

NTSSC This Week



Natick Soldier Systems Center Public Affairs Office

Inside:

A Few Good Meals

Via Outlines AMC Priorities

Natick Wins IMCOM Honors

USARIEM Soldier Earns Award



Reaching Out

Medal of Honor recipient
visits Natick



Publisher's Note

John Harlow
USAG-Natick and NSSC Chief of Public Affairs

Telling the Natick story ...

It is a great day for the Public Affairs staff and contributors. *NSSC This Week* earned first place in the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition. Next week, a panel of judges will pick the best newsletter in the Army, and I believe that we have a good shot at winning.

This couldn't be done without some outstanding writers, designers and photographers.

Bob Reinert, Tazanyia Mouton, Kelly Sullivan and Alexandra Foran have done an amazing job telling the many stories that impact the Natick Soldier Systems Center. From the USARIEM study in Norway, to how the Marathon Bombing affected our workers to Capt. Justin Fitch's battle against cancer and to help save the lives of Soldiers and Veterans through "Carry the Fallen," there has been a lot covered, and every story has been told professionally and has an impact.

Phil Fujawa has taken this newsletter to the next level. When we started *NSSC This Week*, it was links to five stories over the previous two weeks. Now it is something special. It is a product we are proud of.

Dave Kamm has used his camera to catch some special shots of some special people and has helped bring the stories our writers tell to life.

It is an honor to be a part of this team.

Tazanyia Mouton also won an individual Keith L. Ware for her video news story of Gen. Odierno's visit to NSSC. A special thanks to Rob Hawley for his videography and editing to make it an award-winning story.

Tazanyia is leaving us soon to continue her DA Internship at the Defense Information School. I know she will do well at the Public Affairs Course and at the Pentagon, and we look forward to her coming back this fall.

She has done a great job in her time here. From her work telling stories, to the special emphasis programs, to helping with Family and MWR events, Tazanyia has made an impact on the Natick community and a great impact on the Public Affairs Office.

Thanks for reading the great work by some great people, and have a fantastic day.

John Harlow
USAG-Natick and NSSC Chief of Public Affairs



Table of Contents

February 28, 2014

NSSC This Week

Within the Gates

Monthly Caregiver Support Group

Are you following the most important rule of caregiving ... taking care of yourself first?

Join elder care consultant Sherrie Whittemore to discuss the issues, challenges and solutions of being a working caregiver.

The program will run on the second Tuesday of each month, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the ACS Conference Room. Registration is not required.

For more information, contact Lauren Anzivino at lauren.m.anzivino.civ@mail.mil or (508) 233-4946.

Upcoming Events

Mohegan Sun Trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund will offer a trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino & Resort on Thursday, March 6.

The trip will begin at 8 a.m. and will return to NSSC at 5:30 p.m. The \$30 cost, due at registration, includes transportation, a \$15 food voucher and \$15 in casino slot play.

Registration deadline is March 3. Contact Janice Kopacz at ext. 4205.

Red Sox-Yankees Tickets

The 2014 baseball season will be here soon.

The Civilian Welfare Fund still has tickets to see your 2013 World Series Champions, the Boston Red Sox, take on their arch nemeses, the New York Yankees, at Yankee Stadium, Saturday, April 12.

For \$105 you will get transportation to and from the game, you will arrive an hour early to view warm-ups, and you will get reserved seating.

The trip departs at 7:30 a.m. and should return to NSSC sometime around 8 p.m.

The ticket deadline is Feb. 28. For more information, call Janice Kopacz at ext. 4205.

Photo: Allan Jung / MetroWest Daily News



Reaching Out

Photo: Gunnery Sgt. John R. Beck, U.S. Marine Corps



A Few Good Meals



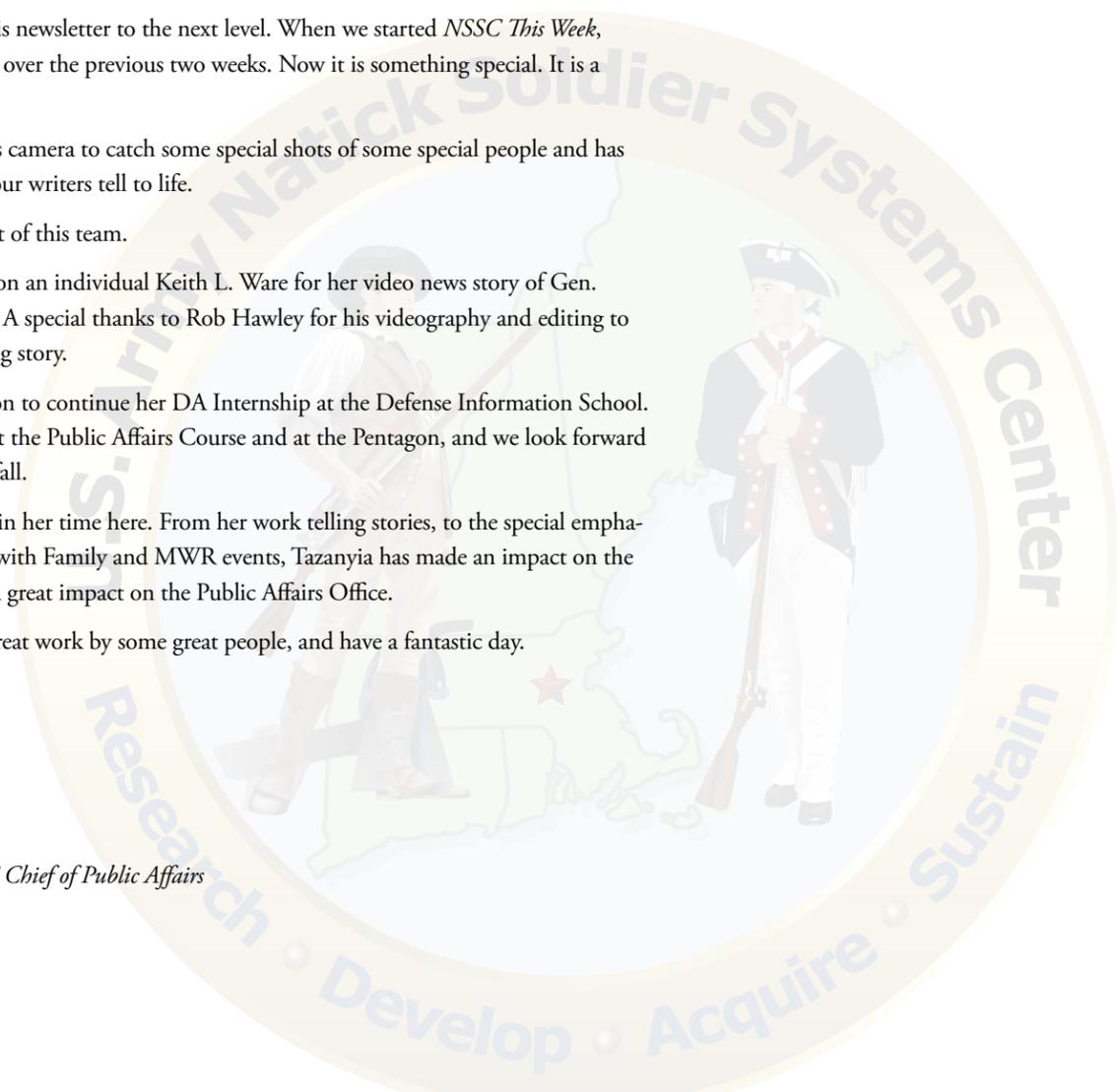
Natick Wins IMCOM Honors



Via Outlines AMC Priorities



USARIEM Soldier Earns Award





REACHING OUT

Medal of Honor recipient visits Natick

Jane Benson, NSRDEC Public Affairs / NATICK, Mass. (Feb. 20, 2014)

Staff Sgt. Ty Carter has two words for Soldiers suffering from PTSD: “Get help.” The Medal of Honor recipient brought this message to the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center on Feb. 19.

Carter developed PTSD after his experiences at Combat Outpost Keating, where he said every day was “like the Wild Wild West.” Firefights were a constant, and on Oct. 3, 2009, conditions escalated to the extreme when more than 300 anti-Afghan forces attempted to overrun the outpost.

Despite his many heroic actions during the battle, Carter was haunted by the fact that he wasn’t able to save his friend, Spc. Stephan Mace. He no longer felt equipped to save a life, and he felt like a failure.

“I lost faith in who I was and what I was doing,” Carter said.

At first he resisted getting treatment for PTSD and had misconceptions about the condition. It isn’t really a disorder, Carter pointed out, it is a learning mechanism to help us avoid danger. It can become problematic, however, following extreme trauma.

He said seeking counseling and going through counseling is a difficult process, but it is the only way to heal, and it is the only way you can help yourself and help others.

“Education is the only thing that can end the stigma,” said Carter.

While telling his story, Carter was visibly emotional and said when he thinks of Oct. 3, he thinks about the guys – their families, their determination and the trust between Soldiers.

Carter mentioned the Advanced Combat Helmet during his talk in Hunter Auditorium, which was attended by nearly 450 NSRDEC employees. He recounted how the ACH saved Sgt. Bradley D. Larson from sniper fire.

“For those of you who worked on the product, thank you for saving his life,” Carter said.

Because Larson survived, he was able to provide fire cover and give Carter direction. Carter credits Larson’s survival with his own.

Ever modest, Carter shared some lighthearted stories, as well. He recounted that during the Medal of Honor ceremony, he focused primarily on not passing out. When President Barack Obama called to tell him he had earned the medal, Carter was vacationing with his family in a camper his wife bought for five dollars.

Carter said although the medal is given to a few, the reality is that a firefight is like a football team. One section doesn’t function without the other.

“I’m no different than any of you guys,” Carter told Natick Soldiers during lunch. “We all have the potential. You can follow your heart and do great things.”

“There will always be hard times. It is our ability to adapt and be resilient that matters. We all make mistakes, but it is our ability to learn from them that will make us a better person.”

Carter has something in common with many of NSRDEC’s Soldiers. Early in his Army career, he served for two days as a Human Research Volunteer in the Doriot Climatic Chambers in 2008. He then left when he heard that his unit was being deployed.

During his visit, Carter toured NSRDEC’s unique research facilities and learned about the organization’s many products that improve the safety and quality of life of the nation’s Soldiers.

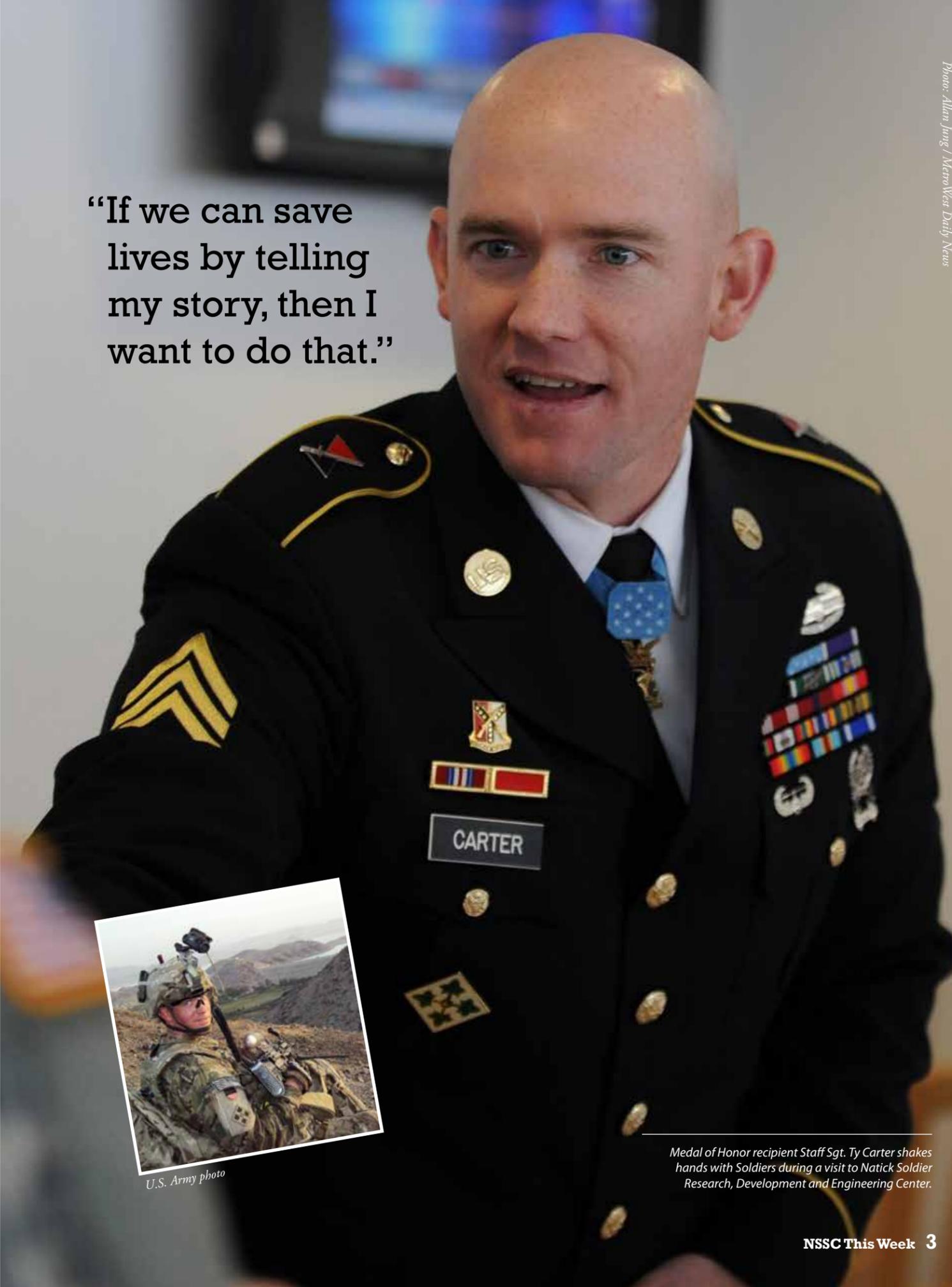
Carter said that visiting Natick gave him insight into how much work goes into the development and testing of equipment to make sure Soldiers are combat ready.

“You’d be amazed how important these pieces of equipment are,” Carter said.

“All of you are choosing to help those who serve,” he told the NSRDEC workforce.

“You here at Natick Labs create the future.”

“If we can save lives by telling my story, then I want to do that.”



U.S. Army photo

Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. Ty Carter shakes hands with Soldiers during a visit to Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Photo: Allan Jung / MetroWest Daily News



Looking for a few good meals

By Bob Reinert, USAG-Natick Public Affairs / NATICK, Mass. (Feb. 24, 2014)



The Marines were looking for a few good meals. Paul Mandile and other members of the Natick Soldier Research,

Development & Engineering Center's Combat Feeding Directorate helped deliver them.

The Combat Feeding Directorate, or CFD's Systems Equipment & Engineering Team has helped the Marines develop and procure the Expeditionary Field Kitchen, or EFK, which is designed to provide welcome hot food to as many as 750 forward-deployed warfighters within three hours, including cleanup.

"They love it," Mandile said. "It's a significant morale booster for the Marines in the field. It gives them a hot meal capability that is significantly more mobile, durable and sustainable than their previous large-scale feeding platform."

The EFK, which comes in a two-sided, expandable 20-foot-long, by 8-foot-high, by 8-foot-wide ISO container mounted on the Marine Corps MCC20 trailer, can prepare and serve any of the Unitized Group Ration meals developed by CFD. It eliminates the need to transport hot food over long distances to remote locations.

"Marines are all about being expeditionary," Mandile said. "They truly do move. The EFK, complemented by the other combat field feeding systems in the Marine Corps, meets the Corps' operational field feeding and mobility requirements by land, sea, and air. Meeting all the Marine Corps expeditionary requirements presented a significant challenge to CFD. Military Field Kitchens, believe it or not, encompass a lot of different engineering disciplines."

The first production the EFK was delivered in late 2012 to the Marines, who aim to acquire 109 EFKs in total. Sixty-one have already been fielded to date.

"Each EFK is run by four personnel and a supervisor, and its appliances operate from JP-8 fuel," Mandile said. "There are seven burners and seven major appliances in the EFK. The EFK's appliance suite provides the Marine cooks with the flexibility to roast, bake, grill, boil, braise, poach, and stew food items.

The EFK program has been a cooperative effort between Natick's CFD, the Natick Contracting Division, Headquarters Marine Corps, and Product Manager Combat Support Equipment, or PdM-CSE, Marine Corps Systems Command. PdM-CSE has life-cycle management responsibilities for all Marine Corps Combat Field Feeding equipment and Shelter products, and they also provide guidance to Combat Feeding to ensure all research, development and engineering support efforts are fully coordinated.

"It's definitely a partnership," Mandile said. "I'm on the phone with the PdM-CSE's Product Manager and Marine user on a daily basis addressing production, logistical sustainment, and fielding support challenges. Combat Feeding has the lead engineering-support role for Marine Corps Field Food Service Equipment, and the Natick Contracting Division is managing EFK production contract. We're supporting PdM-CSE's fielding of these systems to Marines worldwide. It's truly a team effort."

As Mandile pointed out, the Marines aren't much for using base camps. They maneuver and fight.



"It's all about running and gunning in small units and moving," Mandile said.

The Marines, at some point, want an alternative energy, heat-on-the-move capability. With that in mind, the Marines have identified a field feeding goal of reducing or eliminating their dependence on fossil fuels, which ultimately equates to fewer combat logistic patrols and, as a result, fewer casualties. In addition to the EFK, CFD has several other ongoing research and development efforts to meet their expeditionary mission and reduce the need for fossil fuels and fuel resupply missions.

"Our mission is to provide them with cutting-edge (research and development) in the field food service equipment arena that gives the Marines an enhanced field feeding capability, better quality food, and a significant morale boost," said Mandile, "all while working to reduce cook burdens and the Marine Corps total life cycle costs."

Via Outlines Priorities

Commander presents 'AMC Perspective' at Winter AUSA

By Kelly DeWitt, AMC Public Affairs / HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (Feb. 20, 2014)

Army Materiel Command's top leader began the discussion Feb. 19, at the 2014 Association of the United States Army Institute of Land Warfare Winter Symposium and Exposition by emphasizing the suitability of this year's theme to the current status of the Army.

"The theme for this year's symposium is 'America's Army: Sustaining, training, and equipping for the future,' and I think it is very appropriate," said Gen. Dennis L. Via, the commander of Army Materiel Command, known as AMC, during remarks to the symposium audience.

"As our Army continues its transition in Afghanistan, we must simultaneously prepare our Army for the next contingency — for this we can be sure, as history has taught us all too well, there will be a future contingency somewhere in the world that will require 'boots on the ground,'" Via said. "Our forces must be ready, trained and equipped to meet that contingency when the nation calls. Our nation expects, and deserves, nothing less."

According to Via, diminishing fiscal resources and growing threats drive three priorities for AMC.

"We must continue to modernize our equipment; we must continue to sustain the force of today; and we must continue to develop capabilities and technologies that will give our Soldiers the decisive advantage to meet — and defeat — any potential future enemies," he said.

During his remarks to the audience of nearly 3,500, Via provided AMC's perspective on how that decisive advantage is being maintained.

"AMC remains a global materiel powerhouse — providing predictive readiness to our Army and the joint force. Our nine major subordinate commands continue to provide the Soldier world-class support each and every day," he added.

During his remarks, Via took the opportunity to showcase several of AMC's leap-ahead technologies that unburden, protect, empower and sustain the Joint Warfighter.

Female Soldiers demonstrated both the Army Combat Uniform - Alternate and the Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest. Both pieces of gear were designed to improve mobility, increase comfort and performance, and enhance survivability for female Soldiers.

A Soldier also demonstrated the Helmet Electronics and Display System — Upgradeable Protection, known as "HEADS-UP," during the presentation. "It provides mounted and dismounted troops with a more fully integrated headgear system with new technologies including improved ballistic materials, non-ballistic impact liner materials and designs, better eye, face, and hearing protection, and improved communications.

Many of the technologies Via discussed were also on display at the Army booth at the exposition, including the newly-developed Meals Ready to Eat Pizza.

"These materiel solutions that I've just highlighted are but a glance into what our AMC engineers and scientists are researching and developing, and a glimpse of what's possible in the future as we move toward Force 2025 and beyond," Via said.

"Working in partnership with industry and academia, along with a sustained level of resourcing, I'm confident we can maintain the technological edge that will produce the next generation in vertical lift, ground vehicle, night vision advancement, and over-match capabilities in our next weapon systems, all while protecting and preserving what our Army has worked so hard to achieve over the past decade," Via said.

"As we support the Soldier of the future, we must strive to discover the leap-ahead technologies which will allow our Army to maintain its technological edge," Via said. "The Army and AMC, along with the help of every industry partner here today must continue to ensure our top priority remains providing the Joint Warfighter the equipment and materiel they need to accomplish their mission.

"Everything we do now and into the future must have this singular focus," he continued. "The Joint Warfighter, and the civilians who support them, are depending on us for our success."

Gen. Dennis L. Via, commander of Army Materiel Command, briefs the AMC Perspective at the 2014 Winter AUSA Symposium and Exposition in Huntsville, Ala.



Photos: AMC Public Affairs



USAG-Natick Public Affairs Office wins IMCOM honors

By Bob Reinert, USAG-Natick Public Affairs / NATICK, Mass.

The U.S. Army Garrison Natick Public Affairs Office won a pair of first place awards in the 2013 Installation Management Command CONUS Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Awards Competition.

NSSC This Week, USAG-Natick's biweekly newspaper, won in print Category C, Digital Publication. Tazanyia Mouton took an individual first in broadcast Category J, Video News Report.

The annual competition "recognizes Soldiers and Department of the Army civilian employees for excellence in achieving the objectives of the Army Public Affairs Program. On behalf of the Secretary of the Army, the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs conducts the competition annually in order to recognize, cultivate and inspire excellence within the Army public affairs community."

The newsletter and Mouton's video report advance to the Department of the Army competition, where they will compete against winners from other commands. Judging will take place March 1-7.

"I'm very happy with the news of our success in the Keith L. Ware competition," said Lt. Col. Brian Greata, USAG-Natick garrison commander. "It reflects the quality of work done by the Public Affairs Office. I'm confident that their submissions will compete well at the Department of the Army level."

It was the third IMCOM honor in as many years for *NSSC This Week*, which placed first in 2011 and third in 2012.

"It speaks to the great people who put out *NSSC This Week*," said John Harlow, Natick's chief of Public Affairs. "I truly believe we could pick any issue and compete. We have a great group of storytellers and because of them, we are able to share the Natick story with the world."

Natick's winning entry was the Nov. 22 issue, whose cover story was the visit by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno. It also contained stories about Veterans Day, the POW/MIA chair installed at Natick, NSSC's clothing drive for homeless veterans, shelters that PM FSS will erect in Guam, and Capt. Justin Fitch's efforts to raise funds to prevent suicides among veterans.

Mouton's award-winning entry, which used videography by Rob Hawley, was a report on Odierno's visit.

"Tazanyia has done nothing but impress since she came to Natick," Harlow said. "It is very rare that a Department of the Army Intern wins a Keith L. Ware. She not only has earned recognition for her video work, but played a key role in the advancement of the newsletter. Her career path is going to skyrocket."

This year's IMCOM CONUS competition featured 127 submissions vying in 36 print, broadcast and community relations categories.

USARIEM Soldier earns award

By Kelly Field, USARIEM Public Affairs / Natick, Mass. (Feb. 24, 2014)

Sgt. Crystal Meints from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine was recently selected as the 2013 U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Equal Opportunity Leader of the Year.

Meints, a veterinary technician, manages USARIEM's EO program, which follows the Army's EO program mission to direct, communicate and sustain a broad effort to ensure nondiscriminatory treatment for military personnel, their family members and civilians regardless of race, color, gender, religion or national origin, and provide an environment free of unlawful discrimination and offensive behavior.

"I am honored to be selected as MRMC's EOL of the Year," said Meints. "My biggest goal with this program is to always foster a climate where everyone feels free to communicate their concerns and most importantly where everyone is treated fairly and with dignity and respect."

Meints was selected because of her oversight of USARIEM's EO program, which received admirable scores during recent MRMC and U.S. Army Medical Command EO inspections along with an essay about the values of EOL and the EO program to the unit and mission readiness.

Meints was selected from a pool of 55 other EOLS within the MRMC region. She is currently competing for the MEDCOM EOL of the Year. The results have not been posted.

"From the time I got here, it was clear that Sergeant Meints constantly goes above and beyond for our EO program," said Master Sgt. Miguel Chacon, USARIEM's senior enlisted leader. "She has owned this program and has made an amazing impact, which has resulted in a great work environment for USARIEM."

Her numerous accomplishments include training approximately 200

Soldiers within and outside the organization in various aspects of the EO program, leading planning committees for installation and USARIEM Special Ethnic Observances and conducting multiple surveys to identify and communicate key issues within the command.

"Serving as an EOL for USARIEM has been so valuable to me," said Meints. "It is so incredibly important for me to be the eyes and ears for the commander and to have a pulse on things here. If something is happening to a person regardless of who they are, my main focus is to give them all their options and assist them throughout the process in helping them to find the best possible solution."

Meints encourages anyone who has questions or concerns about the EO program at USARIEM to contact her. "I am here for all Soldiers, Civilians, and their family members" Meints said. "I am here for everyone, even if it is just to guide them in the right direction or lend a listening ear."



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NSSC This Week

NSSC

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Garrison Commander

Lt. Col. Brian Greata

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Beausoleil

Public Affairs Officer

John Harlow

NSSC Social Media Sites

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Twitter: <http://twitter.com/natickssc>

About this newsletter

NSSC This Week is a biweekly newsletter covering NSSC news within the Army and commercial media.

NSSC This Week is maintained by the USAG-Natick Public Affairs Office.

Art Direction by Philip Fujawa, NSRDEC Strategic Communications.

Photos by David Kamm unless otherwise noted.

To subscribe to *NSSC This Week*, please contact Bob Reinert at robert.j.reinert.civ@mail.mil.

On the Web: www.army.mil/natick

