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DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS
Michael Shultz (left), a product specialist in the DLA Product Test Center Electronics Lab, and electronics technician Don Ennis work on loudspeaker units used on Navy ships.

Lab workers correct loudspeaker problem

Navy ship speakers made with defective plastic cones; required change

By Dan Bender
DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

Associates in the Electronics Lab in the DLA Product Test Center spent several days recently fixing 139 loudspeaker units destined for use on Navy ships because they had non-compliant plastic cones installed in them.

The loudspeaker units, each of which contained three six-inch speakers, were sent to the Electronics Lab in Building 11 on the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation for repairs after it was discovered that plastic cones had been installed inside the speakers instead of aluminum alloy cones as required by specifications.

Electronics Lab technician Neil Watkins said the plastic cones were melting when exposed to heat after being installed on Navy ships.

A total of about 12 pallets containing the defective loudspeakers were sent to Columbus for repairs, most of them from a depot at Norfolk, Va., and a few from Sigonella, Italy.

Electronics Lab chief John Elavsky and Mark

PLEASE SEE SPEAKER, PAGE 5

Annual Operations Plan

DLA director visits Columbus for review



DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS
DLA Director Navy Vice Adm. Mark Harnitchek (right) addresses DLA Land and Maritime senior leaders at the start of an Annual Operating Plan Review briefing session March 5 in Columbus. Listening on the left is new DLA Vice Director Ted Case.

By John Foreman
DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs

Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Mark Harnitchek made his second visit to Defense Logistics Agency Land and Maritime and the Defense Supply Center Columbus March 5 to receive an Annual Operations Plan review of the organization's operations.

With him for the visit was new DLA Vice Director Ted Case and senior DLA directors Fred Baillie, Brad Bunn, Jeff Curtis, Phyllisa Goldberg, Robert Foster, Nancy Heimbaugh, Tony Poleo and Fred Pribble.

"It's great to be here in Columbus," Harnitchek said. "Today I'm focused on two big items during this review. The first is covering the basics of Class Nine procurement. We want to raise the bar in regard to customer support, and second to drive the cost out of the enterprise. And that's primarily the cost of material and the

cost of overhead and infrastructure. We really need to find ways to make these big numbers smaller.

"As we get smaller and our demand base gets smaller, people are going to take notice of our cost. That's because we'll be spreading that overhead over a sales base that's getting a whole lot smaller," Harnitchek said.

"If we can hit a lot of homers on ways to save 10 to 20 percent of these big cost numbers, we'll be very easily able to justify the investments that the government makes on all of us," said the admiral.

He added, "I'm never going to ask you to do stuff that I don't think you can do. I've been working in hardware systems in the Navy for a while now. So when I ask you to do some big things, I know you can do it. That's because you are fabulous people and I have the confidence that you can do it."

The admiral then received a

barrage of briefings concerning DLA Land and Maritime initiatives that were centered on the DLA Director's Guidance.

The briefings focused on DLA Land and Maritime initiatives which enhanced Director's Guidance principles in inventory management excellence, acquisition agility, support of the warfighter, support of industrial activities, material cost reduction, workforce development, Base Realignment and Closure actions, procurement process improvement, and protecting the supply chain.

In closing the review, Harnitchek said, "When I talk to the customers in the field, they're pretty happy. Land and Maritime is doing great and I'm poised to watch you do some great things. I'm sure that you're going to be hitting more homers in the future. I'll help you whenever I can and the rest of the time I'll stay out of your way. Thanks for what you're doing."



DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS
DFAS Columbus Site Director Martha Smith receives a gavel from DLA Land and Maritime Deputy Commander James McClagherty, signifying her assumption of the role as chair of the Federal Executive Association of Columbus and Central Ohio for the coming year.

DFAS Columbus takes reins of FEA for coming year

From the DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

The rotating leadership of the Federal Executive Association of Columbus and Central Ohio will reside with Defense Finance and Accounting Service Columbus for the coming year.

During a March 1 ceremony, outgoing chair James McClagherty, deputy commander of DLA Land and Maritime, handed the FEA gavel to Martha Smith, DFAS Columbus site director.

As chair, Smith will lead an organization whose purpose is to improve coordination of activities involving federal agencies within Columbus and the central Ohio area. This includes providing a forum for the implementation of government-wide goals and objectives, and mutually beneficial programs, and increasing the community's awareness of the positive impacts of the Columbus area federal workforce.

Smith said she is happy to be leading the organization and involved with a worthwhile cause, stating

PLEASE SEE FEA, PAGE 3

Local Army Reserve unit visits mosque to learn about Muslim culture

By Army Master Sgt. Dave Johnson
412th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Columbus, Ohio

DUBLIN, Ohio - Any day that Army Reserve soldiers get the chance to build stronger community relations is a good day.

The 412th Civil Affairs Battalion's Bravo Company, an Army Reserve unit based on the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation, visited the Noor Islamic Cultural Center and mosque Feb. 26 to learn about different customs and bridge potential cultural gaps.

What made this training enticing and valuable for the Ohio residents was the chance to learn more about a cultural environment that they may encounter if they should deploy



PHOTO BY VAL MINOR
Army Capt. Patrick Seaman, commander of Army Reserve 412th Civil Affairs Battalion's Bravo Company, shakes hands with Shakeel Muhammad, a member of Noor Islamic Cultural Center, at the beginning of his unit's Feb. 26 visit to the Noor Islamic Cultural Center in Dublin, Ohio.

again.

That morning, the 412th soldiers prepared for this mission by rehearsing and practicing, using the same troop lead-

ing procedures they do with all their training. They followed the commander's operation order and drove their HUMVEEs to the mosque.

Army 1st Sgt. Kenneth Bell conducted a formation once they arrived.

Once Bell dismissed the troops, the male soldiers changed their headgear from their combat helmets to maroon berets, while the female unit members put on scarves, known as hijabs.

All of the soldiers transitioned from tactical to learning mode, then they entered the mosque to learn about what typically transpires inside.

The emphasis of this cultural interaction between Army soldiers and the members of the mosque, unit leaders said, was to break down any cultural barriers and for each side to teach and learn from the other.

"This training is a two-way street," said Army Capt. Patrick

Seaman, commander of Bravo Company. "It shows the Muslim immigrant community that American soldiers are human beings, not faceless uniforms. And, Seaman added, "Training in a real mosque gives our soldiers a better understanding of the Muslim world."

Traditionally, civil affairs-trained service members act as a bridge between local cultures and a unit commander working in a province or area where American soldiers find themselves deployed.

"As civil affairs soldiers, our job is to serve as the cultural advisors to the supported unit commander," Seaman said. "This training will enhance our abilities to operate effectively

PLEASE SEE MOSQUE, PAGE 5

Military Matters

Military moves within the next 6 months

Military moves within the next six months at DLA Land and Maritime will include seven arrivals, 10 departures and four retirements.

New to DLA Land and Maritime will be Navy Lt. j.g. Nicholas Mader, arriving in March; Navy Capt. Deric Turner, Army Capt. Jason Meade, Navy Lt. Cmdrs. Joshua Heivly, Scott

Logan and Jerry Powell, and Air Force Master Sgt. Chris Sandlin will arrive in June.

Scheduled to depart DLA Land and Maritime in May are Navy Capt. Roland Wadge, assigned to DLA Land and Maritime Strategic Acquisition Programs; Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Murphy, assigned to DLA Maritime Customer Oper-

ations; Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Sierra, assigned to DLA Land Customer Operations. Air Force Col. Christine Erlewine, assigned to DLA Land Supplier Operations; Marine Corps Maj. David Laughlin, Commander, DLA Albany; Army Lt. Col. James Godfrey, assigned to DLA Land Customer Operations; Army Maj. Eric Rodino,

assigned to DLA Land Supplier Operations; and Navy Lt. Daniel Maldonado III, NACO intern, will depart in June/July. Navy Cmdr. Jay Tucker, assigned to DLA Maritime Supplier Operations, and Army Lt. Col. Aaron Fitzsimmons, assigned to DLA Land Customer Operations, will depart in August.

Retirements include Navy

Cmdr. William Nash, former commander of DLA Norfolk, who will officially retire in May, the same time as Air Force Capt. Robert LoMonaco, assigned to DLA Land Supplier Operations, and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Craig Powell, assigned to DLA Norfolk. Army Col. Ryan Kivett, DLA Land and Maritime Chief of Staff, will retire in June.

Obituaries

Raymond Edward Blackwell

Raymond Edward Blackwell, 81, died Feb. 28. Mr. Blackwell served in the U.S. Air Force and retired from DCSC after 50 years of service.

Helen J. Delancey

Helen J. Delancey, 78, of Newark, died Feb. 22 at Arlington Nursing Home. Ms. Delancey was a former Newark Air Force Base employee.

Orville Dusenbery

Orville Dusenbery, 91, of Newark, died March 2 at the Ridgewood at Friendship Village in Columbus. Mr. Dusenbery served in the U.S. Army during World War II and retired from Newark Air Force Base, where he worked in the Metrology Department.

William Clifford Ibaugh III

William Clifford Ibaugh III, 63, of Camp Hill, died March 4 at his home. Mr. Ibaugh was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam and retired from the Defense Logistics Agency.

Richard Leo Lawrence

Richard Leo Lawrence, 83, died Feb. 28 at home. Mr. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, worked for several years at the VA Hospital in Dayton, and retired from DCSC, where he worked as a supply tech.

Alfred E. Scott Jr.

Alfred E. Scott Jr., 80 died Feb. 15 at Hospice of Dayton. Mr. Scott was retired from DESC.

Robert R. Williams

Robert R. Williams, 78, died Feb. 22 at The Ross Heart Center. Mr. Williams was retired from DCSC.

Army Reserve soldiers celebrate ball with OSU football great



PHOTO BY ARMY STAFF SGT. ALEXIS FELICIANO

Archie Griffin (second from right), college football's only two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy when he played for the Ohio State Buckeyes, was the keynote speaker at the Army Reserve 412th Civil Affairs Battalion's annual Military Ball held Jan. 28 at Columbus Country Club. Presenting 412th plaque of appreciation to Griffin are (from left) Spec. Christopher Corder, Sgt. 1st Class Chad Clark and Maj. Paco Moreira, all of whom are Ohio State University graduates. Battalion commander Army Lt. Col. David Volkman is in the background, behind the plaque.

Briefs

Installation associates can call for weather info

Associates on the Defense Supply Center Columbus installation are reminded to call 614-692-1800 in the event of adverse weather conditions for updates on the status of the installation's operation.

If the center's operation is impacted due to weather, an update will be available at that number by 4 a.m.

Ohio CPAs offering tax help to military

The Ohio Society of CPAs is offering free tax preparation services to Ohio military families this tax season.

From January through April,

It's A Date

March 2012

- WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- MARCH 16** – Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Building 20, Pod C basement
- MARCH 17** – St. Patrick's Day
- MARCH 20** – First day of spring
- MARCH 30** – American Red Cross blood drive, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Building 20, Pod C basement

April 2012

- CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
- APRIL 1** – April Fool's Day
- APRIL 6** – Good Friday
- APRIL 8** – Easter Sunday
- APRIL 13** – Armed Services Blood Program blood drive, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Building 20, Pod C basement
- APRIL 22** – Earth Day
- APRIL 25** – Administrative Professionals Day

Ohio certified public accountants will volunteer to prepare 2011 tax returns for military personnel who are permanent residents of Ohio and currently deployed outside of the state.

Operation CPA is a partnership with the Ohio National

Guard, and provides a valuable service to help ease the burden of deployment on Ohio military families.

To find an Operation CPA volunteer, call The Ohio Society of CPAs toll-free at 888-959-1212 or email

cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com.

Hall of Fame nominations sought

Nominations are now being accepted for the DLA Land and Maritime Hall of Fame, which honors past associates for exceptional leadership, service, dedication to duty, and contributions to supporting the mission. Former associates of DSCC, Defense Construction Supply Center, Defense Electronics Supply Center and other DLA entities housed on the DSCC installation are eligible.

For more information, call Deb Perry at 614-692-5018. The nomination deadline is March 21 and the induction ceremony is scheduled for May 30.

Land and Maritime associates graduate from master's program

By L. Hampton

DLA Strategic Communications

Two Defense Logistics Agency Land and Maritime employees are putting the master of business administration degrees they earned in a Defense Department program focused on logistics to good work in their day-to-day duties.

Sherrie Culbertson, a supervisory procurement analyst for DLA Land and Maritime, and Carmen Pillitteri, a contracting officer, completed the Department of Defense Center of Excellence in Logistics and Technology MBA Degree Program, which included residencies at the University of North Carolina and a degree from Indiana University.

The leader of the long-term contract and the transformation branches of DLA Land and Maritime's Systems and Procedures Division, Culbertson said the LOGTECH program, which included time overseas, had a well-rounded and robust curriculum.

"The overseas residency in Asia taught us so much about the global logistics and intricacies of global supply chain management far beyond what I could have imagined or



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LEFT: Sherrie Culbertson, a supervisory procurement analyst for DLA Land and Maritime, stands with Mark Kramer, president of the Institute for Defense and Business, and DLA Director Navy Vice Adm. Mark Harnitcheck during graduation. **RIGHT:** Carmen Pillitteri (center), a supervisory procurement analyst for DLA Land and Maritime, stands with Kramer and Navy Vice Adm. Harnitcheck during graduation.

learned from exposure to the U.S. facilities and cultures," Culbertson said.

Culbertson said she believes that DLA will benefit from her completion of the LOGTECH MBA program.

"I believe I can contribute more in terms of program management and leadership, but also in the areas of innovative process design, in the procurement and logistics process areas," she said.

The top three things Culbertson learned from the program were effective communication skills, effective collaboration and team building skills, and global logistics best practices, she said.

"As a giant in the global logistics arena, DLA should

be able to benefit significantly through best practices and new services being offered by commercial transportation, storage and shipping industries," Culbertson said.

Pillitteri said he uses his procurement and database systems experience to troubleshoot reporting processes within DLA Land and Maritime. He described his LOGTECH MBA experience as an intensive and sometimes stressful program.

"The LOGTECH MBA will continue to prove its worth in dollars and sweat equity spent," Pillitteri said. "Its online nature added to the convenience of completing the program, but also led to an always connected feeling that,

even after two years in the program, I have not quite learned how to manage and turn off."

Pillitteri stated that the learning environment will be a key benefit to DLA because the corporate-focused program allows graduates to bring corporate best practices back to government.

"Learning in a corporate, rather than government-focused environment, LOGTECH MBA alumni are better able to understand the ramifications of DoD and local policies on our suppliers," Pillitteri said. "This leads to better negotiators, especially as we move toward a cost-cutting environment where every decision must be weighed to determine if it will add to material or service costs."

The top three things that Pillitteri learned from the program were logistics and workflow management theories, virtual environment collaboration and time management, he said.

"It would have been impossible to get through this program alone. Respecting the time of your teammates and clearly communicating how much time I had to give was a key ingredient in maintaining a happy and productive team," Pillitteri

said.

Culbertson and Pillitteri were part of the last LOGTECH MBA class. Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management is DoD's new academic partner for the program, and the degree will now be a master of science, said Patricia Proctor, program manager for executive development and professional enhancement in DLA Human Resources.

The new two-year program is designed to meet the educational needs of the logistics community. Its curriculum consists of Web-based courses complemented by intensive on-site residencies, virtual residencies and a 10-day international residency focused on global logistics and the supply chain industry. Participants are required to complete a master's thesis.

Nominations for the program are solicited annually. Nominations for the 2012-2014 program are due May 2. Information about the LOGTECH Master of Science Degree Program and the nomination process can be found on the DLA Human Resources website or by contacting Proctor at 703-767-8108, DSN 427-8108, or patricia.proctor@dla.mil.

Speaker discusses four generations of workers currently in workforce

By Dan Bender

DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

Finding common ground is important to successfully meld four different generations of employees who are currently part of the American workforce, a local college professor said recently at DLA Land and Maritime.

Anna Parkman, an associate professor of business at Ohio Dominican University, discussed “The Multi-Generational Workforce” during a Feb. 15 appearance in the Building 20 auditorium sponsored by the DLA Land and Maritime Culture Council.

Her presentation focused on the characteristics of each generation, the seminal or defining events that shaped each one, and the attitudes and values that each brings to the workplace.

She noted that more than 60 years separate the oldest workers and those just entering the workforce, but cautioned that “there are a lot of generalizations going on when you start



Anna Parkman, an associate professor of business at Ohio Dominican University, discusses “The Multi-Generational Workforce” during a Feb. 15 presentation in the Building 20 auditorium sponsored by the DLA Land and Maritime Culture Council.

DLA PHOTO BY LAURA SANMIGUEL-FEARING

talking about generations.

“Like anything else, it’s important to find common ground,” Parkman said. “Of course, life and work experiences shape us, and where we are in our career.”

She listed the four generations currently in the workforce as “veterans,” workers age 68-91, of whom there are 52 million and who comprise 5 percent of the workforce, “baby boomers,” 78 million people generally in their 50s and 60s who comprise 43 percent of the

workforce, “Generation Xers,” 40 million people generally in their 30s and 40s who comprise 42 percent of the workforce, and the “millennials,” 72 million people born since 1980 who comprise 10 percent of the workforce.

Parkman said baby boomers, who are often described as “self-absorbed,” have had to compete for everything through their lives, love technology and are optimistic and driven to succeed, while Generation Xers tend to rely on themselves, are

pragmatic and technosavvy, and were the first generation sociologists predicted would not do as well as their parents. Millennials are world-wise, realistic and media saturated, were raised predominantly in dual income families and are very scheduled.

To foster better communication between the generations, Parkman advised being clear and specific.

“Don’t assume somebody understands what you want, check and make sure,” she stated.

One source of conflict is that older workers are not necessarily retiring when they become eligible “and younger workers are very mindful of that,” Parkman said.

DLA Land and Maritime Deputy Commander James McLaugherty thanked Parkman for raising attendees’ awareness of the generational differences in the workforce and how to overcome them.

“Thank you for sharing your perspective and helping our cultural awareness grow,” he said.

FEA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the FEA is a premier leader across central Ohio.

The FEA sponsors the annual Excellence in Government Service Awards luncheon and essay contest during Public Service Recognition Week in May, along with the Excellence Conference in November, and oversees the Local Federal Coordinating Committee that runs the Combined Federal Campaign each year.

FEA also sponsors outings for federal employees at Columbus Clippers baseball games and Columbus Crew soccer games, as well as a host of other activities.

Smith, who has 28 years of federal government experience, recently returned to Columbus to serve as DFAS Columbus site director, coming from her position as DFAS Cleveland site director. She previously served as deputy director of DFAS Columbus from February 2003 until her appointment to DFAS Cleveland in January 2006.

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Nine nominees up for Woman of the Year award

From the DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

Nine women from the central Ohio Defense Federal Community are vying for the annual Woman of the Year award that will be announced at this year's Women's History Month luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, at the Whitehall Community Center.

The nominees for the Woman of the Year are DLA Land and Maritime associates Tanya R. Merritt of Land Supplier Operations, Patricia A. Shields of Maritime Supplier Operations, Karen Boyles of



Vickie Person, guest speaker

Woman of the Year nominees



Tanya R. Merritt



Patricia A. Shields



Karen Boyles



Janis Bryant



Navy Chief Petty Officer Ebony Pinnock



Foronda S. Hall



Xandra Y. Wilson



Mary E. Moore



Diane Malys

the Strategic Acquisition Programs directorate, Janis Bryant of Land Customer Operations and Navy Chief Petty Officer Ebony Pinnock of DLA Maritime Pearl Harbor, Foronda S. Hall of DLA Installation Support and Defense Finance and Accounting Service Columbus employees Xandra Y. Wil-

son, Mary E. Moore and Diane Malys.

The theme for this year's observance of Women's History Month is "Women's Education - Women's Empowerment."

Tickets for this year's Women's History Month Luncheon are on sale for \$15 each

through March 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Building 20 cafeteria.

The guest speaker this year is Vickie Person, assistant professor at Governors State University in University Park, Ill. Person received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University and

her master's degree in educational leadership from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill. She also received her doctorate degree in ethical leadership from Olivet Nazarene.

For more information on the luncheon or tickets, call Debra Hobbs at 614-692-5263.

Acquisition specialist recognized as Associate of the Month

By Tony D'Elia

DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

An acquisition specialist who propelled his team past its annual demand value goal was recently selected Associate of the Month at DLA Land and Maritime.

Erik Minshall, a contracting officer for the Tactical Vehicle Support Division in Land Supplier Operations, recently received the honor for the month of September from DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell K. Williams.

Minshall's team exceeded its annual demand value goal by 4 percent, which amounts to almost \$1.8 million with 45 days still left in the performance cycle. Meanwhile, the three-year DLA Land and Maritime associate balanced the demands of seven long-term contracts and more than 60 purchase

requests. In addition, he completed reviews of contracts from nine fellow team members, all in support of a variety of military vehicles.

Minshall's efforts contributed to a 35 percent reduction of unfilled orders and a reduction of 5 percent of unfilled orders greater than 180 days.

According to his supervisor, Kenneth Abrams, Minshall is a consummate team player who took the lead in absorbing additional workload following the loss of personnel due to promotions. He assumed the added role of trainer and production buyer and quickly identified risks and coordinated mitigation strategies to ensure that goals remained on target for attainment. The team not only met the monthly production goal but exceeded it by completing 308 manual contract actions totaling more than \$29



Erik Minshall, an acquisition specialist in Land Supplier Operations, receives the Associate of the Month award certificate for September from DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams during a Feb. 23 presentation at Minshall's work station.

DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS

million for the year. Minshall accounted for 61 contract actions totaling more than \$351,000 in simplified acquisitions.

When a recent requirement for a cylinder assembly item surfaced with 427 lines of backorders involving 3,335 parts, Minshall jumped into action. He quickly located 1,980 pieces for the customer and was able to set up delivery times from 15 to 70 days. The final result was a long-term contract to car-

ry customers through the rest of 2012.

Minshall, a Jonathan Alder High School graduate who went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration, also earned praise in his new role as acquisition trainer and contract reviewer under the disciplined production control strategy.

The central Ohio resident is a veteran of eight years in the Air National Guard.

Maritime supply planner selected Associate of the Month

By Dan Bender

DLA Land and Maritime Public Affairs Office

A supply planner who works on the Active Devices team in Maritime Supplier Operations has been recognized as the DLA Land and Maritime Associate of the Month for November.

Van Rome was recognized by DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams during a Feb. 15 Director's Call in the Building 20 auditorium for his work in support of the warfighter.

Rome, a DLA employee for three years, was recognized for being a team player and a top performer.

"Van distinguishes himself in customer support, intuitively possessing the soft skills that elicit positive support," his supervisor, Vernace Anderson, stated in his nomination.



Van Rome, a supply planner in Maritime Supplier Operations, receives the Associate of the Month award certificate for November from DLA Land and Maritime Commander Army Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams.

DLA PHOTO BY LAURA SANMIGUEL-FEARING

"He receives numerous accolades and kudos from customers for his assistance with improved PR award times, better deliveries and savings to the customer."

Rome was also recognized for taking on management of a high-visibility fluid regulating valve that supports the FA-18 aircraft program and that had been on the Top 200 Backorder Report for more than two years. He worked through "a myriad of issues" to

improve support and render the item "well;" it is no longer on the backorder report, according to Anderson.

Rome, who served in the Marine Corps for 18 months before being medically discharged due to an injury, said he is grateful for the opportunity to work for DLA and thanked Anderson and his co-workers for their support.

"It is the best career I have ever had," he said. "I would like to give hon-

or to God, who is the head of my life. Without Him, this award would not be possible."

Rome was also lauded for his commitment to team effort through his membership on the Supply Planning Working Group and to the safety of his peers. He is a "safety buddy" for a team member who is mobility impaired.

Rome has an associate degree in business management from Columbus State Community College. In his spare time, he volunteers as a coach for his son's soccer, basketball and golf teams.

Recycling manager is DS-FC Associate of Month



DLA PHOTO BY LAURA SANMIGUEL-FEARING

MWR Recycling Program manager Robert Thompson (right) receives the DLA Installation Support at Columbus Associate of the Month Award for November from site director Kenny Youn.

By Tony D'Elia
DLA Land and Maritime
Public Affairs Office

Material handler leader Robert Thompson, the MWR Recycling Program manager who was instrumental in the successful "Shred Day," was recently awarded the DLA Installation Support at Columbus Associate of the Month Award for November.

During the Nov. 15 MWR Shred Day, associates were able to safely dispose of more than 2½ tons of personal documents, CDs and paper waste. It was estimated that the one-day event saved 44 trees, 18,000

gallons of water, 12,400 kilowatt hours of energy, and 258 cubic yards of landfill space.

A central Ohio native, Thompson came to DSCC three and a half years ago after retiring from the Ohio State University Department of Physical Facilities, where he served for 30 years. He holds an associate degree in business management from Columbus State Community College and is a graduate of St. Francis DeSales High School.

Thompson and his staff work out of Building 16, near the old "Box Shop," where they have rearranged the building's layout to allow for a dedicated

plastic and aluminum recycling annex to complement the existing paper and cardboard recycling operation. He has also cross-trained his staff and re-located recycling pick-up spots for smoother operation in collecting the installation's used white paper, plastic bottles and caps, aluminum cans, newspapers and cardboard.

Thompson and his staff maintain recycle bins found throughout the installation in cafeterias, break rooms and freight elevator rooms. Proceeds from the MWR Recycling Program help to support MWR facilities, programs and events.

Mosque

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Middle Eastern areas."

The educational interaction between the Reserve soldiers and members of the mosque lasted three hours. During that time, many people from the mosque came forward to speak with the service members.

Some of the children who were at the mosque sought out soldiers to ask what civil affairs soldiers do and what opportunities the Army offers.

Seaman postulated the initiative to train his soldiers at a mosque when he assumed command late last year—an idea that is unique compared to everyday training.

"I pushed the idea up our chain of command and I got it approved," Seaman said.

One part of the captain's training plan includes interaction with



PHOTO BY VAL MINOR

Noor Islamic Cultural Center outreach coordinator Jeri Milburn (standing left), wearing all black traditional Muslim attire, speaks with women's group as her daughter Madison Russell (standing right) listens. Seated are (from left) Lubna Ibrahim, Zeenath Sheikh, Army Sgt. Leah Fitch and Army Spec. Tara Campbell.

local residents. The other is to provide his soldiers the knowledge and the means to communicate with people in the Islamic and Arabic phraseology when they are deployed.

Many members in the 412th have deployed to Islamic countries around the world, but meeting with civilians in a conversational setting facilitates a better understanding of Islam and diverse cultures, some soldiers said.

"I learned a lot," said Staff Sgt. Jason Alm. "I deployed to Iraq, but I need to know more about the other Islamic countries. Noor is a great resource for our soldiers."

"This event helps the people at Noor, and it helps the troops who are young, and have not yet traveled overseas," said Asim Haque, a Noor member who serves on its board of directors. "This opportunity today

gives them a comfort level when entering a mosque."

Haque is Muslim and a Columbus, Ohio, native.

"It is our civic duty to provide education to our American soldiers, to give them knowledge about different cultures in Islam. This will help them when they are overseas," he said.

"The doors are always open for people to learn about Islam," said Jeri Milburn, the outreach coordinator for Noor.

The Noor center offers many activities and learning opportunities.

"Noor is a cultural center that has a mosque within it," emphasized Haque. "We are much more than just a mosque."

Seaman selected Noor as a viable training option because of its large, diverse immigrant population.

"Noor has mostly immigrant members," Haque said. "Immigrants from many different countries are the largest group. Our

second biggest group is first generation, American-born Muslims; third is converts who join."

"This interaction brings a comfort level to troops when they are interacting with Muslims," Haque continued.

The soldiers and the volunteers with whom they met have a lot more in common than they first thought.

"I learned a lot about our similarities," said Spec. Dallas Dent. "The volunteer I worked with is a high school senior. His family was the only Muslim family in his community in Kentucky when 9-11 happened. It was hard on his family."

Dent stressed he has learned much to help him with future deployments.

"My volunteer was well versed in Islam, and he

pointed how very similar the religious doctrine is to Christianity," Dent said. "I left the mosque shocked with how similar we are."

Specialist Curtis Hale, who hasn't deployed as a civil affairs soldier yet, said, "This training helped me sit down with somebody from a different religion and learn about our differences and similarities. We have much more in common than I thought."

At the conclusion, soldiers and Noor members said goodbyes, exchanged cell phone pictures and mentioned one subject near and dear to central Ohio — at least in the hearts and minds of the Soldiers.

"Go Bucks," said Haque, an Ohio State University alum.

Speaker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hill, a product assurance specialist in Maritime Supplier Operations, said the defective loudspeakers had been in depot stock for quite awhile and that DLA agreed to fix them instead of having to scrap them due to the defective cones.

"We agreed that we could rework these units and get them fixed before shipping them back to the depots," Watkins said. "We are trying to get everyone in the lab involved."

"It's a fairly simple problem to fix and by doing it ourselves, it saves DLA from having to re-procure them and



DLA PHOTO BY CHUCK MORRIS

A total of 139 loudspeaker units like this one were repaired by associates in the Electronics Lab. Each of the three units in the foreground was removed and the defective plastic cones inside them replaced with metal cones before being electrically tested to ensure functionality.

allows us to keep these in stock for future use," Elavsky said.

Hill said the National Stock Number for the loudspeaker unit has been added to the Customer Return Initiative

List in case more are found in depot stock in the future.

He and Watkins thanked Operations Support associate Annette Seman for her assistance in obtaining the materi-

als needed to make the repairs.

During the four-day period it took to fix the units, groups of five or six Electronics Lab associates worked two-hour shifts fixing the loudspeaker units.

It took about a half hour to unscrew the metal casing on each unit, remove the defective cones and replace them with the correct cones supplied by the manufacturer, put the unit back together and do a quick functional test before repackaging it.

"It's something a little different," electronics technician Don Ennis said. "We're all taking shifts so everybody gets a chance to come in and do something a little different."

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