

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

VOL. 60, No. 3

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

(WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL)

APRIL 14, 2015

NEWS NOTES

Event offers travel opportunities

There will be a Travel Fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the Building 1C, Bay 1 hallway. Representatives from local, regional and national vendors will be available to answer questions and provide information. For details, call X55782.

On your way to preparedness

America's PrepareAthon! is a grassroots call to action to better prepare for emergencies. The Ready Army link on Tobyhanna's intranet site and www.ready.gov provides information to families and organizations about common hazards such as tornadoes, earthquakes and floods.

Twice a year — April 30 and Sept. 30 — America's PrepareAthon! promotes national days of action to bring attention to creating a more resilient nation.

Union members meet tomorrow

The American Federation of Government Employees Local 1647 will meet at 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Tobyhanna VFW Post 509. For more information, call the union office, X57789.

AUSA/AFCEA luncheon set

There will be an Association of the United States Army (AUSA)/Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (AFCEA) membership luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 28 at The Landing. The guest speaker is Jeffrey Box from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance Blue Ribbon Task Force. Tickets cost \$15 and will be available from directorate secretaries through April 22.

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Well done!

"I was extremely pleased with the service provided by Jonathan Laguana on the Distributed Common Ground System. I would absolutely request future support from Tobyhanna Army Depot. His flexibility and customer service was exceptional."

Master Sgt. Felizardo Amezcua

Los Alamitos
California



Wireless upgrade improves communication

Tobyhanna Army Depot personnel are in the process of increasing wireless network capabilities at several installations throughout Army Materiel Command and have now continued the effort inside the depot's gates. Last month, three teams of technicians and engineers began work on upgrading Tobyhanna's wireless infrastructure starting with the set-up and programming of 190 access points, which will provide two-way communication capabilities to and from automatic identification technology devices. These devices will enable users to wirelessly access the Logistics Modernization Program with enhanced capabilities through Complex Assembly Manufacturing Solution software. "The WLAN [wireless local area network] project will not only further modernize Tobyhanna as an installation, but will increase our ability to work efficiently and effectively," said Jude Buckwalter, WLAN project manager. A total of four install teams will carry out the project, which is set to wrap up later this month. The May issue of the Tobyhanna Reporter will have an article that will take a closer look at the installation here from start to finish. Above, Electrical Worker Robert Mascola, Systems Integration and Support Directorate, installs a wireless access point in Building 2. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

New software workload requires 21st century skills

by Ed Mickley
Public Affairs Officer

In a move to address employment requirements for a new workload heading to the depot, Tobyhanna leadership met with representatives from 11 local colleges and universities to discuss recruitment and curriculum development opportunities.

The work centers on information assurance and technology to keep military weapons systems secure from cyber intrusion.

"This emerging new software workload requires 21st century skills," said Col. Gerhard P.R. Schröter, depot commander. "It's a terrific example of career opportunities for Americans who choose to serve our nation in the DOD at Tobyhanna Army Depot."

The depot is looking to hire students and graduates who major in computer science, computer engineering, computer information systems, computer systems technology and similar studies. The meeting gave educators a better idea of curriculum

changes that would support the new workload.

"This is a very exciting and significant new workload for the depot," said Frank Zardecki, depot deputy commander. "It's one that would add opportunities for our partner colleges and universities in Northeast Pennsylvania. Similar to what we did for electronics students and graduates in the past."

NEPA Alliance and Scranton Chamber

See SOFTWARE on Page 8

Audit process involves tight timelines, short suspenses

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Around the Depot spotlights mission, employees

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RSO volunteers trained, certified

Page 4

Studies explore relationship between financial strain, other IPV risk factors

by Heather Fiedler
Counseling Center

The National Institute for Justice (NIJ) has funded a number of studies that look at aspects of economic distress, unemployment, neighborhood characteristics and intimate partner violence (IPV), including studies that examine the relationship between:

- Employment instability and risk for IPV
- IPV and financial strain
- Repeat victimization and financial strain
- Financial strain and abusive relationships
- IPV victimization and employment stability
- Economic Disadvantage, Neighborhoods and IPV

A recent study looked at data from the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH) to examine whether

employment instability and financial strain were related to the risk for IPV against women. The study also looked at the relationship between feelings of financial strain and the likelihood of IPV.

Employment instability increases the risk for IPV

The study showed that for couples where the male was always employed, the rate of IPV was 4.7 percent. When men experienced one period of unemployment the rate rose to 7.5 percent and when men experienced two or more periods of unemployment the rate for IPV rose to 12.3 percent.

IPV can occur when couples feel financial strain

The same study showed that there was a strong relationship between subjective feelings of financial strain and the likelihood of IPV.

- The rate of IPV for couples experiencing low levels of subjective financial strain was 2.7 percent.
- The rate of IPV for couples

experiencing high levels of subjective financial strain was 9.5 percent.

Economic disadvantage, neighborhoods, IPV

Researchers examined two types of economic distress — employment instability and subjective financial strain — concluding that both are strong risk factors for intimate violence against women. This study defined employment instability as the number of periods of unemployment for men between waves of the NSFH. Subjective financial strain was defined as perceptions of financial inadequacy and was operationalized by combining responses to questions about satisfaction with finances and questions regarding worry about money.

- Violence against women in intimate relationships occurred more often and was more severe in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. According to a recent study the rate of IPV in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods is 8.7 percent compared with 4.3 percent in more economically advantaged neighborhoods.
- Women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods were more than twice as likely to be the victims of intimate violence compared with women in more

advantaged neighborhoods.

- Women who live in economically disadvantaged areas and while in relationships are struggling to make ends meet are at the greatest risk for IPV.
- African-Americans and whites with the same economic characteristics have similar rates of IPV; however, African-Americans have a higher overall rate of IPV due in part to higher levels of economic distress and residence in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Women in disadvantaged neighborhoods were more likely to be victimized repeatedly or injured severely by their partners than women who lived in more advantaged neighborhoods (6 percent versus 2 percent respectively).

The link between individual economic stress and community economic disadvantage raises the possibility these two conditions may combine or interact in ways to influence the risk of IPV against women.

There is help available to those in need. If you, or someone you know is experiencing IPV, call the Counseling Center, (570) 615-9689 or the Family Advocacy Program, (570) 615-7509.

‘Simply proud to serve,’ says McQuiston

One of the Army’s highest ranking female officers ended nearly 35 years of military service Friday.

Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general and Redstone Arsenal senior commander, retired in an April 10 ceremony at AMC headquarters. McQuiston is now one of just five active duty Army three-star female generals.

McQuiston’s love for the Army began at an early age as one of seven children in a dedicated military family.

“We played Army as children,” McQuiston said reflecting on her childhood. “I joke that my only break in service was those few years from when dad

retired until I joined ROTC.”

McQuiston said she enjoyed every assignment and approached each one as an opportunity to learn and grow. Over the span of her career, the three-star general held seven commands, was a senior commander five times, and was stationed around the world.

McQuiston steadily rose through the ranks while completing unique assignments, including an early stint as a protocol officer, and later as a speechwriter and then special staff assistant to the Army Chief of Staff.

McQuiston’s first exposure to the Army’s business operations came in 2001 when she took command of Tobyhanna Army Depot.

“I was amazed by the sheer power of the Army’s Organic Industrial Base,” McQuiston said. “I made it my mission to educate as many people as possible about the Army’s massive business operations, working capital funds and OIB.”

Following her time at Tobyhanna, McQuiston spent several assignments in the Army Materiel Command family.

Looking forward to her retirement, McQuiston said she sees endless possibilities.

“The Army has provided me a world of opportunities that wouldn’t have been available to me in any other endeavor that I would have ever considered,” McQuiston said. “I am simply proud that I was allowed to serve.”



Quick response garners teamwork award

The Tobyhanna Army Depot Teamwork Award was presented to a 14-member team for upgrading and delivering more than 40 Modular Autonomous Guidance Units (MAGU) for the Joint Precision Air Drop System (JPADS) in less than 10 days. U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) needed MAGUs to address emergency resupply in its overseas theater of operation. Shop mechanics, logisticians, quality inspectors and engineering representatives completed the job 188 hours under the plan. The air drop systems are used by Air Force cargo aircraft to precisely deliver munitions and humanitarian supplies to areas across CENTCOMs area of responsibility. The depot began the JPADS Fleet Modernization program late in 2012 to fulfill an upgrade request and redesign effort from the product manager. This effort, apart from the JPADS Reset request from the Tank and Armament Command (TACOM), involves more than 1,300 Army systems that consist of a modular redesign with several directorates involved in fabricating brackets, mounts and enclosures, installing key original components and adding new electronics. The TACOM effort, which began in 2014, was established to Reset units returning from overseas. “This is a perfect example of why customers prefer to send assets to Tobyhanna,” said John Stochla, chief of C4ISR Directorate’s Avionics Branch. “The JPADS team understands the criticality of providing this level of flexibility to our customers.” (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)



Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, right, retired April 10 after nearly 35 years of military service. She served as commander of Tobyhanna Army Depot from 2001-2003. (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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Commander, Col. Gerhard P. R. Schröter
Public Affairs Officer, Edwin J. Mickley
Editor, Jacqueline R. Boucher
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TEAM TOBYHANNA

EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONICS®

Employees of the Quarter earn accolades for going above, beyond



Above, Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Brian Sompel performs a daily check of the Fire and Emergency Services Branch primary ambulance to ensure the equipment is in working order. Right, Process Improvement Specialist John Scott explains the purpose and importance of the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate's production control boards to a group during a recent visit. (Photos by Steve Grzedzinski)



by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Two depot employees have been recognized for their service and contributions to Team Tobyhanna.

Brian Sompel and John Scott were recently named Tobyhanna Army Depot Employees of the Quarter in the junior and senior categories, respectively, for the first quarter of 2015.

Sompel, a firefighter and emergency medical technician in the Installation Services Directorate's Fire and Emergency Services Branch, has spent more than a decade at Tobyhanna ensuring the safety of depot personnel. When not responding to fire, emergency medical services and hazardous materiel (HAZMAT) calls on-post and in the local community, Sompel performs building inspections, equipment safety checks and teaches cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/automatic external defibrillator (AED) classes.

"Working here has given me the opportunity to acquire skills in addition to firefighting such as CPR/AED instruction, working as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and teaching the community about fire safety," said Sompel. According to his supervisor, these added responsibilities have transformed Sompel into a role model.

"Sompel's dedication to the depot is an example for all," said Fire Chief A.J. Gilgallon. "He is willing to take on extra duties and projects, and performs all tasks in a professional and respectful manner."

Sompel is certified as a CPR/first-aid instructor. As an instructor, he has saved Tobyhanna thousands of dollars and contributed to the overall safety of the workforce by allowing civilian personnel to receive CPR training at no cost to the depot.

To Sompel, being named an employee of the quarter has taught him a valuable lesson and validated his hard work.

"Having an opportunity to do what you are passionate about should never be taken for granted," he said. "Receiving this award is an honor and I am truly grateful to have been recognized."

Scott, a process improvement specialist in the Continuous Process Improvement Directorate, works hand-in-hand with employees on the shop floor to analyze processes and improve efficiency using continuous improvement methodologies. Once a Lean working environment is established, personnel are taught how to sustain processes and measure them for possible future improvements.

"I don't believe there is such a thing as perfection, but Tobyhanna can continue to succeed into the future by always looking for the next best step," he said.

One of these improvements is the Mixed Model Moving Line (M3L), a flexible assembly line project Scott helped incorporate at the shop level. According to John Nicholoff, chief of the TACSAT Systems Section, Scott's dedication to the project is highly commendable.

"Some employees might have balked at the added responsibilities, but Scott eagerly took on the task and did an excellent job as project manager," said Nicholoff.

Scott's 15 years in a wide range of disciplines at the depot gave him a unique perspective and a great deal of pride. Through it all, he credits those around him for helping shape his career.

"It is an honor to be recognized," said. "It's because of the folks I have worked with during my career that I have learned what I learned, gone where I have gone and climbed to where I am today."

Get ready: Depot verifies information, preps for financial audit

by Ed Mickley
Public Affairs Officer

To meet a congressional mandate, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) directed every branch of the military to be ready for a financial audit in fiscal year 2017. The direction reflects growing pressure on the Pentagon to produce a consolidated financial statement that can withstand the gauntlet of independent auditors.

For Tobyhanna Army Depot, the Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office is leading the charge to meet the Sept. 30, 2016, deadline. Major focus areas consist of real property and equipment but also include timekeeping, inventory controls, payroll and other areas that influence or create an expense or revenue.

All of the Army Materiel Command (AMC) IRAC offices are working together to guide the installations through audit readiness. They are providing training and coordinating monthly testing to

ensure audit-compliance by the deadline.

"This is our highest priority — to be audit-ready and compliant," said Col. Gerhard P.R. Schröter, depot commander. "We're moving toward that, and every step we take, every data call, moves us closer to being prepared for success."

In a nutshell, audit readiness is the step-by-step process to prepare each directorate on how to collect, format, ensure data accuracy and compose their financial data so it's ready to present to an independent auditor when requested. It's the state of being ready at any time to demonstrate that process and financial controls are in place and in accordance with accounting standards.

"We're doing this to make our systems better," said Tom Leahy, IBM consultant. "It adds transparency, makes the depot more accountable, gives a better ability to project forward and the ability to request funds for contingencies."

Achieving a favorable audit will eventually improve system integrity to the extent that DOD will be able to rely on timely and accurate data in all business operations, according to the Army Sustainment website, therefore increasing public confidence in DOD's use of taxpayer dollars.

"Audit Readiness is our future," said Brian Ross, IRAC chief. "It's the process of becoming ready for the financial audits; this is the training, the testing and implementing corrective actions to ensure our controls are in place and operating properly."

It might sound like an easy drill, but the in-depth process involves tight timelines and short suspense deadlines. Typically, a data call from Tobyhanna's higher headquarters is received and reviewed by IRAC staff, then sent to the responsible directorate's subject matter expert. Requested information is researched, collected, compiled, formatted,

**DO YOU COUNT?
(THE ANSWER IS "YES!")**

Strong financial management means we can account for assets and inventory.

Know your role as the Army strengthens its financial operations and prepares for its first successful financial audit.

For more information go to AKO and search "Audit Readiness" 

See AUDIT on Page 6

Off-duty volunteers train, certify to counsel retirees on military benefits

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Editor

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) was the topic of conversation during a two-day training event hosted by Tobyhanna Army Depot. More than a dozen Retirement Services Office (RSO) volunteers from here and Watervliet Arsenal, New York, earned their requisite certification to counsel military retirees on the government annuity.

Tobyhanna's RSO volunteers spend more than 5,000 hours each year helping retirees in 13 Northeastern Pennsylvania counties navigate their military benefit programs.

Election to participate in the SBP is generally made at the time of retirement, although some situations allow a retiree to add coverage after retirement. RSO volunteers are also well versed on the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan and the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan.

"What makes this situation unique is that students volunteered to attend this certification course," said William Hursh, instructor, SBP Policy Proponent and Program Manager for the Army. Explaining that he usually teaches Department of the Army civilians who are SBP counselors to Soldiers getting ready to retire, he said,



From left, Joseph Kurey, John Dennish, Gennaro Nappi, Vincent Talluto and Raymond Smith familiarize themselves with information presented during the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) training event. There are 14 certified SBP counselors who work at the Retirement Services Office. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

"Here volunteers help their community by taking care of retirees, their families and survivors."

The students noted their participation in the course was time well spent; the information presented would help them in their jobs. This was the second time George McDonald attended the certification course.

"I found it [the course] was well attended and what I learned will benefit members

of the Tobyhanna retired community and Reserve component," McDonald said, adding that he was pleased to see depot leaders get involved. "While visiting the classroom they let us know how much they appreciate our work with military retirees."

The students were attentive and asked insightful questions, according to Hursh. The instructor remarked that by attending this course RSO members would be able to

engage in a host of retirement issues.

Tobyhanna's RSO boasts an all volunteer force that maintains office hours every week from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.

Military service appears on everyone's resume, while several include tours of duty during World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Retired officers and enlisted members assist more than 14,000 retirees from all branches of the service.

"These individuals never stop training, learning or improving," said RSO Leader Colleen Gavin. "I'm very proud of our team and know that retirees of all military branches are getting top-notch service at this installation, thanks to them."

John Acciai likes volunteering one day a week at the RSO. "I get to stay current on the things that affect my military retirement," he said, noting that he also likes helping others. "I learned a lot of new things that I can share with people who drop by the office or call on the phone."

The RSO oversees programs that prepare Soldiers and their families for retirement, assist survivors of Soldiers who die on active duty, and serve retired Soldiers, surviving spouses, and their families until death, encourage retired Soldiers to be Soldiers For Life, and improve recruiting and retention.

Deadline nears for veterans bonus

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs reminds Pennsylvania veterans that they have until Aug. 31 to apply for a special one-time payment to honor their service if they served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations from Aug. 2, 1990 – Aug. 31, 1991.

"With only six months left to apply, we are increasing our efforts to spread the word of this bonus to Pennsylvania's veterans of Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm," said Brig. Gen. Jerry Beck, deputy adjutant general for veterans affairs. "We also encourage any veteran who was previously denied for the bonus to reapply."

New applications are required to reopen a claim.

Nearly 11,000 Persian Gulf veterans have applied for the one-time cash bonus program since the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs began accepting applications in 2008.

The bonus pays \$75 per month for qualifying, active-duty service members, up to a \$525 maximum. For personnel whose death was related to illness or injury received in the line of duty in Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm, there is an additional \$5,000 available to the surviving family. Service members who were declared prisoners of war may also be eligible for an additional \$5,000.

In each case, the service member must have:

- Served with the U.S. Armed Forces, a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- Served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 until August 31, 1991, and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal.
- Been a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of active duty service.
- Been discharged from active duty under honorable conditions, if not currently on active duty.
- Received the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

"In order to ensure that every Persian Gulf War Veteran from Pennsylvania receives this well-deserved benefit we encourage everyone to help us spread the word," Beck added.

Individuals who received a bonus or similar compensation from any other state are not eligible for the Pennsylvania program.

For detailed instructions on how to apply, visit www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us. (Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Affairs Office)

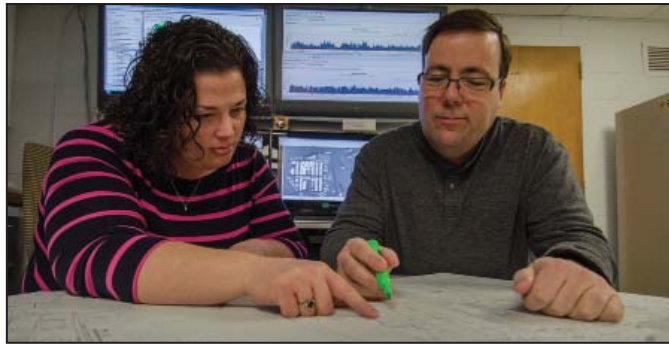


VIPs observe depot capabilities

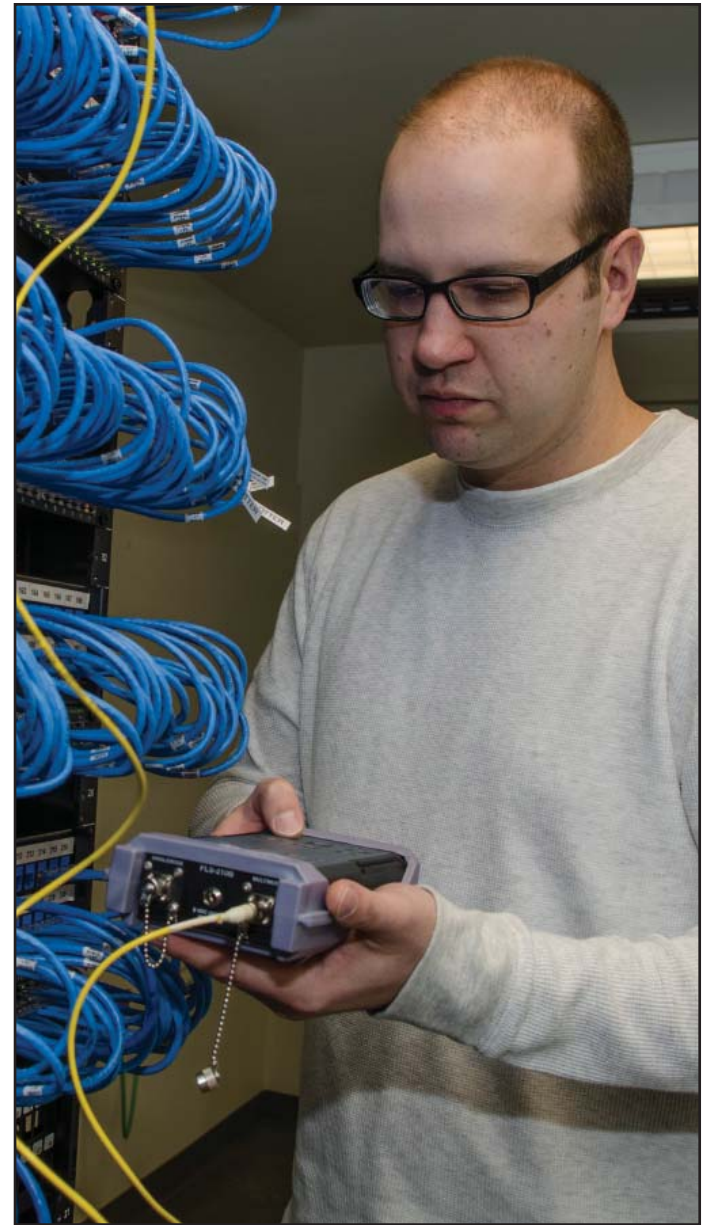
Steven Karl, deputy assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Policy and Logistics, right center, and three Industrial Base Directorate officials from the Pentagon visited Tobyhanna Army Depot April 2. While here, they received a briefing on depot capabilities and toured several mission facilities. Above, Michael Romanczuk (center) discusses the work being performed on the U.S. Navy Rolling Airframe Missile program. Romanczuk is the chief of Tobyhanna's Systems Integration and Support Directorate's C4ISR Finishing Division. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)



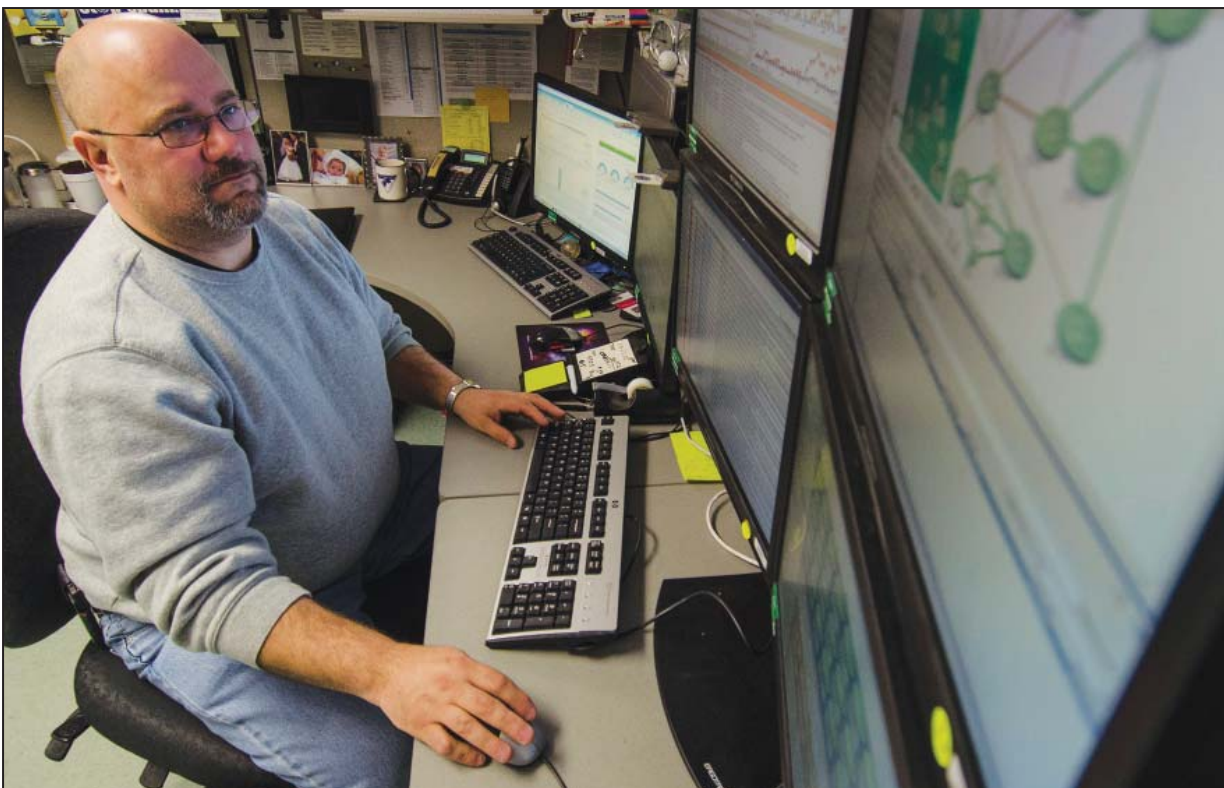
Brandes Jordan, IT specialist (data management), conducts routine maintenance on the Automated Time Attendance and Production System.



Donna Askew, IT specialist (policy and planning/network services), and William Moody, IT specialist (network services), develop strategies for deploying data services into recently renovated space.



Charles Medwetz, IT specialist (network services), uses diagnostic test equipment to test fiber optic cabling.



Donald Martin, information technology (IT) specialist (network services), monitors firewall activity after adjusting configurations to meet customer requirements. (Photos by Steve Grzezdinski)

Network Operations Branch Installation Services Directorate

Personnel assigned to the branch support the Tobyhanna Installation Campus Area Network by identifying effective methods to deliver Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Management services to the depot, tenant activities and Scranton Army Ammunition Plant. Employees manage and maintain the network defense apparatus, which protects all network communications and over 300 network switches that provide data communications services to every occupied building on the depot. Responsibilities also include adjustments to network configurations for reliable and secure data services, plus oversight of 250 wireless access points delivering wireless network services to customers. Additionally, IT specialists maintain ATAAPS, providing time and attendance services to Tobyhanna employees as well as employees from Headquarters Army Materiel Command.



Bernard Gillott, IT specialist (security), surveys wireless network frequencies to identify devices that could threaten depot communications.

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

AROUND THE DEPOT



William Moody monitors network performance to ensure adequate bandwidth is allocated to critical operations.



Michael Cislo, IT specialist (network services), configures wireless access points to support wireless network modernization and expansion efforts.



John Kostiak, IT specialist (systems administration), upgrades key components of the depot's virtual data center.

FINAL NOTICE

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

**Public Affairs Office
updates mailing list
Submission deadline is tomorrow**

The Tobyhanna Army Depot Public Affairs Office is updating the Reporter mailing list. The information provided in the spaces below will be kept on file and updated as needed. Phone-ins and e-mails cannot be accepted.

Mail to: Public Affairs Office, ATTN: EL-TY-PA, Tobyhanna Army Depot, 11 Hap Arnold Blvd, Tobyhanna, PA, 18466-5076. **Those who do not respond will be deleted from the mailing list.** Please print clearly. Only one reply is necessary.

For details, call Jacqueline Boucher, 570-615-8073.

NAME:

STREET:

CITY:

STATE, ZIP:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

SIGNATURE:

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Adopt-A-Highway kicks off soon

The first Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup for 2015 will be April 25. Participants will meet at the corner of Hap Arnold Boulevard and Main Street [near the Scranton Gate] at 8 a.m. Supplies and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call X56560.

Release of information

The Army's rules for releasing information to the public are simple. Any information intended for public release that pertains to military matters or subjects of significant concern must be cleared by appropriate security review using SEL Form 1012 and by the Public Affairs Office prior to release. This includes materials placed on the Internet or released via similar electronic media such as Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms.

PAO streamlines Reporter delivery

The Tobyhanna Reporter newspaper will be delivered to 10 locations: commissary, Exchange, field house, 1A hallway near the breakroom, outside the credit union, Building 20, Building 2 cafeteria, Cafe 4, Building 1A mezzanine, and the intersection of hallways near the tool crib. For details, call X58073.

CAREER MILESTONE



From left, depot commander Col. Gerhard P.R. Schröter, Leonard Zubrickas, Mark Viola, Michael Parrent, and depot Sgt. Maj. Juan Rocha attend the Length of Service ceremony held Mar. 25.

Three Tobyhanna Army Depot employees were recognized for their years of government service during the Length of Service ceremony on Mar. 25.

Michael Parrent — 35 years, chemist, Risk Management Division, Installation Services Directorate.

Leonard Zubrickas — 30 years, communications security custodian, C4 Division, C4ISR Directorate

Mark Viola — 30 years, chief, C4ISR Maintenance Engineer Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

In addition to service certificates and pins, employees with 35 years receive an engraved mantle clock. Those with 30 years receive a framed American flag that includes a photo of the depot.

Depot commander Col. Gerhard P.R. Schröter and depot Sgt. Maj. Juan Rocha presented the awards.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to jacqueline.r.boucher.civ@mail.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Voluntary submission of items constitutes individual's consent to publish personal information in all versions of the *Tobyhanna Reporter*.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin. For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



VAN/CAR POOL

Madisonville/Route 435/Gouldsboro: 2 openings, nonsmoking, A placard, contact Karen, X57450.

Olyphant/Throop/Peckville: 1 opening, door-to-door pickup, contact Andy, X59768.

Hanover/Ashley/White Haven: 1 opening, A placard, nonsmoking, contact Amanda, X56092.

Hawley/Greentown/Newfoundland/South Sterling: 1 opening, nonsmoking, contact Bruce, X58360, or Rose, X55213.

Forest City/Carbondale, Jessup, Dunmore: 1 opening, call Howard, X57607.

Old Forge/Moosic/Taylor: A placard, nonsmoking, house-to-house pickup in Old Forge, contact Joe, X57532, or Jim Serino, X58750.

Carbondale: 1 opening, 5/4/9, A placard, call Bob, X57245.

AUDIT from Page 3

and transmitted back to IRAC where it's reviewed for consistency and accuracy, then sent to higher headquarters for final evaluation by public accountants. The turnaround for information is typically less than five days.

The public accountants review the financial data to ensure it is accurate and meets auditing standards. Each submission is assigned a pass or fail rate (with explanations for failures) then forwarded to AMC, U.S Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) and Tobyhanna. The Army goal is a 95 percent

pass rate. For the next year AMC, CECOM and Tobyhanna will work on developing corrective actions to fix any control issues discovered by the public accountants.

Fortunately, IRAC doesn't have to go it alone. Two IBM consultants, contracted by CECOM are onsite to provide insight, training, and assistance for the data calls, checks, balances and process to ensure the depot data is concise and complete.

Key players include Resource Management, Installation Services and Production Management directorates, Army Contracting Command and the

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, though every employee has a role to play. Employees in each directorate need to have a basic understanding of the steps involved in the preparation for the overall audit whether it comes to inventory controls, real property, timekeeping and leave management, or other areas of concern.

Part two of the Audit Readiness series is scheduled to publish in the May issue of the Reporter. It will focus on how well the depot is doing to achieve a successful pass-fail rate and what the IBM consultants are doing to ensure success.

Act eliminates information barriers

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna Army Depot relies heavily on its internet-based presences to distribute news and information to customers and the public. Part of that process involves ensuring members of the viewing audience with disabilities have access to information on every platform.

In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. Under Section 508, agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.

Tobyhanna ensures its compliance to Section 508 through:

- Software applications and operating systems: includes accessibility to software, e.g., keyboard navigation and focus is supplied by a web browser.
- Web-based intranet and Internet information and applications: assures accessibility to web content, e.g., text description for any visuals so that users with a disability or users that need assistive technology such as screen readers and refreshable Braille displays, can access the content.
- Telecommunications products: addresses accessibility for telecommunications products such as cell phones or voice mail systems. It includes addressing technology compatibility with hearing aids, assistive listening devices and telecommunications devices for the deaf.
- Videos or multimedia products: includes requirements for captioning and audio description of multimedia products such as training or informational multimedia productions.
- Self contained, closed products: products to which end users cannot typically add or connect their own assistive technologies, such as information kiosks, copiers and fax machines. This standard links to the other standards and generally requires that access features be built into these systems.
- Desktop and portable computers: discusses accessibility related to standardized ports, and mechanically operated controls such as keyboards and touch screens.



Tobyhanna is undergoing a massive, multi-year effort to modernize facilities. The \$102 million investment includes everything from replacing thousands of lights to updating nearly 200,000 square feet of industrial and engineering space in the heart of the electronics maintenance complex. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

Multi-million modernization sets stage for future

by Justin Eimers
Assistant Editor

Work to close a “missing link” in Tobyhanna’s modernization plan has begun in Building 1A. The five-phase plan includes an infrastructural overhaul of the building’s water, electrical, heating and sewer systems. The first three phases of the project has kicked off with the demolition of walls in the north office areas and will be followed by the enclosure and mezzanine, estimated to finish in 2017.

Peter Moore, mechanical engineer in the Installation Services Directorate, said that each phase will focus on problem areas identified by the depot over the last decade.

“Since Building 1A was built in the early 1950s, we have made many facelifts but no really major changes to the infrastructure,” he said. “Through surveys and site assessments, we identified the need

to modernize the area to position ourselves for future workloads while maintaining a high quality of work environment.”

Tobyhanna has been authorized \$56 million by the Army Materiel Command (AMC) for the modernization project, which has an estimated price tag of \$46 million. Moore said the remaining funds will be reserved in the event of unforeseen costs, but any unused money will be relinquished back to AMC.

The final two phases of the project include creating a cafeteria space in the current Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment area, and renovation of the Guardrail section behind the enclosure. Both phases are slated for completion in late 2018 or early 2019.

“Tobyhanna is constantly trying to stay ahead of the curve,” said Moore. “We want people to see our state-of-the-art facilities and recognize our effort to serve the warfighter as best as we can.”

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month

A proclamation by the president of the United States of America

Despite great strides in our understanding of mental illness and vast improvements in the dialogue surrounding it, too many still suffer in silence. Tens of millions of Americans face mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia or post-traumatic stress disorder.

During National Mental Health Awareness Month, we reaffirm our commitment to building our understanding of mental illness, increasing access to treatment and ensuring those who are struggling to know they are not alone.

Over the course of a year, one in five adults will experience a mental illness, yet less than half will receive treatment. Because this is unacceptable, my administration is fighting to make mental health care more accessible than ever.

Through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we are extending mental health and substance use disorder benefits and parity protections to over 60 million Americans. Because of the ACA, insurers can no longer deny coverage or charge patients more due to pre-existing health conditions, including mental illness. The ACA also requires health plans to cover recommended preventive services like depression screening and behavioral assessments at no out-of-pocket cost. And under this law, we are expanding services for mental health and substance use disorder

at community health centers across the country.

My administration is also investing in programs that promote mental health among young people. We secured new funding to train teachers to identify and respond to mental illness and to train thousands of mental health professionals to serve students.

And because it is our sacred obligation to give our veterans the support they have earned, we have increased the number of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mental health providers, enhanced VA partnerships with community providers, and improved government coordination on research efforts.

We too often think about mental health differently from other forms of health. Yet like any disease, mental illnesses can be treated — and without help, they can grow worse. That is why we must build an open dialogue that encourages support and respect for those struggling with mental illness. To learn how you can get involved, visit www.MentalHealth.gov. Those seeking immediate help should call 1-800-662-HELP. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline also offers immediate assistance for all Americans, including service members and veterans, at 1-800-273-TALK.

I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health care providers, and research institutions to raise mental health awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives.



April 2015

Month of the Military Child

Proclamation

Whereas, since 1986, Army installations around the world recognize the sacrifices and applaud the courage of military children by celebrating the Month of the Military Child throughout the month of April; and

Whereas, each day, military children undergo unique challenges, which they face with resilience and dignity beyond their years; and

Whereas, it is essential to recognize that military children make significant contributions to the country while dealing with uncertainty and concern for their parents during extended hours and long deployments; and


Whereas, the high demand of Family responsibility that military children accept takes courage and strength as they serve the Nation along with their parents; and


Whereas, our men and women in uniform cannot focus on the missions or challenges ahead if they are concerned about their children at home; and


Whereas, the Army strives to provide a safe, nurturing environment for military children to enable a stronger and more resilient fighting force; and

Whereas, the Month of the Military Child reinforces this concept, reminds the Nation that the Service members' children also serve, and gives communities an opportunity to share their gratitude for the service of military children; and

Now, therefore, We hereby join the Nation in honoring our military children throughout the month of April.


Daniel A. Dailey
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army

Club rebrands image to reflect membership

by Jacqueline Boucher
Editor

The Tobyhanna Women's Club may have changed its name, but the mission remains the same.

Members of the minted Tobyhanna Chautauqua Club are active in a number of charitable projects aimed at supporting the local community. Rebranding the club's goals, message and culture was necessary to appeal to an expanded audience.

Times have changed since the "spouse's club" emerged on the scene more than 40 years ago. Traditionally only military spouses were eligible to join. Today, membership rules have been expanded to include military, civilian, male and female.

"We felt it was time our name reflected our membership," said Lori Giello, club president. "Since our luncheons feature visiting speakers who talk about a variety of subjects, we felt Chautauqua was a good fit. It is an Indian word meaning 'story tellers who traveled from town to town.'"

While raising money for scholarships is the organization's primary mission, other projects include distributing backpacks stuffed with supplies to local students, giving gifts during the holidays, sending cards to Soldiers, and providing hygiene products to the homeless and blankets to veterans. The club also plays an active role in Operation Tails for Troops and the holiday Mitten and Hat Tree event.

Scholarships are awarded annually to depot employees or dependent sons or daughters of a depot employee either employed at the depot, retired, or deceased. Also eligible are sons or daughters of military personnel



assigned or attached to, or residing at Tobyhanna.

The financial assistance is helping Holly work toward her career goal of becoming a physician assistant. She was awarded a scholarship in 2010. In 2014, Holly graduated Temple University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience. She

is studying microbiology at King's College and has applied to several physician assistant schools.

"I have been able to accomplish so much with the help of the scholarship," Holly said. "I am so grateful for being able to further my education."

Kristyn, another scholarship recipient, is a graduate of Lycoming College. She is serving as a federal probation officer in North Carolina. Becky will graduate from the University of Pittsburgh this year. Her follow-on position will be as a staff accountant for an accounting firm in Pennsylvania. Shannon is a third-year cadet at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She plans to graduate with a double major in marine biology and environmental science/management. Her goal is to become a helicopter or C-130 Hercules pilot.

Applicants must be enrolled in an institution of higher education, or expect to be accepted by the same, in an undergraduate program.

Individuals agree to enroll as a full-time student (as defined by the University/High School) during the following academic year (fall through spring terms).

Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible to compete a second time.

For more information, call X57633.

ARMY EARTH DAY 2015

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Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations, Energy & Environment
www.army.mil/asaiee

ARMY EARTH DAY
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of Commerce representatives were on hand to engage in the discussion that covered aspects of the new workload and requirements. The mission includes configuring and installing software patches to remediate information assurance vulnerability alerts for the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Software Engineering Center.

The mission will be transitioned during the next year from contractors working at the Software Engineering Center to the Army's organic industrial base. Tobyhanna is the logical choice due to the technical expertise already situated at the depot.

"The software patches must be loaded into existing weapons system software to prevent the system from being vulnerable to cyber attacks," said Al Borgacci, Mission Support Division chief. "Unlike commercial vendor software patches (such as Microsoft Windows) that are pushed via network access, the weapons systems must be individually accessed, analyzed and updated."

"We're looking for capable people who can think on their feet, initially at the technical level," said Frank Mayer, chief of Cybersecurity at the Software Engineering Center. "But that's just the lead-in. People need to not only be trained, but educated to operate and maintain the weapon systems."

The weapon systems adapt commercial-off-the-shelf hardware and software and integrate it for military use. Expertise is required at all levels; technicians and engineers. Mayer added there's also going to be a need for oversight by managers who understand the systems and can make risk-

assessment decisions concerning issues that surface.

"We know we're not going to find people who understand weapons systems like counter mortar radar, but are looking for people with basic skills," Zardecki said. "And then we'll continue to train them into specific skills — to be state-of-the-art, to understand the technology."

As of right now, the patches are configured and installed on a quarterly or monthly basis, but requirements are accelerating and will be done much more frequently, which

is increasing the demand for trained personnel, Mayer said.

Information presented detailed the recruitment process, typical benefit packages, and salaries that are competitive in the industry and higher than the local average.

Tobyhanna's unparalleled capabilities include full-spectrum support for sustainment, overhaul and repair, fabrication, engineering design and development, systems integration, technology insertion, modification, and global field support to warfighters.



Representatives from 11 local colleges and business organizations were briefed on a new software mission transitioning to Tobyhanna Army Depot. The meeting gave educators a better idea of curriculum changes that would support the new workload. The depot is looking to hire students and graduates who major in select studies. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)