Postmarks

Compiled by Gil High

From Army Posts Around the World

SSG Clarence Allen Jr.

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Mannheim, Germany

Testers Save Time, Money and Lives

THE General Support Center-Europe's Mannheim Laboratory Center performs an integral function in the 21st Theater Support Command — the Army Oil Analysis Program. The 26 Army civilian employees at the Mannheim Lab and contractor-operated labs in Bamberg, Germany, and Tuzla, Bosnia, test more than 150,000 samples each year.

"The oil-analysis program works the same way that a physical examination works for a human being," said James Cohill, the U.S. Army, Europe, AOAP director. "The doctor can take a blood test, and from that he can tell you many things about your body and what needs corrective medicine. Likewise, based on what we find in oil, we can tell you if it's contaminated from an external source or an internal source such as your cooling system or your fuel system."

Testers look for many different substances in the oil, including metals, additives and other contaminates. Metal deposits in oil, for example, indicate that excessive wear is taking place inside a particular component. That deposit will uniquely identify the metallic internal part from which it is made.

"This is how we can tell if it's coming from the crankshaft, bearings, rings or other moving parts," Cohill said.

There are thousands of pieces of equipment in the USAREUR inventory that can be tested, from tactical vehicles and combat equipment to power generators.

"Just in oil changes alone — not mentioning the instances where we detected impending failure and took corrective action — the labs at Mannheim, Bamberg and Tuzla saved somewhere around $11 million dollars in 1998," Cohill said. "However, aviation feedback is where we realize most of our maintenance-cost avoidance. Those savings are well over $40 million."

Another area of expertise within the GSC-E Mannheim Laboratory Center is material testing, which covers a broad spectrum of functions from chemical analysis and adhesive strength tests, to analysis of projectiles found at crime scenes.

"This is where we ensure that contractors are delivering merchandise or material that meets certain military specifications," Cohill said. "The material-testing lab is also capable of conducting tests to identify unmarked or abandoned chemicals."

The material-testing side of the GSC-E lab has its most direct impact by ensuring product serviceability. If the results of a test reveal that a particular product is unserviceable, the item is immediately removed from stock. The material testing lab can also determine the shelf life of a particular product and whether or not shelf life can be extended. — *SSG Clarence Allen Jr., 21st Theater Support Command Public Affairs Office*

Vicksburg, Miss.

Engineers on the Web

IN too many cases students have role models from business and government visiting their classrooms only at special times such as "career days." Here, they can just push a button to talk to someone who can describe a career field or help with a science project.

"Last year we asked a panel of teachers what we could do to help them in the classroom," said Michael Logue, public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District. "They wanted student and teacher access to our people through the Internet."

The result was the Contact-A-Professional page on the district's website, where students and teachers can communicate directly with experts using e-mail. The page features USACE experts in all of its wide range of occupations, ranging

from archeologists to engineers. Topics discussed range from bank stabilization to wetlands.

"Literally every career field we have is there," Logue said. Some employees even included hobbies that might interest students.

"There are a lot of Internet websites that are primarily for show, but this is something that is going to be very meaningful," said Ed Wong, a Vicksburg High School social studies teacher who was a part of the teacher focus group. "I am really astounded at how large and how diverse the Corps is as far as occupations go."

"I have looked at a lot of web pages, and I have not seen anything like this to date," Logue said.

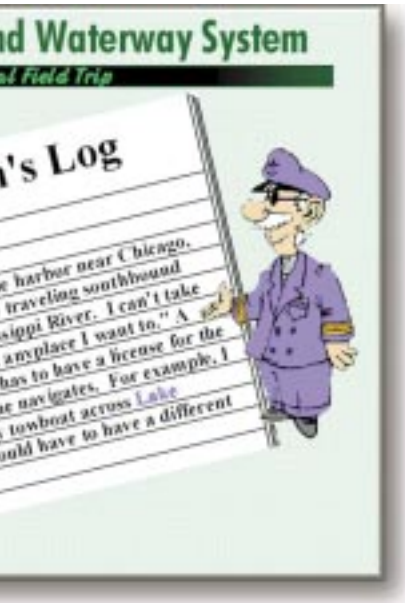
Wong, who works with the Corps to sponsor the popular Mississippi River Studies course, said the website would be used not only locally, but also all over the world.

"Last year I was contacted by an elementary class in Australia, which was studying the Mississippi River. Now, they hook up with a Vicksburg District expert on anything they want to know about the river," he said.

The District plans to continue increasing its Internet services for educators.

"Now they can e-mail us and tell us what would help them most in the classroom," Logue said. "They usually ask for things that cost little but enhance a lot."

Future plans for the website include an electronic trip down the river and other river-related links. To view the site as it is today, visit **www.mvk.usace.army.mil/pao/teachers.htm**. – *USACE, Vicksburg District PAO*



The Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District website connects to lessons and activities for students of all ages.

Garmisch, Germany

Program Graduates 1,000th Inspector

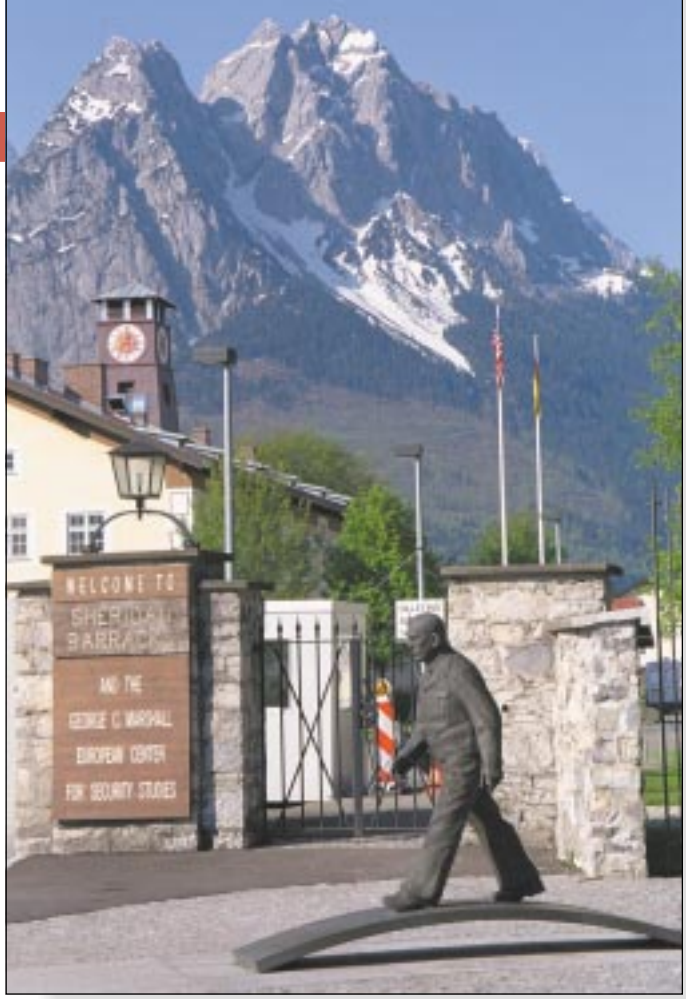
THE Marshall Center's Arms Control Language Program, an integral part of the Foreign Language Training Center, Europe, recently graduated its 1,000th course participant.

Designed to reinforce understanding of specialized terminology critical for treaty verification, the 2-week course is attended by military and civilian representatives from 11 NATO and non-NATO nations.

In 1992 a major barrier to trust between former Cold War adversaries was lifted when 27 nations signed the Treaty on Open Skies, allowing former military enemies to conduct aerial observations of each other's territories.

The Marshall Center's Arms Control Language Program focuses on this and other treaties to improve relations between East and West. These include the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty to reduce the threat of massive conventional offensive strike possibilities in Europe, the Vienna Document of 1994 for the evaluation of military facilities and operations among members of the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, and the Intermediate–Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

"Our program has steadily gained a reputation in the international community for intensive and high-quality language training required to understand very specific terminology and ensure verification of treaties designed to create a more stable security environment," said Dr. Valery A. Golovko, program manager for specialized language programs. "While we are delighted to have reached the milestone of graduating our 1,000th inspector, we look forward to continuing our efforts to broader openness, cooperation, and mutual trust across the world." — *M.K. Eder, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies*



The Marshall Center for Security Studies is recognized for its intensive, high-quality language training.

Camp Casey, South Korea

2nd ID Awarded Korean Citation

THE 2nd Infantry Division was recently awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation by President Kim Dae-Jung.

Kim recognized the division for making significant contributions to the development of the Republic of Korea army, for strengthening the ROK/U.S. Combined Forces Command and for enhancing the relationship with communities near division installations.

Kim lauded the division and the ROK/U.S. coalition and partnership that he described as "the world's strongest combined defense posture." — *2nd Inf. Div. PAO*