

# TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

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MAY 6, 2008

## NEWS NOTES

### Tunnel closed

The underground tunnel connecting buildings 1A and 11 is closed until further notice.

The tunnel will be closed from the Credit Union in Building 11 to the stairwell in Building 1A. All Building 11 offices and operations located on the first floor, including the Credit Union and cafeteria, will remain open throughout the construction.

Workers will be renovating the tunnel to include sealing exterior walls, new steam lines, sprinklers, interior wall finishes, floors, lights and ceiling. Construction is expected to last 160 days.

Personnel traveling between buildings should use the ground level entrances and exits to Building 11, including the deck entrance by the softball field which leads into the rear of the main cafeteria. The health clinic can be accessed by using the stairwell located at the far end of Wing B (LOGSA PSCC).

As the project progresses, additional excavation work will be required from the main entrance of Building 11 extending across Myer Street to Building 1A. The Public Works Directorate will provide details of any additional road, sidewalk or entrance closures required to support this work.

### New York trips set for June

The Civilian Welfare Council is sponsoring bus trips to New York City on June 22. The trip provides an opportunity for employees to shop and sightsee, or see the Broadway production of Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein."

Cost is \$20 for the shopping trip and \$65 for the show. The 2-hour 40-minute show will be held at the Hilton Theatre on 213 West 42nd Street and starts at 3 p.m.

The bus will pick up employees in the Main Parking Lot at 7:30 a.m. The drop off point is near 49th Street and pick up is at 6 p.m. in the same area.

For information, reservations and payments, contact the One Stop Shop, X58851. Payment is due at the time of reservation. The One Stop Shop is located in the Main Cafeteria in Building 11.

See NOTES on Page 8

## Repair teams ready thousands of SINGGARS radios for deployment

by Anthony Ricchiazzi  
Editor

Technicians here have repaired nearly 10,000 Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems in support of the Communications Electronics Evaluation Repair Teams (CEER-T) program.

CEER Teams of three to six SINGGARS technicians from the SINGGARS Branch, Communications Systems Directorate, have been to Forts Drum (N.Y.) Richardson (Alaska), Bliss (Texas), Bragg (N.C.), and Schofield Barracks (Hawaii).

Tobyhanna CEER-T teams from the Laser/Image Optics Branch also repair night vision systems such as the AN/PVS-4 night vision scope for the M-16 assault rifle (see April 1 Reporter article, Page 1).

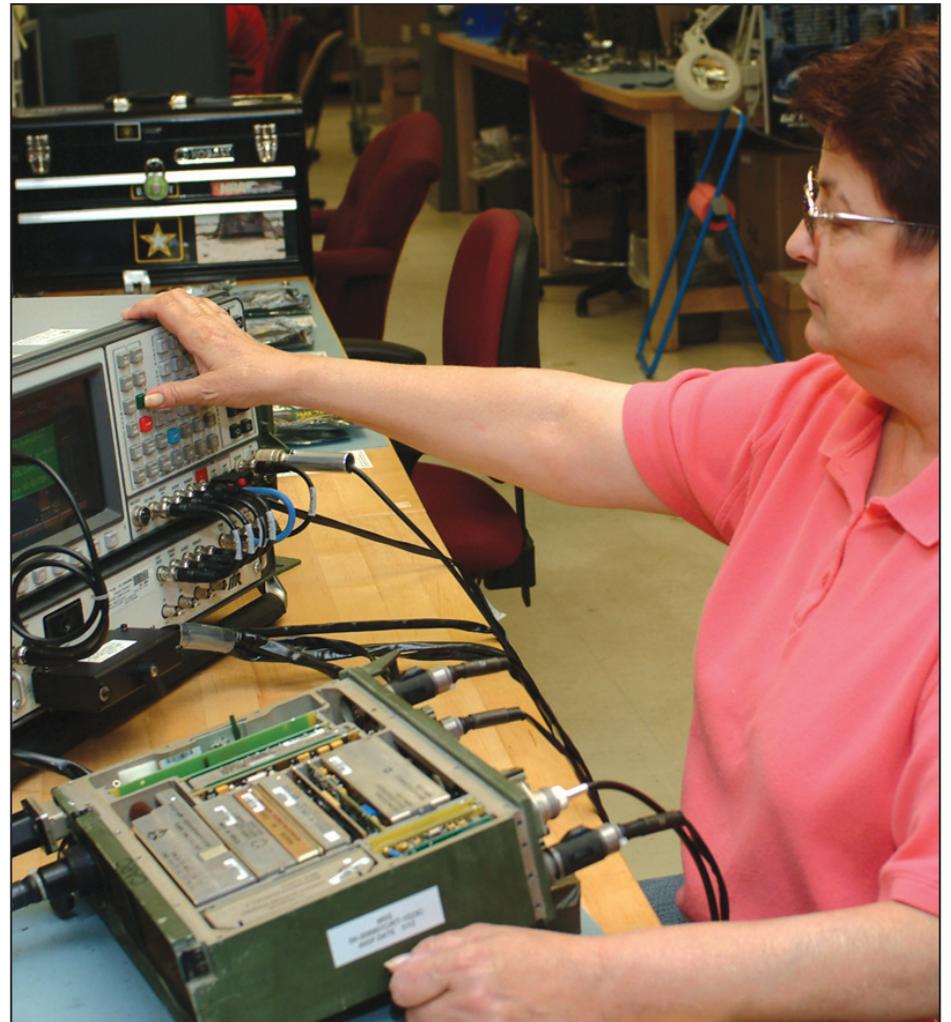
"Like the Image Optics Branch teams, our teams are testing and repairing the radios to return them to the 10-20 standard, the Army Maintenance Standard, which ensures Army equipment is able to perform its wartime mission," said John MacCartney, branch chief.

MacCartney explained that the Army has recently adopted a two-level maintenance concept, Field and Sustainment, in which CEER-T technicians are performing field-level repairs to meet the Army's requirements.

"The CEER-T program was developed to have good operational equipment available for our warfighters to train on when they return from deployment and get them to Fully Mission Capable status prior to future deployments," MacCartney said. "Units returning from the fight send their equipment to co-located installation maintenance sites to support their Reset requirements.

"CEER-T technicians are on site at those installations to support quicker turnaround of equipment than if the equipment is sent to Tobyhanna."

Radios are tested and repaired onsite, and reinstalled into vehicles, MacCartney said. The technicians are supported



Zandra Kuligowski, electronics mechanic, uses the GRM-122A to perform diagnostics testing on a Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System. Technicians doing similar work at other installations have tested and repaired thousands of the radios to ready them for deploying Soldiers. (Photo by Tony Medici)

by CEER-T site leaders from the U.S. Army CECOM Life Cycle Management Command. Components repaired included the power amp, the auxiliary power amp, displays and cables.

Don Suckstorff, electronics mechanic leader, says the work, while straightforward, can provide surprises.

"We went to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii expecting a 45-day mission in support of the 25th Infantry Division, but the division needed an accelerated schedule, plus they needed help reintegrating the radios into vehicles and upgrading the software of

some of the radios," he said.

The mission deadline was shortened by 12 days, so the technicians worked 12-hour days starting Jan. 24 to prepare hundreds of pieces of equipment for the division.

"We finished on Feb. 20, six days ahead of schedule," Suckstorff said. "The 25th was very pleased with our work. An important technique we used was to not work on holidays so teams would not be separated. They could work as a cohesive team if they worked the exact same days."

He noted that technicians repaired 120 to 140 components a day.

Younger generation shown possible future here

Page 3

TOCFEST showcases future of joint communications

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Depot earns second 'Save the Planet' award

Page 7

## EMPLOYEE VIEWPOINT

There has been something on my mind that I've wanted to tell you for some time now. Somehow it never quite seemed appropriate, so I've been putting it off – until now. Before we get to that, though, let me tell you what changed my mind.

Things are pretty interesting or boring in de-mil, I guess, depending on your perspective. Some of us are quiet and some of us are noisy. We talk or listen to music while we work, always keeping in mind that we're here to do a job effectively in support of the warfighter. Occasionally, some may make a little more noise than usual and I think whatever their motivation, maybe they do it just because they can.

Well, today, we were running out of those antenna amp things I'm working on. So I thought: OK, I'll work on that dirty one because I want to do my share of the undesirable units. Surprisingly, it wasn't too bad inside—just a bad fan bearing that banged up the unit somewhat. Funny, though, all the fan bearings were bad. Anyway, I stripped it down and processed all the material.

Then I found the hole. Then I found the shrapnel.

Finally it dawned on me, this wasn't a dirty unit. It had been through hell and it wasn't alone.

They tell me that these units are usually de-miled in the field. However, this unit has reaffirmed my commitment to the warfighter and strangely enough, it reaffirms my commitment on why I dress and act the way I do. Because I'm free, so I can. I wear the sunglasses because my baby blues are sensitive to light and I wear the strange hat because I'm not into sports hats.

That's how I protest. To some degree, I believe in some isolationism and a little more stability at home. I know we have to fight terrorism and the bad guys, but I think a little more attention to political policies would help the situation.

Do I support the warfighter? You bet I do, because they support my protest and my ability to be who I am.

So—the next time you see me, you can roll your eyes and wonder or smile at my protest. Because you can—you're free too.

Thank you—to the warfighter.

Name withheld by request

# Every day is a like parade

by Lt. Col. Brian Schooley  
Misawa Air Base, Japan

When I was going through Officer Training School, my commander told us that every day was a parade.

People were watching us. They were judging us. They were expecting us to always be sharp and focused. Any breach of protocol or breakdown in discipline would be noticed, and from which perceptions could be drawn concerning our character, potential and worthiness.

He was right. Every day did seem like a parade.

With close to 24 years in the military, I have discovered “every day parades” are not solely owned by basic training, commissioning programs and professional military education. Our actions, attitudes and behaviors are constantly under review—whether you are the lowest ranking member or the commander.

What you say and do, as well as the manner in which you carry yourself, speaks volumes to those around you—up and down the chain. It may not always be the message you want transmitted.

Again, any breach of protocol or breakdown in discipline is usually noticed. On the other hand, so too, is excellence.

When I was at my first duty assignment in

Guam, I worked in outbound assignments. It was a job I loved. Every two months, I would give mass assignment briefings to several hundred people. Providing these members all the needed information and helping them get their permanent change of station orders quickly was my mission, and based on feedback, I was doing pretty well.

I was motivated. I was confident, and I was a hard worker. Based on further feedback, I also learned I was cocky. That was certainly not a perception I wanted to broadcast to those around me.

My mentor sat me down and gave me a lesson on humility. He said there was a fine line between confidence and arrogance. Before I stepped too far over that line, he said I needed to fine tune my behavior; not necessarily my work ethic. People were watching.

The parade has never stopped since. Perceptions are drawn from my words, my facial expressions, the tone or length of my e-mails, even how fast or slow I am walking. I don't own those perceptions—I can only help shape them. The same is true for you. Simply being aware people are watching is a good start. Your words, actions and behaviors make significant impressions on those around you—even when you don't know they're looking. Yes, every day is a parade.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOUR MOTHER TAUGHT YOU THAT YOU STILL USE TODAY?



“Keep a smile on your face and that will make your day.”

**Kimberley Anderson**  
Resource Management  
Directorate



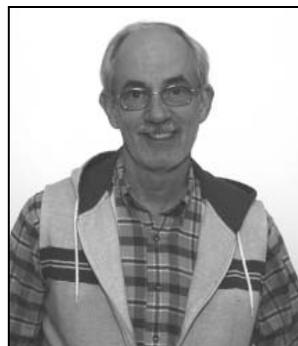
“Some of the most important things I'll always remember are to take care of your family and friends, know right from wrong, try to enjoy every day, and be thankful for today because there may not be a tomorrow.”

**Joseph Weiscarger**  
Resource Management  
Directorate



“Be nice to people and they'll be nice to you.”

**Carla Stebbins**  
Community Services Directorate



“To be courteous to others and to treat everybody in a kind way.”

**Tony Bozym**  
Command, Control and  
Computer/Avionics Directorate



“A place for everything and everything in its place.”

**Ramona Kost**  
Productivity Improvement and  
Innovation Directorate



“To stand up for yourself.”

**Julio Asencio**  
Command, Control and  
Computer/Avionics Directorate

## TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

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The Tobyhanna Reporter staff can also be reached by electronic mail using the following addresses:

Anthony.Ricchiazzi@us.army.mil  
Jacqueline.Boucher@us.army.mil

**Commander, Col. Ron Alberto**  
**Public Affairs Officer, Kevin M. Toolan**  
**Editor, Anthony J. Ricchiazzi**  
**Assistant Editor, Jacqueline R. Boucher**  
**Staff Writer, Jennifer Caprioli**  
**Photographers, Anthony S. Medici, Steve Grzezdinski**



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**TEAM**  
**TOBYHANNA**  
EXCELLENCE IN  
ELECTRONICS

# Depot employees teach students tricks of the trade

by **Jacqueline Boucher**  
Assistant Editor

Students from the Monroe Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) teamed up with depot employees to learn about different career opportunities available at Tobyhanna.

Twenty-six high school juniors and seniors participated in the Equal Employment Office's Shadow Program to gain first-hand knowledge of occupations in security, electronics, carpentry, computer technology, vehicle repair and metal trades.

Members of EEO developed this program for students ages 16 and older. Participants were selected based on their career interests and visited various work areas. This year, 16 depot employees volunteered to mentor the teenagers during the four-month program. Visits are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. once a month from February through May.

"We're very excited to have our students participate in job shadowing at Tobyhanna," said Patricia Moyer, MCTI director. "The opportunity for students to see the relationship between what they are learning in the classroom and its application in the workplace is priceless."

Furthermore, as students plan for their next step, it is important that they consider opportunities in their communities that pay family-sustaining wages, and provide a clean, safe work environment, Moyer remarked.

MCTI provides secondary and post-secondary career training, and boasts 34 areas of study and opportunities to earn free college credits toward an advanced degree. The facility serves students in the East Stroudsburg, Pleasant Valley, Pocono Mountain and Stroudsburg School Districts.

"It's important for the youth who live around here to know what Tobyhanna has to offer," said John Sutkowski, equal employment manager. "Shadowing helps the students realize it's possible to build a career while working in a job they love without moving away."

The programs offered at MCTI have a direct correlation to employment opportunities at Tobyhanna, such as computer networking and security, collision repair, diesel mechanics, electronics, electrical plumbing, HVAC welding and precision machining, Moyer explained.

"In the vocational programs, students learn entry-level skills which allow them to engage the expertise of experienced workers at Tobyhanna, so that the skill level of the students can be greatly improved," she said.

Depot leaders think that it's beneficial for students to see the workplace and experience it rather than just be told about it. Ruben Fabunan, Man Portables Branch chief and encouraged employees to get involved with the Shadow Program.

Fabunan believes that participation in the program indicates that Tobyhanna's not only interested in the local community, but its youth.

Interested students toured the depot before signing up for the Shadow Program. Each had to fill out forms, get

parental permission and complete an application prior to selection.

"These kids were so excited about the program," said Tamara Marinaro, Shadow Program coordinator. "They know that what they're learning at school is what they want to do as a career. Shadowing employees here lets them see how their skills apply to their future job."

Anthony Lammardo, a senior studying electronics technology, observed the disassembly of a remote-order wire control unit under the supervision of his mentor. In addition to providing workplace exposure, Josephine Russin also spent the day explaining department processes, how to handle work orders and respond to customers needs. Russin is an electronic mechanic in the Communications Systems Directorate.

"This was a great experience," said Lammardo, who plans to start classes at Northampton Community College for Electronics in the fall. "Josephine was very nice and taught me a lot. I'd love to return to Tobyhanna someday as an employee." Lammardo is a student at Pocono Mountain West High School who plans to apply for the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) following graduation.

"The potential for our students is tremendous," said Chris Roberto, MCTI electronics instructor, explaining that students can leave the school with as many as 12 college credits, matriculate into colleges and apply to SCEP. Full-time employment at the depot becomes possible once the student meets the education and training requirements, he added.

There were dozens of employees who wanted to help teach the students about their chosen career field. Some volunteered, others happened to be in the right place at the right time.

William Moody didn't volunteer to be a mentor, but took advantage of the opportunity when mission requirements kept a coworker from participating.

"I mentored young adults while serving in the Air Force and always found the experience enjoyable," he said. "It's also a great way to give back to the younger generation, who someday may follow in our career footsteps." Moody is a network manager who works in the Information Management Directorate.

Dean Girgenti accompanied Moody on a tour of the organization as Moody responded to work order requests to activate a local-area network drop and configure a management station to monitor a newly installed switch on the network. Girgenti is a senior at Pocono Mountain East High School and plans to attend classes at Northampton Community College this fall.

"Dean already has his networking-plus certification and showed a great deal of knowledge on computer networking," Moody said. "I believe the Shadow Program gave him some knowledge of the practical application of networking in the real world."

The Electro-Optics/Night Vision Division hosted two



**Scott Uher, left, teaches Chris Delegram how aluminum spacers are used to provide a consistent weldment (something assembled by welding its parts or pieces together) without having to remeasure each part. Uher is a welder in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate. (Photo by Tony Medici)**

students also interested in electronics technology.

James Mazziotta, a junior at Pocono Mountain East High School and Anthony Smith, a senior at Stroudsburg High School, learned about state-of-the-art electronics tools used here. Both students also took a tour of the work area and talked to employees with varied backgrounds.

"They have a machine that diagnoses what is wrong with a circuit and shows how to fix it," Smith said. "This was a great experience; everyone was so friendly."

Mazziotta agreed. "The experience was great," he said, explaining that his mentor was patient and even funny.

Another depot employee wanted to be a mentor because someone was always willing to show him the tricks of the trade throughout his career. Scott Uher taught Chris Delegram, a junior from Pleasant Valley High School, how to read blueprints, and explained the tools and other skills needed on the job. Uher is a welder in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

"Knowledge is meant to be passed on, the same way it was passed on to me," Uher said. "Getting the younger generation interested in well-paying trades should be a concern to everyone."

by **Donna Miles**  
American Forces Press Service

## Official emphasizes diplomacy as best means of dealing with Iran

MEXICO CITY—Diplomacy remains the best course for dealing with Iran, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell emphasized here April 30.

Morrell called news reports claiming the Defense Department is conducting new planning for wartime operations against Iran patently wrong.

"Let me make this abundantly clear," he told reporters traveling here with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates. "There are no

new directives, no new plans in the works, no efforts to plan for a possible war with Iran."

Morrell said contingency planning is continually ongoing regarding all threats or potential threats, but said none regarding Iran indicate anything out of the ordinary.

The U.S. focus remains on diplomatic and economic pressure to get the Iranian regime to stop interfering in Iraq and the region as a whole, Morrell said.

He reiterated Gates' and Joint Chiefs Chairman Navy Adm. Mike Mullen's assertions, however, that no option is being

taken off the table, "including the military option."

Morrell said recent signs of Iranian meddling in Iraq, including the discovery of Iraqi-made munitions with 2008 date stamps, prove Iran is not making good on its promise to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to stay out of Iraq's affairs.

The United States has "long recognized Iran as a real problem in Iraq," he said.

Morrell said there's no concrete evidence that Iran has increased its activity in Iraq, "although we certainly see evidence that it continues."

# Tobyhanna employees observe, participate in 'TOCFEST'

by Josh Davidson  
Army News Service

Representatives from government and industry carried out five weeks of analysis and activity at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., to improve the Army's digital tactical operations centers and command posts.

Running from March 9-April 18, Operation TOCFEST brought together Army systems engineers from the U.S. Army Program Executive Office, Command, Control Communications-Tactical, other PEOs, capability managers from U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, manufacturers from industry and others using TOC equipment from the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania National Guard.

"We're bringing the key people together to baseline the standard for the command post," said Project Manager for Tactical Radio Communications Systems, Col. Cris Boyd. "In doing so, we want to support Army commanders in their art - the effective command of complex, dynamic operations."

## Depot employees observe TOCFEST

Several depot employees from the C3-Avionics and Production Engineering directorates visited the site on March 27 to observe the event and meet with TOCs users. Tobyhanna supports the TOCs on post and at Forward Repair Activities here and overseas.

"TOCFEST was basically a demonstration of all the equipment that can be interfaced with TOCs," said George Bellas, C3-Avionics director. "We saw entire TOCs systems in one place at one time."

The intent is to make TOCs the main hub center to manage the battle space—land, sea and air—to create seamless data links for all the services, he explained.

Bellas noted that many of the systems being interfaced with TOCs are also supported by Tobyhanna, such as the Secure Mobile Anti-Jam Reliable Tactical Terminal (SMART-T) satellite communications system, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System, Air Defense Airspace Management Cell (an air traffic control system), the Command Post Platform and the Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) system.

"I was surprised to see the MC4 interface, and that even cable news networks were available," Bellas said. "It was amazing to see just how large the demonstration was and how many systems that Tobyhanna supports are involved. There were acres of systems, rows of laptops and many large roll-up video screens, which Tobyhanna also supports."

Paul Toth said Tobyhanna has been supporting TOCs since 2003.

"Tobyhanna Army Depot provides Reset support at locations stateside and starting this year overseas," he said. Toth is a logistics management specialist in the Command, Control, Guidance and Support Division, Production Support Directorate.

"So far this fiscal year, we've completed Resets of about 30 TOCs consisting of electronic shelters, trailer mounted support systems, and C4ISR components such as computers, routers and radios," he said. "In the remainder of FY08 and through FY09, Tobyhanna will Reset approximately 40 more brigade-sized units in support of the TOCs program manager."

Reset means executing maintenance, deep cleaning, and equipment upgrades to TOCs equipment that has returned from the field to restore systems to top operational readiness. Technicians also support TOC-related equipment such as auxiliary power units, tents and environmental control units, and



Part of the Tactical Operations Center set up to monitor cable news at the TOCFEST.

train TOC technicians at their home station in a dedicated training facility.

"There are three core teams of about 15 technicians each located at forts Bragg, Hood and Lewis performing Reset for units such as the 82nd Airborne and the 25th Infantry divisions," Toth noted. "The teams are augmented by employees from the depot when necessary."

A team that has just finished supporting the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum is scheduled to support the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart over the next nine months.

Toth pointed out that several depot Field Service Representatives are embedded with units here and overseas to provide the fastest support possible.

Tobyhanna has received positive feedback from units. "For example, the 25th Infantry Division's Aviation Brigade was ecstatic with our support," Toth said.

Operation TOCFEST will help influence how command posts will be institutionally described and trained, and how equipment will be allocated within the command post, Boyd said.

Command posts are the nexus where

information, communications and decision-making meet. They vary in size according to the unit they control but they are always arranged internally according to function, such as: current operations, maneuver, intelligence, fires, protection, sustainment and plans sections, according to Boyd.

This five week effort will continue the vast change in command posts that Maj. Marco Barrera, of the PM TRCS Technical Management Division has witnessed in recent years. "It is a dramatic difference today with the infusion of information technology and all of the digital systems with a lot more situational awareness for a commander and a staff," he said.

Formerly, the focal point of a command post was a paper map with Soldiers nearby manning rows of radios. Now, command posts reflect the "digitization" the Army undertook starting in the early 1990s. They include integrated laptop and desktop computers, large screen displays, CP-to-CP collaboration systems, telecommunications equipment, power generators and environmental control units.

"We have never had the opportunity to stop, stand back and take a look at a TOC and optimize it, do the environmental on it," Boyd said. "Are the generators too loud; are they too close; do they provide adequate power generation for the ABCS suite and other electrical items in the CP?"

"ABCS" refers to Army Battle Command Systems Version 6.4, which began to be distributed Army-wide in 2003. It is a suite of computer applications that support various Soldiers who direct specific functional area operations.

For example, ABCS 6.4 allows Warfighters to plan logistics, plan fire support, track one another's whereabouts on a digital topographical map using Global Positioning System technology, access weather information, share intelligence, predict improvised explosive device threats and manage airspace activity.

Refining the set up, equipment and capabilities now will improve training and equipment allocation, Boyd said.

As the provider of the Army tactical battle command systems, network and enablers, PEO C3T will host the TOCFEST "to develop a recognized standard that is supported by a completely engineered, interoperable, integrated system-of-systems tactical command post, or command posts, to the Warfighter," Boyd said.



Charles Buynar, a Tobyhanna Army Depot Field Service Representative for Air Defense and Airspace Management (ADAM) Cell, stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., explains what each of the systems within ADAM Cell track using air defense links. He was assigned to provide sustainment support for the ADAM Cell equipment used at TOCFEST. (Photos by George Bellas)

**EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS**

**AROUND THE DEPOT**



Melissa Ankerway, painter helper, touches up the paint on an unmanned aircraft system trailer.



James Shahoney, general equipment mechanic, checks the packing list on an unmanned aircraft system trailer.



Robert Ellard, forklift and tractor operator, moves completed power units to the Defense Logistics Agency.



**Equipment Specs**

Mobile Electric Power Set assemblies consist of over 30 configurations of power units or power plants where the generators are mounted to trailers and prepared for shipment. Generators furnish electric power to Command, Control, Computers, Communications and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance systems, weapons systems, life support, logistics support complexes, and medical facilities. Newer Tactical Quiet Generators are quiet enough to reduce detection ranges from over a mile to less than 400 meters.

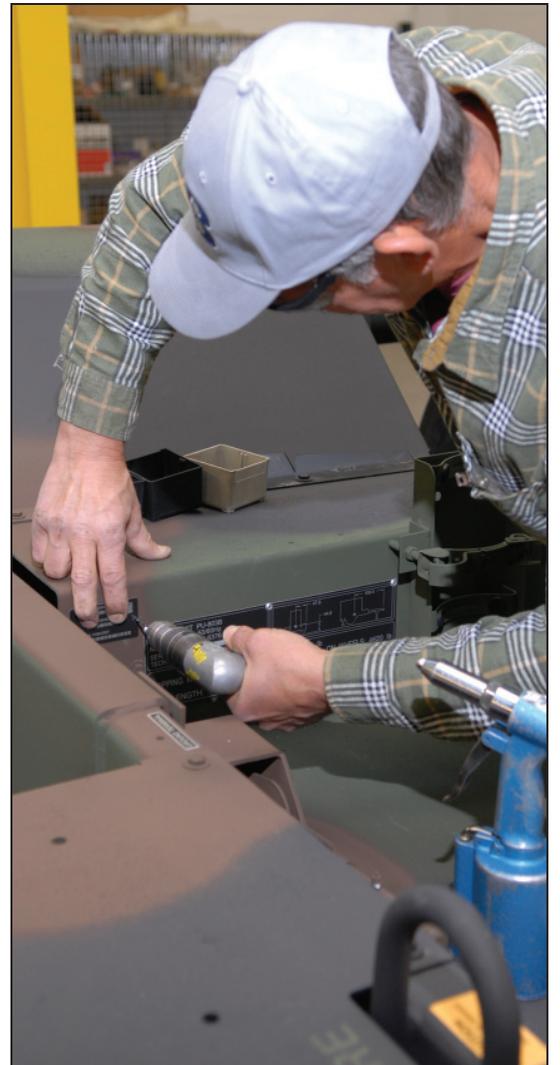
**Power Generator and Environmental Control Branch**

Systems Integration and Support Directorate

The power generator shop's 41 employees prepare and test thousands of mobile electric power units and trailers to support Army units worldwide. Mechanics are scheduled to assemble about 1,600 trailer mounted systems this year, including the PU-807A 100kw Tactical Quiet Generator—a lighter, quieter and more fuel efficient version of the old 100kw Military Standard. The Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna stores and ships the generator systems to Soldiers in the field. The systems are staged in depot warehouses and storage yards waiting assembly or transfer. To date the depot has refurbished 210 PU/807A 5-ton trailers.



Jason Herring, equipment mechanic, troubleshoots a 100 kilowatt auxiliary power unit generator.



Erich Buehring, general equipment repairer, attaches an Item Unique Identification tag to a PU-803B.



Fran Marzel, front, and John Kinney, sheet metal mechanics, assemble an unmanned aircraft system trailer.



Power units and trailers staged for shipment.



Reed Fish, equipment mechanic, checks the lights on a power unit trailer before installing the generator.



An assembled PU-803B power unit is ready for staging.



From left, Ed Klepar, general equipment mechanic, John Kasczak, general equipment repairer, Reed Fish, and Jules Scalercio, equipment mechanic, mount a 30kw Tactical Quiet Generator on a trailer.

Photos by Tony Medici

## WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Robert Adams	Production controller	D/PM
Suzanne Sims	Production controller	D/PM
Billy Binikos	Air conditioning equipment helper	D/SIS
Jonathan Dennis	Electronics mechanic	D/CS
Shawn Skokowski	Electronics mechanic	D/ISR
Desire'e Townes	Logistics management specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Bryan Townsend	Equipment specialist, electronics	D/C3/Avionics
Richard Zimmerman	Sheet metal mechanic helper	D/SIS

## RETIREES

Name	Retirement date	Organization
Joseph Carnevale	April 2	D/PE
William Sutor	April 2	D/ISR
Anthony Caprioli	April 3	D/PE
James King	April 18	D/SIS
Stephen Calles	April 30	D/PM
John Christian	April 30	D/PW
Lydon Heil	April 30	D/PM
Karl Kuntzman	April 30	D/PW
Robert Thomas	April 30	D/ISR
Eugene Vitali	April 30	D/RM
James Kohlmeir	April 30	D/CS

## CAREER MILESTONE



From left, Michael McKiniry, Edward Sotack, John Kasczak, Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki, Ronald Roberts and Joseph Olsommer attend the Length of Service Awards ceremony held May 1.

Five Tobyhanna employees were recognized for their years of government service during the May 1 Length of Service Ceremony.

**Ronald Roberts**—40 years, COMSEC project officer, Communications Security Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

**Joseph Olsommer**—30 years, electroplater leader, Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support (SIS) Directorate.

**John Kasczak**—30 years, general equipment repairer, Industrial Services Division, SIS Directorate.

**Edward Sotack**—30 years, sheet metal worker, Industrial Services Division, SIS Directorate.

**Michael McKiniry**—30 years, electronics technician, Automated Mission Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

In addition to their service certificates and pins, employees with 40 years of service receive a gold watch from the depot and a crystal eagle statue from the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command and 30-year honorees receive a framed American Flag that includes a photo of the depot.

Honorees who attended their Length of Service ceremony also receive a four-hour time-off award. Depot Commander Ron Alberto presented the awards.

HOW ARE WE DOING?



### TOBYHANNA CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

[www.tobyhanna.army.mil](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil)

Click on the customer service link to rate depot support, services

## 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 Boucher@us.army.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.

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 POOLS

- **Pittston:** 1 opening, van, 15 passengers, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., meet at Pittston Plaza, Main Street in Avoca, A&A Auto in Moosic, call Jack Algar, X57230 or Andrea Cool, X57184.
- **Mountaintop:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, "A" placard, nonsmoking, contact Mike McGlynn, X56944 or Michael.mcglynn@us.army.mil.
- **Wilkes Barre, Pittston:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., meet at Pittston Park and Ride on Route 315, will work out details, call X56944.
- **Lakeville, Ledgedale, Greentown:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, Route 590, call Sheperd Shelden, X58947 or shepherd.shelden@us.army.mil.

- **Dupont, Avoca, Moosic:** 1 opening, van, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., call Janice, X56269.
- **Kingston, Forty-Fort, Luzerne, Swoyersville:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, departs Thomas Market in Kingston at 6 a.m., both Fridays, call Pete, X58164.
- **Scranton, Minooka:** 2 openings, van, call Joe Pakutka, X56944.
- **Olyphant:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, non-smoking, call Ed, X57328.
- **Montdale, Eynon, Peckville, Jessup, Dunmore:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, both Fridays, "A" placard, meet on Rt. 247 from Montdale, Jessup Park and Ride and the Dunmore Holiday Inn, call Michele, X57565 or Rich, X55943.
- **Wilkes Barre, Pittston:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. shift, meet at Pittston Park and Ride on Route 315, will work out details, call X56944.
- **Moscow:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, call Christina Williams, X59964 or X59926.
- **Mount Cobb:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, both Fridays, meet at the park and ride near Mt. Cobb Ambulance, call Lenn Walchinsky, X59360, or Mark Warner, X59317.
- **South Stroudsburg:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, call John Kulp, X58751.
- **Archbald, Jessup, Dunmore:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, "A" placard, shared driving, pick up points are St. Thomas Parking Lot, Cousins, Park and Ride in Jessup, and Holiday Inn in Dunmore, contact Mike, X56550 or mike.chapman@us.army.mil.

- **New Jersey:** 2 openings, car, traveling I-80 from New Jersey, call Robin, X57345.
- **Mountaintop, White Haven:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, "A" placard, nonsmoking, call Andy, X56962.
- **Taylor, Old Forge:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, "A" placard, nonsmoking, possible door-to-door pickup, call Mike, X57784 or Dave, X57420.
- **Forest City, Simpson, Carbondale:** 3 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, every Friday, call Laura, X57240.
- **Honesdale:** 1 opening, van, 15 passengers, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, 2nd Friday, call Jim LoPresti, X56630.



### TRADING POST

- **House:** 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath, country home in Gouldsboro, wrap-around porch, patio, year-round lake views, gourmet kitchen, great room, foyer with open staircase, large pantry with work area, economic oil hot water heat, custom built-in wall unit in living room, all appliances included, detached 1 car garage and large garden shed, asking \$235,000, call 842-6965.
- **Fireplace:** Vent free Compact Gas (LP) fireplace with wooden mantel, comfort glow, 14,000 to 26,000 BTU, \$300 and vent free gas stove (LP), Ritetemp model RTL300TQ, 20,000 to 30,000 BTU, \$150, call 289-8799.
- **Vehicle:** 1994 Mazda 626 DX, very reliable, loaded with options, new tires, excellent mechanical condition, asking \$2,200, call Justine, 894-9474.

# Effort to renovate industrial areas nets annual award

by Anthony Ricchiazzi  
Editor

For the second consecutive time, Tobyhanna Army Depot has earned the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee Save Our Planet Award in the Government Category.

Tobyhanna employees won the award for the clean-up efforts of the old industrial shops in buildings 1A and 1C.

Randy Didier, chief of the Environmental Management Division, accepted the award on behalf of the depot at a Pocono Chamber ceremony on April 8.

The depot received notification on April 10 last year from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that the work performed to clean seven heavy industrial areas totaling 38,000 square feet was sufficient to allow the areas to be reused with no restrictions.

Depot leadership chose to clean the area to meet residential standards. All areas were successfully cleaned to that level and are currently being converted for use as office space, training rooms and storage space.

The conversion was a multi-year project that began in 1998, starting with a study of how to clean up these shops. The shops included the old electroplating shop, paint shop, analytical chemistry laboratory, steam cleaning shop, ultrasonic cleaning shop and associated mechanical rooms.

During the course of this project, care was taken to reuse and recycle as much of the outgoing equipment and debris as possible. All salvageable equipment, such as a 1-ton rail-mounted hoist, process tank, drying ovens, instrumentation and workbenches, was either reused or turned in to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office for transfer or sale to other eligible organizations.

All metal was cleaned and recycled, including scrapped conduit, ductwork, obsolete machinery and wire.



## May marks Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Submitted by John Sukowsky  
Equal Employment Manager

Public Law 102-450, as amended, designates May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to honor contributions made to our country by Asian Pacific Americans.

Asian Pacific Americans can trace their roots back to more than 40 countries, including nations such as India, China, Japan, and Thailand.

May was chosen because of two important dates in history: the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (which was mainly built by Chinese immigrants) on May 10, 1869.

There are many outstanding Asian Pacific American men and women who have contributed to America and have enriched society. Although it would be impossible to enumerate the accomplishments of all Asian Pacific Americans, the accomplishments of a few are as follows:

—Young Oak Kim was the first Asian-American to command a combat battalion (the 100th Infantry Battalion).

—Architect Maya Lin designed the U.S. Vietnam Veterans Memorial when she was still in college. She later established her own design studio in New York.

—Journalist Connie Chung has reported on controversial issues and people for over 28 years. She has won three Emmy awards for her work.

—In 1971, Herbert Choy became the first Asian-American federal court judge when he was appointed to the U.S. court of appeals for the ninth circuit.

—The Honorable Patsy Mink of Hawaii was a U.S. Congresswoman for 24 years and served on the U.S. House



Maya Lin designed the U.S. Vietnam Veterans Memorial when she was still in college

of Representatives' Education & Workforce Committee and on the Budget Committee.

—Ann Curry is a host on the Today Show, covering current events and the latest stories.

—Haing Ngor was the first Asian-American actor to win an Oscar in a major acting category. He was named Best Supporting Actor for his role in *The Killing Fields*.

—Fashion designer Vera Wang began her work as an editor for the fashion magazine *Vogue*. Her bridal gowns and evening dresses are world famous.

## VA to call veterans with info on care, benefits

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs are contacting nearly 570,000 recent combat veterans to ensure they know about VA's medical services and other benefits.

"We will reach out and touch every veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom to let them know we are here for them," said Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake, a retired lieutenant general who served as Army surgeon general. "VA is committed to getting these veterans the help they need and deserve."

A contractor-operated "Combat Veteran Call Center" will telephone two distinct populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

In the first phase, calls will go to an estimated 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA will offer to appoint a care manager to work with them if they don't have one already. Care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and know about their VA benefits.

For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans have special access to VA health care. The department screens combat veterans for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. VA personnel have been deployed to the military's major medical centers to assist wounded service members and their families during the transition to civilian lives.

The new call center's second phase will target 550,000 Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for services. Once contacted, veterans will be informed about VA's benefits and services. The initial calls will be made by a private contractor, EDS, which specializes in technology services to improve business. If needed, VA employees will make follow-up calls, officials said.

"We will leave no stone unturned to reach these veterans," said Dr. Edward Huycke, chief of the Veterans Affairs Defense Department coordination office.

(From a Department of Veterans Affairs news release.)

## Poutre, former depot commander dies at 103

GREENSBORO—Col. Clifford Algy Poutre, U. S. Army (Ret.), 103, passed away April 11.

Poutre served as Tobyhanna's fourth depot commander from July 1, 1957 to Dec. 31, 1959.

Poutre was born in Hudson Falls, N.Y., on October 24, 1904, the only child of Hattie Irish Poutre and Clifford G. Poutre.

He entered the U.S. Army in 1929, serving with the Army Signal Corps, 51st Signal Battalion. Poutre was assigned the responsibility of training the homing pigeons, the winged war heroes, to transport messages



Poutre

for the troops during World War II.

Poutre served with distinction as a member of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff in Occupied Japan following World War II.

In 1957, Poutre, deputy commanding officer, U. S. Army Signal Supply Agency, released the last pigeon in combat for the U. S. Army.

After 31 years of service, Poutre retired as a colonel. He taught math at East Stroudsburg University from 1961 to 1972.

The colonel was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Smalley Poutre.

There was a graveside memorial April 15 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hendersonville.

READ THE  
*Tobyhanna Reporter*

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/ABOUT/NEWS/REPORTER.HTML](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/about/news/reporter.html)

# 'Get Connected' program promotes mental health

by Jerry Harben  
U.S. Army Medical Command

The Army is joining in promoting mental health during May, which is celebrated as Mental Health Month under the sponsorship of Mental Health America, formerly known as the National Mental Health Association. The theme for 2008 is "Get Connected," emphasizing the valuable support people gain by connections with family, friends, community and mental health professionals.

"Years of research have shown that individuals who feel valued and cared for are better equipped to deal with stress and adversity, and even experience less severe illnesses than those with little social support," said David Shern, president and CEO of Mental Health America.

"The importance of Mental Health Month is to raise public awareness of mental health being a significant medical issue in this country," said Col. C. J. Diebold. "It should be used as a springboard to raise continuous awareness.

Mental illness is a medical disease for which effective treatments are available." Diebold is chief of psychiatry at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, and has been designated as the Army Surgeon General's expert consultant for psychiatry.

Last year Army leaders took the unusual step of ordering a chain teaching program throughout the Army. Some 900,000 Soldiers of all ranks were taught how to recognize and respond to symptoms of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Of special importance was command emphasis to counter a perception that Soldiers who seek mental health services are weak or malingerers.

"We're all worried about it. We've got to get rid of the stigma and that's what this education program is supposed to do," Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody said at a press conference announcing the chain teaching program.

All leaders have been encouraged to get out the message that getting help early is the best way to avoid long-term problems.

"We can safely say mental health is an issue of great importance, and this is recognized at all levels of command in the Army," said Diebold. "It is an issue directly related to our operational tempo. The Army has addressed this in multiple ways. Mental health resources have been increased at all installations, in addition to resources such as Military One Source. Mental health support is provided throughout the deployment cycle. Soldiers are screened and provided care as needed before, during and after deployment. Families are taken care of, too."

The Army Surgeon General demonstrated the importance of mental health support by establishing the Proponency Office for Behavioral Health, a cell of experts to coordinate programs and resources.

"We seek to bring together all the diverse behavioral health policies and programs along with manpower resources. We are at the forefront of behavioral health practices today and far into the future," said Col. Elspeth C. Ritchie, the office's director.

Soldiers and families can get professional help through installation mental health clinics, and through primary care clinics using the new RESPECT-MIL program. Combat-stress control teams are deployed

to bring front-line assistance to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Chaplains, social workers and installation drug abuse or family violence programs also can help deal with aspects of mental health issues.

All deploying Soldiers receive "Battlemind" training to help them prepare for the stresses they face in combat, and another round of training to help them adjust to returning home. There is Battlemind training for families, too, to help them deal with the special stress of having a spouse or parent deployed.

Military One Source is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone hot line to connect military service members with a variety of support services. By calling 1-800-342-9647, Soldiers or family members can arrange civilian mental health counseling without charge.

A wealth of information for Soldiers and families is available at [www.behavioralhealth.army.mil](http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil) on the World Wide Web.

Concern for Soldiers who need mental health support does not stop even after they leave the service. "The Department of Defense is working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure Soldiers making the transition to civilians continue to get high quality mental health care," Diebold said.

## NOTES from Page 1

### Health screening available

The depot health clinic will sponsor a Carotid Artery/Thyroid Screen from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 28 and 29 in the Health Clinic. The cost is \$25. Sign-up sheets are in the Health Clinic. For more information, call Elizabeth Abraham, X58230.

### Day of Caring set for May 15

Depot employees are invited to participate in the 16th annual community-wide Day of Caring volunteer event on May 15. The event is sponsored by the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Volunteers will work on projects such as opening up area campsites, planting flowers, painting and helping staff with clerical tasks, landscaping, carpentry, outdoor maintenance and numerous indoor projects.

For details, call John Ross, event coordinator, X57256.

### Post Office offers new box rates

The Post Office offers three Priority Mail

Flat-Rate box sizes. There is a \$2 discount, if shipped to an Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office (APO/FPO) address. There is also a 5 percent online discount.

Anything mailable that fits into the Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, weighing up to 70 pounds, can be shipped to any destination in the United States (including military addresses). The items must fit without altering the shape of the box.

The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is 50 percent larger than the current box and can be used for both domestic and international shipments.

Postage-paid Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes can be given to your carrier, or go online, [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) to request carrier pick-up the next day at no charge. Only stamped items that weigh less than 13 ounces can be deposited into collection boxes.

The boxes are available at the Post Office, online at [www.usps.com/shippingsupplies](http://www.usps.com/shippingsupplies), or by telephone, 1-800-STAMP-24. The boxes are shipped at no charge.



U.S. Army Spc. Rebecca Buck, an Army medic, watches the street as she provides perimeter security outside an Iraqi police station in the Tarmiya Province of Iraq, in March. (DoD photo by Tech. Sgt. William Greer)

## Month of May dedicated to appreciating servicemembers

WASHINGTON— In an effort to draw attention to the personal sacrifices of the men and women of the armed forces and their families, Congress has designated May as National Military Appreciation Month.

The congressional resolution, passed in 2004, states that the House and Senate "support the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month." It urges the president to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, localities, organizations and media to annually observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Congress first introduced legislation to designate May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999. This month honors, remembers, recognizes and appreciates all military personnel—the men and women who throughout history who have served and those that wear the uniform today.

The months of May and June host a number of other patriotic commemorations, including Victory in Europe Day, Military Spouse Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Week, Memorial Day, Flag Day and the observance of the Navy and Army birthdays.



## THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) MONTHLY RATES CHART IS ON THE INTERNET

[www.tsp.gov/index.html](http://www.tsp.gov/index.html)

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