A publication of the Army Field Support Brigade-Europe

The THE LONG HAUL

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Upcoming Events

- April Fool's Day: April 1. Pranksters out in full force.
- Good Friday: April 14
- Easter: April 16

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Suggestions? Give us a call at 375-5022 with your comments or story ideas.

DoD says cease ops at AFSBn-Lux; 238 jobs affected by Sept. 30

Employees at the Army Field Support Battalion-Luxembourg work on a tracked vehicle. More than 200 host-nation workers face possible unemployment with the cease of operations decision.

Nikki St. Amant
AFSC Public Affairs

The Office of the Secretary of Defense announced on March 17 the decision to cease US Army operations at Bettembourg, Luxembourg.

The Army Field Support Battalion-Luxembourg will cease operations at the site by Sept. 30. The unit will case it's colors and relocate to Germany where it will support 7th Army operations in and around the Kaiserslautern area.

Affected by the cease of operations are 11 military, 3 Department of the Army civilian, 11 host nation and 213 host nation contractor positions.

The possibility of a cease of operations at the Bettembourg site was covered heavily in the media over the months preceding the announcement; however, the official announcement drew an understandable response from personnel affected by the decision.

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Hythe adapts to future with ISO, Lean; cuts costs, works smarter to survive

Andrew Lawson
AFSBn-Hythe

In October 2004, Lt. Col Martin Binder realized that Army Field Support Battalion - Hythe's future could no longer rely on its marine involvement, but had to diversify to remain a viable service provider to the Army Materiel Command. So Hythe embarked on an ambitious course to implement ISO 9000 and LEAN 6 Sigma to help us posture for a piece of the substantial RESET program in Europe.

AMC battalions no longer have the "right to exist" in the modern Army and have to prove effectiveness and efficiency. The LEAN 6 Sigma program's goal was to harness as the standard "efficiency and effectiveness."

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OPINION

"Changes — turn and face the strange"

Col. Xavier P. Lobeto
AFSB-E Commander

The face of war is changing, and has been for quite some time. Our warfighters have adapted and continue to modify their tactics, techniques and procedures almost daily in order to engage the enemy successfully on the field of battle, and so must we. The Army is driving ahead, full force, and those who dawdle or drag their feet in the face of adversity and challenge will be left behind.

These changes should come as no surprise. Throughout it's more than 200 years, the Army has consistently addressed the changing requirements of the present and future with adaptations and modifications to its structure, missions and procedures. We are transforming an d it is necessary.

It is a time of stress and challenges. As we develop and change our ways of doing business and relating to other elements of this organization, many will complain and claim the old ways were better. The old ways are gone. War is different now. Our fighting forces are different. To support them, we must be different, because our reason for existence, is to stand behind them every step of the way, no matter how uncomfortable it may be.

There are many positive aspects of change. Change provides the opportunity for improvement, innovation, and the satisfaction of facing difficult situations and overcoming them. We have much to be proud of already in this process. Keep that in mind.

We defied all the odds and met our mission supporting APS-5 in SWA on 90 day orders. We are playing a critical role in the stand up of SBCT 2 here in Europe and will continue to support those warfighters when they are operationally ready. We are ahead of the transformation curve and a vital source of options regarding maintenance structure and business management for USAREUR and we are retrograding equipment for CONUS in support of transformation there.

We are moving at double-time, and the Army needs us to keep up the pace. We can and will.

Expeditionary forces can't operate when the organizations that support them can't move with equal vigor. Our fighting men and women are lean, agile, adaptable and willing to engage any adversary and so must we be.

Stay motivated. Stay energized. We have much more to do, but we are succeeding. Keep up the good work, and in the end, we will all look back on these turbulent times and know that while many were flailing, we were achieving.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyhow.

Editor's Note: Headline courtesy of David Bowie

Change: you really want it, you just don't know it yet

Nikki St. Amant
AFSC Public Affairs

Change is one of those things everyone says is good for you even though you don't see it. Change is one of those things "they" say makes you better. Change is one of those things you can throw in the bag with death and taxes: a guaranteed.

If you ask me, change is not only guaranteed like death and taxes but goes down with about the same horrible aftertaste.

It is only the rare breed that truly likes change. Most of us would much rather the familiar embrace of the routine every day for the rest of our lives. We all dream on some level of excitement and new horizons and all that stuff, but when it comes down to it, we all groan silently on the inside when someone starts talking about doing things differently and new policies and procedures. Honestly, it's a hassle.

And that's okay, because we are human, believe it or not. Fear of change is just like any other fear. There is nothing wrong with feeling it and hating it. The challenge lies in learning to master it.

How do you do that? The first step is to **never let yourself get too comfortable**. If you constantly look for new, better ways to do the same old things you have always done, then you don't get set in your ways. You won't feel like someone pulled the rug out from under your feet when 'The Man' tells you to shift fire.

The next step? I hate to use clichés, well not really, but **look on the bright side**. Take me for instance. I am new to this AMC world. I know how to write stories about live-fire exercises. I never knew where equipment comes from or how it gets into Soldiers' hands. But here I am, five months into a new a job and alone in Europe as **the** PAO in a situation I have never handled before.

Talk about being dazed and confused! But I am making the best of it. I am learning things that are going to make me more marketable as an employee and more effective in any situation. It has been a "challenge", but I am learning and adapting every day and I feel more confident in my abilities to do my job and do it right no matter what comes my way.

Change isn't easy. We don't have to like it. But either way, it's happening. Capitalize on it. Use change as an opportunity to prove yourself, to grow, and to finally start heading toward the horizon instead of admiring it from afar.

JUMPS

HYTHE: *LEANS forward with ISO program*

Hythe contracted out for an ISO consultant who would put the unit on the right track. Steve Hunt from SEH Limited was chosen and the process of initial evaluation began. The first step was to benchmark where Hythe stood and then build to fulfil the stringent ISO requirements. LEAN 6 Sigma also featured at this stage as a mechanism for creating "Key Performance Indicators" so that our individual departmental performance could be measured.

The next step in implementing our "Quality Management System" was to write the bible on operations here at Hythe. Hence, our Battalion Management Manual was born.

During these initial phases, I was chosen to follow the LEAN 6 Sigma Black belt route and become the subject matter expert in this new continuous improvement mythology.

I attended a four-month commercial course in early 2005 with Claudius Consulting in York.

Claudius consulting also delivered a LEAN practitioner workshop to the newly formed RESET team over Christmas 2004. Once the theory was done, I began to deliver a tailored LEAN 6 Sigma green belt course to hand picked members of staff here at Hythe.

Workers carry out watercraft maintenance at Hythe, UK, in 2005. Hythe gained ISO certification in January and continues to develop 'LEANER' ways of doing business

So far we have one more module to complete and our five candidates will complete one project each before becoming qualified green belts.

The ISO program had been initially driven by Tim Ryland, but around the middle of 2005 the project was handed over to the Chief of Maintenance, Steve Maughan. He was later joined by one of his project managers, Sam Lawson. Maughan, Lawson and Hunt became a driving force in the implementation of ISO.

In January of this year Hythe was visited by ABS Quality Evaluations and, after a nail-biting three days, we were awarded the certificate of conformity.

ISO and L6S started as a thought 15 months ago and has now become a reality. This new way of doing business allows us to measure our organization and ensure that we are performing consistently, being effective and efficient.

As we consider our future, we know it will not be easy. We will have to fight for the right to survive. Viability depends on continually improving processes, getting it right first time and, as always, doing more with less.

LUX: *Cease of ops comes at tough time, but necessary time*

Claude Diederich, a 25-year employee at the Luxembourg site, was upset by the decision, but not surprised.

"This is a really hard time for everyone," he said. "Times are really tough in Europe and in Luxembourg, but we knew this was coming. It's not a surprise. The military presence in Europe is declining. We knew a few years ago the APS-2 mission was ending. You don't need massive war reserves in Europe if you don't have a massive force in Europe. It was a natural progression with everything else that is going on."

Diederich talked about the economic changes Luxembourg has endured over the past 25 years, the decline of the steel industry and loss of jobs and said, while necessary and logical, the loss of jobs at the Luxembourg site will be hard on the area. But there are good feelings, too.

"I got this job because I had a tactical background and could speak some English. Looking back over 25 years, it's been challenging at times, but very interesting. It has always been a good working environment and the folks I have worked with have been wonderful, both my fellow Luxembourgers and the Americans. It's been nice."

THE LONG HAUL

COMMANDER & PUBLISHING AUTHORITY

Col. Xavier P. Lobeto

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Nikki St. Amant

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NEWS

Bird flu poses threat to DoD personnel in Europe

With the recent migration of the deadly avian flu virus to Europe, concerns have grown about the safety of Soldiers, family members, Department of the Army civilians, contractors and host nation employees who support the US Army and Department of Defense.

All Army Field Support Brigade-Europe personnel are urged to become knowledgeable regarding the facts and risks associated with the H5N1 virus and to follow safety guidelines outlined to the right.

FACTS

- Bird flu is not readily passed from person to person at this time
- It is possible to be infected through contact with wild or domestic birds or their fluids, feces or uncooked eggs.
- Proper cooking of poultry products will kill the virus.
- About 50% of the humans who are infected with the virus die from it.
- Unless you have direct contact with sick or dead birds, your risk is very, very low.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- **Do not touch** wild birds, dead or alive, or their feces or fluids.
- Avoid poultry farms and markets.
- Thoroughly cook all poultry products to at least 160 degrees F.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Wash utensils used in the preparation of food often and thoroughly.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough, then wash your hands.
- Avoid touching with your hands your nose, eyes and mouth.

AFSB-EU builds BLST to support first Europe Stryker unit

Nikki St. Amant
AFSC Public Affairs

Vilseck, Germany, may have a lot of extra space with the departure of the 1st Infantry Division, but with a little help from Army Field-Support Brigades Europe and Pacific, much of that space will be occupied very soon.

AFSB-EU is working closely with its Pacific sister unit to relocate the Stryker Brigade Combat Team currently part of the 25th Infantry Division, to Vilseck, where it will be redesignated the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

The move is historically notable, with the welcome of the first SBCT to be stationed in Europe. More relevant to AFSB-EU is the tremendous amount of logistic and technical support the SBCT will require and receive.

2CR will have at its disposal and under its operational control the services of a brigade logistics support team staffed by AFSB-EU. Mac Franklin, AFSB-EU plans and operations, said the BLST will be permanently embedded with the unit and provide around-the-clock logistic support and system expertise through training and deployment rotations alike.

A contractor funnels supplies through the window of one of the buildings the BLST will call home in Vilseck.

"Embedded within the Stryker brigade, the BLST will be AMC's single focus point for logistic support to the unit," he said. A focus point where all the different AMC lanes converge into one steady stream of logistics networking.

Franklin said the BLST will have on-staff representatives from each of the life cycle management commands, the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, the Communications-Electronics Command, and the Aviation and Missile Command. Also standing by to support the Stryker unit are two logistics management specialists, a supply logistics management specialist, and a CW5 to manage it all. The SBCT is set to begin arriving this summer and will officially stand up as the 2CR in early fall.

The BLST will hit the ground running and provide support to the unit's busy training schedule, which kicks off almost immediately. Though there will be no shortage of work for either the unit or the BLST, there are a few perks to the new digs at Vilseck.

The 1st Inf. Div.'s departure vacated a vast number of motor pools, leaving the 2CR with about three times the storage and maintenance space it was accustomed to at Fort Lewis.

And it doesn't hurt that the back gates of those motor pools open up directly onto the large training area Vilseck is known for. The trip downrange for live-fire and maneuver exercises will be an easy jaunt into the backyard instead of a massive operation of transporting vehicles via railhead to remote locations.

Check *The Long Haul* for more updates throughout the summer on the buildup of the new BLST and Europe's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Reach out and touch EVEN FROM THE

USAREUR Bulletin

HMW Support Upgraded for Deployed Army in Europe Personnel

In continuing efforts to provide outstanding Health, Morale, and Welfare (HMW) support to deployed European theater personnel, USAREUR and 5th Signal Command is upgrading the way in which Army in Europe deployed personnel make morale telephone calls to family members who are located in the Army in Europe region consisting of the BENELUX, Germany, and Italy.

The primary reason for doing this is to ensure all authorized AE deployed personnel (Soldiers, DA civilians and contract personnel working for the US Government) have full, fair, and equal access in making morale telephone calls, while also saving money by reducing abuse of the system and ensuring Army in Europe is in compliance with higher level policies from HQDA, CJCS and DoD. The new system will enable deployed personnel from Army in Europe units to make two fifteen minute calls per week to family members without operator intervention. Previously, personnel were authorized only one fifteen minute call per week. .

Beginning 15 February 2006, USAREUR CIO-G6 Telephone Control Officer (TCO), in coordination with the 5th Signal Command will turn on the new Unit Morale-Call PIN Issuing Resource-Europe (UMPIRE) at https://umpire.hqusareur.army.mil. This web based system will be accessible by deployed and rear detachment unit Telephone Control Officers to request unique individual PIN numbers for deployed personnel. TCOs must have TCO appointment orders on file with the USAREUR TCO. TCOs will be able to request PINs for each deploying person in their organization for a period beginning one month prior to a deployment to 3 months after the planned end of the deployment. The system will enable the TCO to save PIN lists as excel files, and print out cards for each person which provides their unique PIN and the telephone number to call to process the call.

Deployed personnel will use their PIN to access the Army in Europe Automated Attendants (AA) to place morale calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This automated attendant capability will allow PIN equipped callers to connect to DSN and private telephones in the AE region.

The full implementation of the system will be phased in over a 60 day period (15 Feb – 17 Apr 2006) in order to give all unit TCOs sufficient time to request, receive and distribute PINs and instruct personnel in their use. On 17 April 2006, all deployed AE personnel must have a PIN in order to make an HMW telephone call.

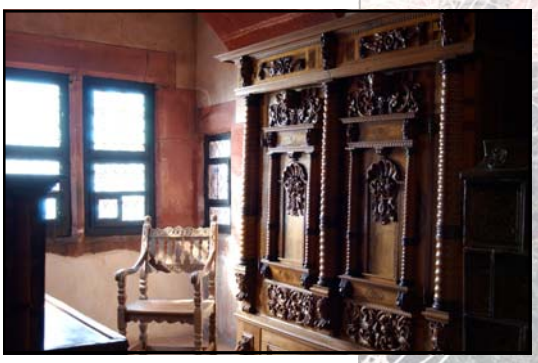
IAW AER 25-22, Use of U.S. Government Telecommunications Systems for Morale Purposes, a "deployed person" includes AE Soldiers, civilians, and contractors working for these units, who are deployed to support exercise, contingency or peacekeeping operations in locations which have been determined to be lacking in sufficient commercial telecommunications infrastructure by the CG, USAREUR. All AE personnel should contact their Unit TCO for further instructions and information. To ensure maximum circulation, this information will also be displayed on the USAREUR public website (http://www.hqusareur.army.mil), in community papers, on AFN TV and Radio, The Stars and Stripes, and most importantly through Family Readiness Group support channels.

All personnel are reminded that in accordance with AES 1 to AR 25-1, Army Knowledge Management and Information Technology, government cell phones will not be used to initiate or receive HMW telephone calls.

This does not apply to personnel from CONUS and other locations outside of AE region. They will use the procedures established at their home station for making HMW telephone calls.

AROUND THE BLOCK

Le Chateau du Haut-Koenigsbourg



Unique lighting, period décor and beautiful stained glass windows combine to create an authentic atmosphere any true traveler can appreciate in the stone halls of Le Chateau du Haut –Koenigsbourg.

Perched unobtrusively on a steep hillside along the Wine Road in the Alsace region of France, the castle of Haut-Koenigsbourg sits as an enchanting reminder of the rich medieval times the area is known for.

I was visiting well-known Strasbourg with my parents last weekend and, after weighing several options to top off our short retreat, we settled on this quaint getaway. The short, 50-kilometer jaunt south offered splendid scenery dominated by forested hillsides, small villages and endless vineyards waiting for the summer sun's arrival.

The winding two-lane road up the mountain was a magical path through thick, majestic fir forests dappled with early spring sunlight and cast in a low-lying cloak of early-morning, smoky fog. A true driver's delight.

We were one of the first arrivals at the gate and enjoyed relative peace and quiet as we began touring the castle's sprawling expanse. I was expecting to find empty rooms, dusty floors and crumbling remnants of ramparts, but was pleasantly surprised to find chambers filled with centuries-old furniture, colorful tapestries depicting medieval scenes and even a fully-stocked armory. The historical flavor of the place was amazing. I could easily imagine armored knights clanking through the halls, maidens gazing out over the valleys through deep-set windows, and the spoils of the day's hunt roasting over a roaring fire in the dining hall. It felt authentic.

My dad and I stood in the turrets and mimicked the archers who once rained feathered fire on assaulting forces below. We manned the cannons and paced the sentry walkways. We touched the rough walls and stained glass windows in awe at man's abilities even hundreds of years ago.

Finished with our tour of the castle and adventure in Alsace, we bid a fond farewell to what proved to be one of the gems of our weekend vacation to France.

Cost: 7.50E
Directions: South on the A35 from Strasbourg, then follow the signs.
Tips: Nice drive, bring a camera, expect to spend one to two hours in the castle. Plenty of wine stops along the way, have a DD.