monthly?*

TRO handles invoices for 36 different service providers, each with a different billing cycle. All TRO accounts are invoiced on a monthly basis, regardless of the billing cycles used by the service provider. This ensures each customer receives a monthly update or summary of open and paid balances. Currently the TRO provides between 20-25 day grace period on new charges.

Issue: *Why was I charged UTEP service charges when we had presented concerns to UTEP about billings?*

Annual TRO fees related to the telephone program are $25 and are billed semi-annually ($12.50 in November and May). Fees are related to the provision of tax-free telephone services, which were provided to the customer. Concerns identified by the customer will be addressed by the TRO to the best of their ability, as many of our most common complaints relate to the quality of services received by Telecom.

Issue: *Why was I not informed about increased costs of calling cell phones from my home number when I signed up for our telephone?*

Customer was informed of fee structure and verified this information on the "Application and Agreement," when signed. Additionally, articles are published in *The Outlook* relating to the TRO and its services.

Issue: *Why was I not informed immediately of a computer virus that changes your home dial-in number to a long distance telephone number?*

Telecom Italia subscribers were affected by an Internet fraud scheme related to high speed Internet access between January 2002 and October 2003. The TRO notified the community of this incident in the Oct. 22, 2002, edition of *The Outlook*. In October 2003 Telecom Italia blocked all numbers related to the reported fraud. After inquiring as to the unusually high telephone bill, the customer was informed that he may have fallen victim to this Internet fraud scheme. Unfortunately, the TRO staff didn't immediately verify this information, and the customer attributed high cost of Internet calls to this fraud. Following the customer's complaint to the TRO supervisor, the account was audited and we were able to confirm that the customer was not affected by the Internet fraud scheme.

Issue: *Why do my bills not show the complete telephone number called so I can check them?*

Italian privacy laws prohibit telephone service providers from providing complete phone numbers in billing. This is done to safeguard the privacy of both the caller and receiver of the call. Details can be requested, but require a formal complaint, which must be filed with the local Carabinieri, citing a billing discrepancy wich can only be verified by having the complete phone number listing. The formal complaint, *Denuncia*, endorsed by the Carabinieri, must be forwarded to Telecom via registered mail. Response time averages 60 to 90 days and is dependent upon the level of detail requested.

Issue: *I have questioned the total number of phone calls from my home phone - some months over 250 calls. How can I address this concern?*

Approximately 70 percent of the calls itemized on the customer's bills were related to cellular and Internet calls. Based on the customer's request, we have asked for a complete cell phone listing. We recommend customer verify "time-out" settings on personal computer and evaluate the possibility of implementing a security PIN to limit use of phone. Monthly cost of PIN is 1,50 euro.

Issue: *I believe the Telecom contract should be (have been) re-evaluated immediately in order to protect and better serve the community.*

The TRO program has recommended closure of the telephone program. Program participation has been reduced from 1,200 to 640 in the past year. We quit opening new contracts with Telecom as of October 2003.

At present, the TRO assists customers in obtaining "private" lines directly from the local Telecom provider, as opposed to Telecom Italia Business South. Coordination is underway to officially close the program and transfer telephone services to the Housing Branch of DPW.

Any customer who wishes to leave the program may contact the TRO for assistance. Please be advised that closure and activation of "private" Telecom service can be done in 3-5 business days, but will not allow customer to retain the same telephone number. At present, this can be done at no cost due to an information agreement with local Telecom. Normal cost for this transfer is 50 euro.

If you would like more information on this issue, call TRO at 634-7080.

Issue: *Long waits at the barbershop.*

Response from AAFES: We have initiated a sign-in log to enable us to analyze our service levels during peak hours. We added three new barbers, and the barber was awarded the new contract in which hours were extended at the end of August.

The hours of operations are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Family Hair Care facility will offer a full staff on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

In addition, a barber shop was opened in the 173d Airborne Brigade area.

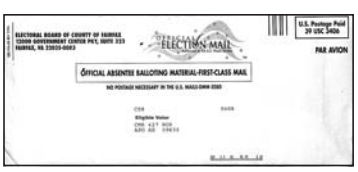
Issue: *Building 302 barbershop needs extended hours.*

Response from AAFES: Contract change due to re-solicitation has expanded hours of operation.

The new hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Our Family Hair Care Facility is open Sundays from noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Coming soon...to a mailbox near you



The Army Voting Assistance Program Webpage can now reached by either: *http://www.vote.army.mil* or *https://www.vote.army.mil*. Make your vote count!

Town Hall meeting set to provide information on new personnel system

Vicenza CPAC
Press Release

A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Nov. 1 in the Hall of Heroes on Caserma Ederle to provide employees with basic information about the National Security Personnel System.

There are two times scheduled for civilians to attend: 9 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. The meeting is expected to last about two hours. No registration is required to attend.

An information briefing and a video will be presented, followed by a question and answer session. Topics to be discussed include the anticipated changes in relation to the current system, what conditions are expected to remain from the current personnel system, projected implementation schedule, new labor relations practices, revised employee appeal process, and other Human Resources flexibilities.

The briefing will be presented by Lisa Lessard, regional director, CHRA, Europe Region.

All appropriated fund U.S. civilian employees and their supervisors are encouraged to attend.

Please direct any questions to Jan Bolin at *janice.bolin@cpoceur.army.mil* or Marion Solonch-Smith at *marion.solonch-smith@cpoceur.army.mil*, or by telephone at 634-7290/7483.

Changes for civilian personnel

U.S. Army Europe
Press Release

Effective immediately, the Civilian Human Resource Management Agency Web site, located at *www.chrma.hqusareur.army.mil* will be accessible through two new locations.

The U.S. Army Europe gateway to access information for civilian personnel, living and working overseas, local courses offered for employee training and development, and management tools is at *www.chra.eur.army.mil*.

Information on Appropriated Funds, Non-Appropriated Funds and Local National civilian personnel policies, procedures and programs, such as contingency guidance, pay information, awards, and recruitment and retention incentives, will be located at *www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/cpd*.

Users will be able to access the new Civilian Personnel Directorate (CPD) site from the CHRA site.

As of October 2003, CHRMA transitioned to a new organizational structure – the U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency.

Formerly the U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Operations Center Management Agency, it officially became a Field Operating Agency of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, Department of the Army headquarters, with the CHRA headquarters in Aberdeen, Maryland.

All Civilian Personnel Operations Centers and Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers located in CONUS and OCONUS were joined into the new structure. The Civilian Personnel Directorate did not realign under CHRA.

As the office responsible for providing MACOM-level guidance on programs and policy on U.S. and Local national civilian personnel, CPD remained as part of the HQ USAREUR, G1.

Use Powers of Attorney sparingly

By Mark Christensen
Chief, Client Services
Staff Judge Advocate Office

Powers of attorney are the most commonly requested document at the Caserma Ederle legal office. Legal personnel prepare on average more than 30 powers of attorney every day, and prior to deployments often prepare and notarize hundreds of powers of attorney in a single day.

Although power of attorney preparation is a large part of walk-in services, clients are often surprised to learn that legal personnel advise against making a power of attorney.

Why? Because in most cases the requested power of attorney is too broad, is good for too long a time period, and is not being granted for a specific reason.

I do not know any lawyer who uses a power of attorney. Maybe there is something to that. The power of attorney is one of the most powerful legal documents you can give to someone, and should not be taken lightly.

Everyone who requests a power of attorney is asked, "What is the power of attorney for?" Most clients tell us they don't know what the power of attorney is for, and ask us what their options are. Other clients tell us, "Just in case."

Both answers indicate getting the power of attorney is someone else's idea or done without forethought.

The best legal advice is this:

1. Do not give someone a **general** power of attorney.
2. Only give a **special** power of attorney if you know it is needed.
3. Only give a power of attorney to someone you trust.
4. Always limit the power with a realistic expiration date.

During the last deployment, most cases of power of attorney abuse involved a spouse or parent who used the power of attorney contrary to the intentions of the granting soldier.

Unfortunately, the misuse of the power by a person of close personal trust legally binds the soldier.

> *The power of attorney is one of the most powerful legal documents you can give to someone, and should not be taken lightly.*
>
> **– Office of the Staff Judge Advocate**

There is no legal recourse to undo what was done, and you are legally bound by the actions of your power of attorney as if you conducted the transaction in person.

Here is what a power of attorney is: A written instrument in which an agent is authorized to conduct your affairs.

A general power of attorney gives broad authority to do anything.

A special power of attorney identifies a single grant of authority, such as the authority to sell a car, receive household goods, or temporarily care for children.

Most married couples do not need a power of attorney when both are jointly identified on accounts and each have access to the other's financial information.

For instance, if your spouse has your MyPay password, and has access to the family bank accounts, there is probably no reason to give a power of attorney.

That being said, be aware that, although a power of attorney is a valid legal instrument, there is nothing to require any person or agency to accept the authorization.

For instance, even though you may possess a validly executed power of attorney from someone else, a government or commercial agency can refuse to accept the authorization, and require the physical presence and signature of the person who gave the power of attorney.

Always check to make sure a power of attorney will be accepted. Most transactions involving Army finances or real estate transfers require a special power of attorney.

A power of attorney can be revoked, but it is difficult to stop a determined abuser. If possible, destroy the original. If you cannot get the original, notify the agencies where the instrument might be used. It might be possible to effectively revoke a power of attorney by notifying all agencies in a small place like Caserma Ederle. But if the power is being abused somewhere in the U.S., it may be impossible to notify all places it might be used. Giving a power of attorney to someone can be a very convenient legal tool. Your agent can transact your affairs in your absence and take care of matters on your behalf. But the power of attorney can be abused.

Decide what you need, and come to the Legal Office, building 241, without appointment from 8 a.m. to noon, and from 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have questions about powers of attorney, contact the Legal Assistance Office at 634-7041.

Do you have a question or concern, but don't know whom to ask?

Send your question to the Community Action Council and they'll send your question to the local subject matter expert, who will research the question and report back during the monthly CAC meeting. The CAC meeting is held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Send your questions by e-mail: *cac@setaf .army.mil* or by telephone to 634-5CAC (5222) or 0444-71-5222. The next CAC is scheduled for Oct. 27.

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

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Choppers help get from point A to B safer, faster

Story and photos
By Pfc. Jon Arguello
173d Brigade Public Affairs

With few paved roads and one of the highest concentration of landmines and unexploded ordinance in the world, a helicopter ride may be the best mode of transportation available to Sky Soldiers who will be deployed early next year in Afghanistan.

With the aid of the 3d Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, transportation may be as easy as getting on a manifest.

"We provide aviation assets to the ground guys," said Chief Warrant Officer Benito Belgrave, flight operations officer in charge for the 3-158th Avn Bn. "We make sure they get from point A to point B as quickly and as safely as possible."

"The aviation battalion is key to our success in Afghanistan," said Maj. Eric Martin, 173d Support Battalion (Airborne) executive officer. "We are going to be separated by hundreds of miles, and the aviation unit will transport everything from the injured to supplies."

By using the 3-158th we alleviate a lot of pressure from the support Soldiers who were on the road a lot in Iraq, Martin said.

It's not just a matter of convenience. The transportation capabilities the aviation unit adds to the brigade are crucial, said Martin.

"The terrain and roads in Afghanistan are so rough and the distances so far, that the aviation unit just makes sense," Martin said.

Quantities are also an issue, said 1st Lt. Charles Diggs, 173d SB's S-3 Air.

"You can transport 2,400 gallons of fuel with three CH-47s," Diggs said. "Or 99 people. You can't do that with a ground convoy without adding more vehicles and to carry that many passengers, you'd have to double the size of the convoy."

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne) load onto a CH-47 Chinook for a combined air assault with a platoon of Italian Soldiers into an undisclosed mountain range at the Combat Manuever Training Center in Germany.

A "gator" (a multi-purpose two-man vehicle used to haul small loads and casualties) rides into the belly of a CH-47 Chinook after an air assault of Alpha Company, 1-508th Inf Bde Soldiers and a platoon of Italian Soldiers. The simulation was a huge success, taking several prisoners but with few casualties.

"We can cover in one hour what might take ground forces 12 hours to travel the same distance," said Belgrave.

This time difference is critical in terms of casualties needing immediate care or urgently needed supplies, said Belgrave.

Another aspect making the 3-158 Avn Bn a necessity, is the safety in which the aircraft can transport troops, he said. "Using air assets reduces our signature on the ground," Diggs said. "Sometimes they just want to prevent you from getting the supplies to where they need to be, consequently endangering the Soldiers' lives."

Ground transportation also exposes Soldiers to danger aviation units are immune to; such as improvised explosive devices, said Martin. The 12 hours it would take ground forces to travel a certain distance would be 12 hours of exposure to enemies or other dangers, explained Belgrave.

However, helicopters are not completely immune to danger. "You can always get shot down," said Belgrave. "There is an aspect of some type of danger in any situation."

That's when the aviators' special training comes into play, Belgrave said. "That's the reason we train hard. We do mountain training, evasive maneuvers, we do a lot of training for these types of contingencies. That's also why expedience is so important."

The "Storm Riders" however, are more than happy to do their part with the 173d Abn Bde in Afghanistan. "We see the 173d do their part and serving their country," said Belgrave. "We are always ready to do our part to serve our country."

Soldiers from the 173d Abn Bde are more than happy to have the aviation unit attached. "It's great having the 3-158th attached to us," said Spc. Linda Sandoval, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Abn Bde, and veteran from the unit's deployment to Iraq. "It's a much safer way than going by ground."

"If the weather is good you could resupply the forward operating bases completely by air," said Diggs. "They are among our most valuable and most expensive assets."

For 95th Maintenance Company Soldiers, accuracy is key

Story and photos
By Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

For many Soldiers, getting ready for the upcoming deployment may also mean stopping by Bldg. 246, a one-story building surrounded by a fence near the commissary.

Here, the NCOIC for the 95th Maintenance Company, Staff Sgt. Douglas Garcia, and eight other Soldiers attached to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 22nd Area Support Group, support more than 1,500 pieces of equipment belonging to over 30 different units.

A Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Soldier with the 95th Maintenance Company receives assistance from a fellow Soldier while calibrating the 33250A Function Generator. The 95th Maintenance Company, TMDE provides calibration support and repair services to the 173d Airborne Brigade and SETAF units in northern and central Italy.

They work on test equipment that every organization and facility may use, including AFN, the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza or the 22nd ASG motor pool.

The Area Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) Support Team (ATST) detachment on Caserma Ederle provides a unique quality of calibration support, according to Garcia.

"The standard is to provide accurate, reliable, and deployable TMDE calibration support and repair services to the 173d Airborne Brigade and SETAF units in northern and central Italy," said Garcia.

The service includes the Combat Equipment Battalion-Livorno located in Camp Darby.

"Calibration is the art of accuracy – precisely measuring current, voltage, resistance, frequency, pressure, vacuum, and radioactive sources," he continued.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology is the first link in a long chain of highly standardized calibration labs.

"From there [NIST] the [calibrations] accuracies get transferred on to the standards used at the U.S. Army Primary Standards Laboratory at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala."

After this first stop, Garcia explained that the next stop is the Secondary Standards Laboratory in Pirmasens, Germany, which calibrates the standards that the Vicenza team uses to make sure that all the equipment is functioning according to designed manufacturer specifications.

"There are different levels [of specifications] and different levels of responsibility," added Staff Sgt. James Lindly, who also works at TMDE.

"For the most part we schedule all the items through here, and if they need to go out to a higher level, then we send them up for the customer."

Currently, the main focus is to train each unit's Calibration Coordinator to get the TMDE ready for the upcoming deployment, said Garcia.

The 95th Maintenance Co. is offering to calibrate equipment six months ahead of schedule, allowing for smoother operations when the troops are on the ground.

"When the mission requires it, we are trained to take the show on the road and support calibration missions out of our five-ton expandable vans," said Garcia.

"The Vicenza team supported Operation Iraqi Freedom while deployed to Camp Doha in Kuwait this past year, returning just in time to aid in the recovery process of all calibrated equipment."

Garcia reminds all unit commanders to make TMDE a required stop during pre-deployment planning. A copy of each unit TMDE Master List is available in electronic form, a sort of database of the equipment, which the appointed calibration coordinators can bring along to their next TMDE support facility down range, ensuring continuous and accurate TMDE support.

For information and to make appointments call 634-7225 from 9-11:30 a.m. and from 1-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday.

Production Control NCOIC (right), a Soldier with the 95th Maintenance Co. TMDE, assists a Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 22nd Area Support Group, while he turns in a piece of equipment used to test Nuclear, Biological and Chemical masks for regular maintenance.

Soldier strums his way to top

Practice with a purpose pays off

William Brown, command sergeant major of the 14th Transportation Battalion, pours his heart and soul into competing. This year, the effort garnered him second place in Best of Show in the 25th Annual USAREUR Stars of Tomorrow competition. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. William Brown)

By Andricka Hammonds
Outlook Volunteer

"The Vicenza community does very well in competitions. When Vicenza sends somebody to compete at USAREUR-level, we will bring a trophy back, we always do," William Brown, 14th Transportation Battalion's command sergeant major said with pride.

And Brown should know, as he placed second for Best of Show with his autoharp performance in the 25th Annual Army Europe 2004 Stars of Tomorrow competition, and advances to the All-Army Margaret "Skippy" Lynn competition in January.

Brown has played autoharp for 20 years and has been competing in the annual Army Europe Battle of the Bands for three years.

Brown started competing by accident about three years ago. He had no desire to play in a competition or in public because playing was something personal – something he did for himself.

"One day, one of my Soldier's was sitting in a park on post playing the guitar during his lunch break. I had my autoharp in my car, so I got it out and we started playing together," Brown recalls fondly. "After a few days of playing together, he mentioned there was contest that was going on in conjunction with the Fourth of July.

"We practiced for two weeks and we were awful," said Brown, chuckling at the memory.

"Our vocal singer started out singing the song flat and stayed flat the entire performance – we were terrible," Brown remembers while laughing. But someone sent the musical portion of the performance to U.S. Army Europe and they liked the sound. So Brown was invited to compete.

In his first performance, he took second place in instrumental group category, which qualified him to compete at the Department of the Army level three months later, where he took second place.

Brown competed as a soloist last year after his partner PCS'd. He was awarded an honorary award for musical virtuosity.

"I measure my level of success on how close I come to recreating a piece of music that may be perfect in my head, he said, refering to the pressures of competing. "You realize that you can't control what the judges think. Don't shape the music to suit the judges, play for yourself and if the judges like it too, then you may bring home a trophy.

"The beginning of the performance can create some nervous energy, but after the first ten to fifteen seconds into the performance, it's about me and the music," Brown said.

Not many people are familiar with Brown's choice of musical instrument – the autoharp. The autoharp is a string instrument that was invented about 150 years ago in Germany, according to Brown. It migrated to the United States during the great German migration in the late 1800s, eventually winding up in the Appalachian Mountains. Blue Grass and Appalachian Folk music use the autoharp in its music.

"Dolly Parton uses the autoharp to write her music," Brown said with a grin.

Brown has taken comfort in playing the autoharp on deployments, and in places such as Bosnia and Turkey. He likes the size of the autoharp because he can take it anywhere he travels.

Since the instrument is easy to learn, Brown taught himself how to play, but adds that it is rather difficult to master.

"One day the notes I was practicing became a melody," said Brown, plucking at the strings in a demonstration. He practiced everyday trying to learn how his instrument worked and one day it just made music.

"Back in my youth I heard a group named Buffalo Springfield, who were accompanying themselves with the autoharp. That was when I knew that I really liked the way the instrument sounded.

"As soon as I heard that sound, I knew I wanted one," Brown said. "I was walking down the street past a music store on a Friday, just after payday, and there was an autoharp in the window. I walked in and bought it."

To Brown, playing the autoharp is a stress reliever. It is his times to be with himself and let go of the worries of the day.

"The first thing I do when I get home from work is say hello to everyone and then I'll disappear into the basement," Brown said. "I put on my headphones so I don't disturb anybody and then I'll just play for about 30 minutes.

"When I play, it's almost like I just drop off the face of the earth. I'm totally absorbed in the music. The cares of the day are gone, and when I'm finished, I'm human again. The day's stress has disappeared," he said with a sigh.

Because he comes from a musical family, it still amazes him that it took so long to find an instrument and learn to play. His five children have embraced their musical talent and play instruments such as the saxophone, piano, trumpet, flute and violin.

"I think everybody in my family played a musical instrument when I was growing up but me. I was more interested in playing baseball, basketball and football," he said.

Brown remembers never having time for music, and hearing his mother tell him that "music is a skill that he will have for the duration of his life.'

"The biggest compliment I've ever gotten was about five years ago when I was playing my autoharp during a trip home, and my Mom looked at me and said, 'You've finally mastered it haven't you?' and I replied, "Yes I have," Brown remembers with a smile.

Brown says that his performances have definitely improved, saying that, when you compete, you tend to 'practice with a purpose' which makes you focus in on a specific set of musical goals.

"People may be really surprised to find out how talented our Soldiers are," he said. "We see them walking around in BDU's, but they are also people who have interests and talents outside of their Soldier focus. Many of them are talented performers."

As Brown is scheduled to retire March 1st, his last Department of the Army-level competition will be in January.

But he put in a request for an exception of policy because his Soldiers are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan with the 173d Airborne Brigade and SETAF next year and he feels that he should be with his soldiers.

But in the event that the Army turns down his request, he says he will retire graciously.

Brown believes that the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and intellectual components of a person must be nurtured to create a well-rounded individual.

He believes in growing the person, not the Soldier, saying "If you grow a good person, you will, by default, grow a good Soldier."

Camp Darby opens new car wash

A customer takes advantage of the new car wash equipment that has the ability to wash underneath the vehicle with underground sprinklers. (Photo by Chiara Mattirolo, Camp Darby Public Affairs)

Camp Darby community is *Combat Proud*

Combat Proud was established in August 2003 by U.S. Air Force Europe commander, Gen. Robert H. Foglesong, to foster pride and productivity, and improve the appearance of the bases.

The goal of Combat Proud is to take pride in your unit area and in the community where you live and share spaces. We try to beautify all those community areas that are used by many people, explained Lt. Col. Stephen Williams, commander, 712th Munitions Squadron.

As Camp Darby is a small community, Combat Proud became a joint Air Force, Army, and community project where everyone is taking ownership of the community.

Darby personnel help cleaning up "Freedom Square" during 'Combat Proud.' (Photo by Chiara Mattirolo, Camp Darby Public Affairs)

Out&About

By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Vicenza exhibits

All coin, medal and money collectors should be sure to visit "Vicenza Numismatic" Friday through Sunday.

This free exhibition of coins, medals and paper money is provided to meet the needs of scholars, dealers and collectors who love to reconstruct history through coins and medals.

Held at the Vicenza exhibition grounds, it is open daily from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. The Vicenza exhibition grounds are located near the Vicenza ovest autostrada exit.

Music in Verona

The 95th 2004-2005 Friends of Music in Verona concert season is underway.

Oct. 20, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra will perform music by Beethoven and Rachmaninov in the Teatro Filarmonico at 9 p.m.

The Teatro Filarmonico di Verona is located next to Piazza Bra downtown, close to the Arena.

Ticket prices are 18 euro for adults and 12 euro for children.

Tickets are available at the box office located on 12 Via Pallone, and may be ordered over the telephone at 045-801-1154. Box office hours are Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 3:30-7:30 p.m. Closed on holidays.

Tickets are also available at Teatro Nuovo, located at 10 Piazza Viviani, tel: 045-596-2251, and at Unicredit banks.

More information on the rest of the season, visit the Web site (in Italian only) at : *www.amicidellamusicaverona.it.*

EuroChocolate festival

Had the writer Roald Dahl ever needed living inspiration for the world of Willy Wonka and his Chocolate Factory, it surely would have come from *Eurochocolate*, a week of chocolate antics and amusement taking pace throughout the city of Perugia.

Chocolate lovers will be in heaven with a rich cornucopia of chocolate exhibits, tasting and chocolate-themed attractions in this town, the birthplace of the famed bittersweet chocolate and hazelnut concoction, Perugina.

Oct. 16-24, Perugia celebrates the 10th anniversary of this event.

Hundreds of thousands of chocoholics will converge on Perugia to enjoy numerous events.

Visitors can walk in the center of the city taking in the incredible sight of artists sculpting 1,000 kilogram blocks (2,200 pounds) of chocolate into art.

Clean sheets of canvas are placed under the pedestals so that onlookers can pick up and eat the slivers of chocolate that fall from the carvings. There are also stalls in the main squares where you can get free samples.

Events take place weekdays from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

The Web site (in Italian only) is *www.eurochocolate.com.*

The town also has a free Perugia Chocolate Museum.

Art exhibitions

Treviso – *'Ottocento Veneto: il trionfo del colore'* (18th Century Veneto: The Triumph of Color) is a recently-opened exhibition in *Casa dei Carraresi* located on *Via Palestro*.

More than 100 paintings by artists of the 'Veneto school' in the 18th century have been gathered together from the most important Italian and foreign museums and from private collections. Many of these paintings are on exhibit for the first time.

The exhibition is divided into six sections and includes the artists: Bosa, Moja, Rotta, Tito, Caffi and Guglielmo Ciardi.

The exhibit is open until Feb. 27. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and closed Mondays.

Entrance fee: adults, 7 euro; under 18, 4 euro; free for children under age 3.

In the town of Cavaion Veronese, north of Verona, the 39th Antique Toy Market will take place Saturday. More than 300 collectors and vendors will set up their displays from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to barter, trade and sell their unique collection of antique toys, cars, soldiers and dolls. The event takes place in the Eurocongressi Hotel which is located just four minutes away from the Affi exit of the A22. Entrance fee is 5 euro.

Mantova – *'Le ceneri violette di Giorgione'* an art exhibition held in *Palazzo Te*, has more than 130 paintings on display by such masters as Tiziano, Tintoretto, Parmigianino, Caravaggio, Veronese, and other great artists from the 15th century.

Open Monday 1-6:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Sunday 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. through Jan. 9. The ticket office closes at 5:30 p.m. Entrance fee: 9 euro.

Mantova is located south of Verona west off the A22 Autostrada.

Passariano, Udine — The first exhibition to take place in the new Contemporary Arts Center in *Villa Manin* features a selection of 50 artworks – including paintings, sculpture, video and photography from the collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

Entitled *'Love/Hate: From Magritte to Cattelan,'* find works by Rene' Magritte, Jean Dubuttet, Balthus, Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Donald Judd and others.

The exhibit is open until Nov. 7 Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday-Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and closed Mondays. Entrance fee is 5 euro.

Passariano, is located southeast of the town of Codroipo, between Pordenone and Udine, about 140 km east of Vicenza.

Apple and grape festival

If you're thinking about passing a day or weekend in the mountains, a nice break from trekking would be to visit the 16th Apple and Grape festival in the town of *Villa di Tirano*.

This ancient village of the Media Valtellina (Middle Valley) is located 400 meters above sea level, outside *Brescia*. The festival is in honor of the 'brungnola' grapes and 'melavi' apple, which are cultivated around the village.

Saturday and Sunday, these two fruits are the stars of the festival and even local restaurants have special menus using both traditional and innovative recipes.

The best day to attend is Sunday when after lunch, a handicraft market with 15-20 stalls opens.

There will also be a lot of different activities that animate the festival: musical entertainment for children and adults, exhibitions and demonstration of crafts, such as the weaving of 'pezzotti,' the brightly-colored rustic mats.

Directions from Vicenza (228 km): Autostrada A4 west, take the A21 north, exit Brescia Centro; SS11 then SS510 in the direction of Sale Marasino, Marone, Pisogne, then the SS22 in the direction of Sellero, Cedegolo, Edolo, then for Aprica take SS38 for Bianzone after find the town of Villa di Tirano.

Reading Italian menus

For those who are not sure what or how much to order at an Italian restaurant or trattoria, you must understand the different courses available.

Start with an *Antipasti* (or appetizers): – Just like in America, this course is served first. Items like assorted cold cuts, olives, etc., are offered.

Next is the *Primo* (first course): This is the soup, pasta, gnocchi or risotto course. This is not considered the main meal.

Secondo (second course): This is the main dish, usually meat or fish and seldom comes with vegetables.

Contorni (side dishes): These side dishes are served on separate plates as accompaniments to the secondo. They usually consist of vegetables in season such as potatoes, eggplant, spinach, lettuce, tomatoes, etc.

Dolci (desserts): This is the 'sweet' course, but in addition to desserts, fruit, cheese and nuts may be offered.

While it is not necessary to order from all of courses above, most restaurants will expect you to order at least an antipasti and either a primo or a secondo.

Buon appetito!

Now Showing

Oct. 12	Alien vs Predator PG13	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	Thunderbirds PG	7 p.m.
Oct. 14	The Bourne Supremacy PG13	4 p.m.
	Alien vs Predator PG13	7 p.m.

Effective Oct. 15, Ederle Theater admission prices will increase by 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

Oct. 15	Without a Paddle PG13	7 p.m.
	Harold & Kumar go to White Castle R	10 p.m.
Oct. 16	Without a Paddle PG13	2 p.m.
	I, Robot PG13	7 p.m.
	Harold & Kumar go to White Castle R	10 p.m.
Oct. 17	I, Robot PG13	2 p.m.
	Without a Paddle PG13	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	Without a Paddle PG13	7 p.m.
Oct. 19	Harold & Kumar go to White Castle R	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater

Due to unforseen circumstances, movies will not be shown in Camp Darby's Community Club until further notice. Keep watching this space for when movies will be rescheduled. Thank you for your patience.

Movie Synopsis

ALIEN VS. PREDATOR - *Lance Henriksen, Sanaa Lathan*. An ancient pyramid is discovered buried in the ice of Antarctica, and scientists investigating the structure discover something worse: two races of aliens battling for domination. As the two species fight, humans find themselves caught in the middle and becoming casualties.

THUNDERBIRDS - *Bill Paxton, Ben Kingsley.* When dangerous situations exceed the limitations of ordinary military and international security forces, the world calls upon the high-tech assistance of International Rescue - a mysterious band of fearless adventurers and their fleet of awesome, imaginatively engineered vehicles known as: Thunderbirds!

THE BOURNE SUPREMACY - *Matt Damon, Franka Potente.* When a Chinese vice-premier is executed by notorious assassin Jason Bourne, it causes serious trouble and hubbub in the CIA. Why? There is no "Jason Bourne", as that name is just a cover for CIA agent David Webb, so it appears that someone has taken the "Bourne identity" away from him, creating a diplomatic crisis between the U.S.A. and China.

WITHOUT A PADDLE - *Seth Green, Matthew Lillard.* Three lifelong friends from Philadelphia go into the Oregon wilderness in search of lost treasure. Canoeing down the Columbia River, the trio soon finds that their canoeing experience goes wrong as the river turns dangerous. They finds themselves hunted by two backwoods farmers and encounter treehugging hippie chicks and a crazy old mountain man.

HAROLD & KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE - *John Cho, Hal Penn.* Both underdogs, Harold and Kumar decide to spend what would have been an otherwise uneventful Friday night satisfying an oddly intense urge for White Castle hamburgers. However, finding a suitable White Castle proves a highly difficult task, and the two friends wind up on an epic road trip.

I,ROBOT - *Will Smith, Bridgit Moynahan.* In the year 2035, robots are an everyday item and have become more and more advanced, but each one is preprogrammed to always obey humans and to, under no circumstances, ever harm a human, and everyone trusts them, except Del Spooner. Del is one, slightly paranoid detective investigating what he alone believes is a crime perpetrated by a robot. The case leads him to discover a far more frightening threat to the human race.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over $4, children $2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.