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[Soldiers Seen As Army's Greatest Asset](#) (*Army.mil*, By Marie Berberea) Lt. Gen. Robert Brown, Combined Arms Center, spoke with lieutenants, captains and warrant officers in about how the field artillery and air defense artillery weapon systems and technology will change, but Soldiers are what will carry the nation to victory. They are the ones who have to make "split second decisions when lives are at stake." Because of this "we better have the best leaders we can," insisted Brown.

[British, American Artillerymen Strengthen Interoperability](#) (*DVIDS*, By Capt. Joseph Bush) First Lt. Adam Wilson, fire direction officer said the whole purpose of interoperability is to find "what's similar and what's different and what path we are going to take from there so we are able to talk the same language, artillery." British Sgt. Jacob Clapp said, "Everywhere your guys (American Soldiers) go, we seem to go. We learn things from you, you learn things from us."

[128th Avn. Improves Facilities, Training](#) (*The Army Flier*, By Kelly P. Pate) Mr. Russell Hall, Army Aviation Center of Excellence – "Aviation is a team sport and maintainers are combat essential to your total mission. It takes the maintainer, and a team of teams to ensure the airworthiness of our aircraft so that the pilots can have confidence that the piece of equipment they have learned to fly is ready to go from a maintenance standpoint," Hall said.

[MP School Welcomes New CSM](#) (*MyGuidon.com*, By Melissa Buckley) Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Woodring said he is humbled to be the 12th USAMPS command sergeant major. "Since my arrival at Fort Leonard Wood, I have been constantly reminded about how fortunate I have been. I have no doubt that the Military Police Corps will continue to be a vital force in supporting the Army of the future."

[6 Threats, 6 Changes, & A Brave New World: Intel Chief Vickers](#) (*Breaking Defense*, By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.) Mr. Mike Vickers, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence - "The big challenge we face is really in the aggregation of challenges. It's not that any one challenge is so daunting, it's that there's six of them. [They] are diverse, they're all significant, they're likely to be enduring. Unlike the Cold War, when we had one big enduring threat and then a series of episodic threats, we have several that are likely to be enduring now."

[Nearly Every U.S. Arms Program Found Vulnerable To Cyber Attacks](#) (*Reuters*, By Andrea Shalal) Nearly every U.S. weapons program tested in fiscal 2014 showed "significant vulnerabilities" to cyber attacks, including misconfigured, unpatched and outdated software. Michael Gilmore, director of operational test and evaluation said program managers had worked to resolve problems discovered in previous years and security was improving, but this year's testing had revealed new vulnerabilities.



Army.mil

Soldiers Seen As Army's Greatest Asset

By Marie Berberea

FORT SILL, Okla. -- Lt. Gen. Robert Brown, Army Combined Arms Center (CAC) commanding general, visited Fort Sill Jan. 20 to talk about the Army's greatest asset its Soldiers, and how the "human dimension" is vital to combating current and future conflicts.

"The key aspects of the human dimension are developing the right leaders for the future and the right Soldiers who can handle these complex problems," said Brown.

With the new Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) structure, Brown provides oversight to the centers of Excellence and is the rater for Maj. Gen. John Rossi, Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) and Fort Sill commanding general.

"I don't think anything is more complicated than artillery and air defense. Those two branches do an amazing job of integrating joint fires complicated problems and simplifying them to help us win on the battlefield."

This was Brown's first visit to the FCoE as the CAC commander.

He spoke with lieutenants, captains and warrant officers in Kerwin Auditorium about how the field artillery and air defense artillery weapon systems and technology will change, but Soldiers are what will carry the nation to victory.

They are the ones who have to make "split second decisions when lives are at stake." Because of this "we better have the best leaders we can," insisted Brown.

He said the Army used a quantitative advantage in the 1940s to defeat Nazi Germany. Then in the 1970s, the United States trained to defeat the Soviets with a technological advantage.

Now the Army is focusing on developing Soldiers as its best defense.

"The right leaders can solve any problem. But if we have leaders who can't think through the problem, can't thrive, we're hurting," said Brown.

He told Soldiers the way to accomplish that level of readiness is for each individual to have a passion to study their profession.

"You have to be hungry about learning. You can't just sit back and say, 'well go ahead come on feed me.' It's impossible to do too much leader development."

He recognized the challenges Soldiers face in numerous daily tasks that keep them from accomplishing higher goals, but he said it needs to be a priority, especially when the Army is drawing down.



"We're fortunate in many ways and we have a lot of advantages, but we can't sit back and just say we're going to remain the best in the world. Never before in history have those who would do us harm had the same tools we have," said Brown.

"The Human Dimension White Paper" states: "While preserving a technological edge will remain important, developing better equipment without developing better people is an insufficient strategy to retain overmatch in the face of highly adaptive adversaries."

"How effective is a 155 howitzer against a cyber threat?" he asked Soldiers. "You have backup systems of course ... but how well do our materiel solutions work against a cyber threat? Bottom line is they don't work too well.

"The human dimension has always been there and has always been important, but never more important than it is now because a few people can have a greater impact than ever before," said Brown.

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82nd Airborne Division Artillery

British, American Artillerymen Strengthen Interoperability

By Capt. Joseph Bush

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Dense fog, cold and wet weather with the sounds of thick British accents everywhere seems like an average English day, until the accents were silenced by the boom of American artillery rounds reminding the British paratroopers they were on U.S. soil.

"We rarely go anywhere or on an exercise where we don't bring the English rain with us and the cold temperatures, so the guys are pretty well prepared for that," said Maj. Justin Baker, the battery commander for G Battery, 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, British Army.

From January 9 to 16, about 30 British Artillery paratroopers visited the 82nd Airborne Division as part of Operation Pegasus Cypher. Organized by the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, the exercise was designed to test the different artillery systems and develop a method to provide accurate and timely fires in a joint environment, while strengthening the bonds with our British counterparts.

The interoperability exercise between the U.K. and U.S. field artillery was to prepare both nations for an upcoming Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise in April with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Abn. Div.

It is the small differences between the two cultures that create a gap between the guns. The British have been working side-by-side with American Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, to develop methods to bridge the cultural and communication gaps between the two countries armies.

British Sgt. Jacob Clapp, a gun line section commander with 7th Para RHA, said many of the things both do are very similar but "it's just quite a bit of terminology like football and soccer."

First Lt. Adam Wilson, the fire direction officer for 2-319th AFAR, said the whole purpose of interoperability is to find "what's similar and what's different and what path we are going to take from there so we are able to talk the same language, artillery."

An integral piece of the puzzle is how each country's forward observers requests fire support. To mitigate any confusion the leadership from both countries chose the NATO call for fire format, the same system they would use if ever deployed as a multinational force.

"We are defaulted to the NATO CFF which we find is very similar to the U.S. CFF, but there are still detail-specific differences that both sides are getting used to. It doesn't make the mission unsafe," said Wilson. "We are just trying to find a middle ground and a shared understanding."

It's not just the artillerymen who have to learn how to talk to each other; it's the different communications equipment, not designed to interact, that must communicate.



"Both nations have different communication systems they use which operate and connect to each other in a different number of ways," said Baker. Using a standard NATO encryption was one of ways they enabled their main radio systems operate together, barring any non-standard conditions.

"Weather affects everyone's comms equally," Wilson said smiling while sitting inside the command tent escaping the rain and freezing temperatures.

Besides the weather, another element intrinsic to all airborne cannoneers is the ability to get their guns on the drop zone. The United States Army Advanced Airborne School is developing a method to air drop the British L118 light gun from American aircraft.

"That's never been done before with this system. That's most definitely a capability enhancement which [goes] to provide a greater degree of flexibility in a way we can both support each other," said Baker.

"Everywhere your guys (American Soldiers) go, we seem to go," said Clapp. "We learn things from you, you learn things from us. We are already taking things back to the U.K. that we don't use and you do."

The British Paratroopers didn't leave before schooling their American counterparts in a friendly game of soccer, or football match if you're British. Although the U.S. had home field advantage, the English definitely had the weather on their side. The game came down to a tie and a shootout before crowning the Britons soccer champions.



The Army Flier

128th Avn. Improves Facilities, Training

By Kelly P. Pate

As Army Aviation evolves, so must the maintenance facilities and training aids that go along with it.

Russell Hall, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence deputy to the commanding general, along with Sgt. Maj. Jesus Ruiz, Aviation Branch training sergeant major, visited USAACE's maintenance training brigade, the 128th Aviation Brigade at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, Jan. 8.

The goal was to talk with personnel and see firsthand the progress made on necessary new facilities designed to support training requirements.

"I'm always thrilled to see the spirit and professionalism of the Soldiers we encounter at the 128th Aviation Brigade. They are an extremely dynamic team that sets the course on achieving success every day," Hall said.

That success includes the disposition of Kiowa Warrior equipment, on-boarding new Military Occupation Specialties and bringing in new teams, and establishing a partnership with the local Air Force wing to construct new facilities, according to Hall.

"Aviation is a team sport and maintainers are combat essential to your total mission. It takes the maintainer, and a team of teams to ensure the airworthiness of our aircraft so that the pilots can have confidence that the piece of equipment they have learned to fly is ready to go from a maintenance standpoint," Hall said.

The 128th Avn. Bde. trains enlisted and warrant officer Aviation Soldiers to become world-class maintainers for USAACE. In fiscal year 2014, the brigade trained more than 6,000 students.

The tour of new facilities included barracks, proposed workout facility and high-bay maintenance training facilities.

"As we go forward with the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative, we have to make sure as a higher headquarters we are on the same sheet of music with our supporting organizations," Ruiz said.

Mark Jones, 128th Avn. Bde. deputy to the commander, pointed out the limitations of the older buildings.

"Those were built in the 1950s and 1960s when we had single-engine airplanes and single-engine helicopters – real small stuff. That's why there weren't a lot of high-bay facilities here," Jones said. "We designed the new facilities with a high bay so as our load changes, our mission changes, we can get a Chinook anywhere. That's the long pole in the tent."

The three new maintenance training high-bay facilities the 128th received in 2014 are climate controlled to support high-tech training devices.



"We've come a long way from just having old aircraft sitting here. The new facility allows us to have the electronic trainers. Before, we had them in a non-air conditioned space and they were breaking down all the time because they were overheating. Even though they have their own air-conditioning unit for the each device, that whole environment needs to be air conditioned. It allows us to train more. We can potentially run three shifts through there," Jones said.

The new high-bay facilities include thermal-heated floors and Virtual Immersive Environment training where Soldiers can completely take apart an engine, turn it around and spin it up on the big screen, which allows more diagnostic type training, according to Jones.

"It's a 70-percent hands-on course, so 30 percent of the time they're in the classroom. Then they go out and work through the VIE, and then they work hands-on on the actual training device or aircraft. In the case of avionics, it's usually a training device because we don't usually put electricity to our Category B aircraft," Jones said.

Ruiz said he looks forward to seeing the brigade, with the help of Training and Doctrine Command, the wing and the garrison, to move the aid station closer to the Soldiers.

"That aid station is there for Soldiers. The closer it is, the easier it is for Soldiers to use the facility, minimizing the impact on the Soldiers training. We owe the field quality trained Soldiers, and the sooner we can get them through and out to the combat aviation brigades – that's our job," Ruiz said.

Soldiers have dubbed it the "green mile" – where the road runs from the old barracks Soldiers used in the past, to the cluster of new buildings cropping up that reflects a new era of training. That mile will be drastically reduced when they move into the new barracks near the mess hall, according to Ruiz.

"As the Army goes to the campus style of training, I look forward to the 128th Soldiers having a campus where they can train and sustain as we go through this," Ruiz said. "It's not going to happen overnight. As long as we keep pushing in the right direction – and that's our job here at headquarters, to set the conditions for them and help them out as much as we can."

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MyGuidon.com

MP School Welcomes New CSM

By Melissa Buckley

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Woodring is the U.S. Army Military Police School's 12th regimental command sergeant major after a recent change of responsibility.

Woodring accepted responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. John McNeirney during a ceremony at Nutter Field House.

Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler, USAMPS commandant, said he is going to miss McNeirney's partnership and friendship.

"We are going to miss you guys," Spindler said. "Your impact on this community and the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence has been simply phenomenal."

Spindler highlighted some of the significant changes McNeirney helped accomplish while he was the regimental command sergeant major.

One of those achievements was the addition of the military occupational specialty 31K Military Working Dog Handler to the MP Corps.

"The last 37 months the corps has enjoyed arguably one of its greatest periods of growth, in great part because of the work and initiatives set forth by John McNeirney," Spindler said.

McNeirney said he was privileged to have been able to impact thousands of MPs as their top noncommissioned officer.

"What an awesome opportunity during a very exciting time," McNeirney said. "The Army is about people. I've traveled across our entire regiment to visit our military police officers' units, both in combat support, our Criminal Investigation Division units and our corrections units. The best part of this assignment was the opportunity to talk to those Soldiers."

Spindler welcomed Woodring to Fort Leonard Wood and said he was looking forward to working with him again.

"I had the pleasure of serving with (Command Sgt. Maj.) Rich Woodring in our combat support brigades. I can tell you first-hand that there is not a finer gentleman or a more skilled Soldier and leader worthy of this post than Command Sergeant Major Woodring," Spindler said. "He is a Soldier's sergeant. He has been since the day he put on the uniform."

Woodring said he was grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve the regiment in this capacity.

"Thank you for having the confidence in me to select me for this tremendous responsibility," Woodring said to Spindler. "I'll do my very best to serve this regiment."



He said he is humbled to be the 12th USAMPS command sergeant major.

“Since my arrival at Fort Leonard Wood, I have been constantly reminded about how fortunate I have been,” Woodring said. “I have no doubt that the Military Police Corps will continue to be a vital force in supporting the Army of the future. I look forward to working with all of you.”

Woodring entered the military in 1984 under the delayed entry program in the Army Reserves.

He has served as the provost marshal sergeant major for the Operational Protection Directorate, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; command sergeant major, 8th MP Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and senior enlisted leader Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435, Camp Sabalu — Harrison, Afghanistan, just to name a few.

His deployments include Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Breaking Defense

6 Threats, 6 Changes, & A Brave New World: Intel Chief Vickers

By Sydney J. Freedberg Jr.

Read full story at: <http://breakingdefense.com/2015/01/6-threats-6-changes-a-brave-new-world-intel-chief-vickers/>

Mike Vickers, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence - "The big challenge we face is really in the aggregation of challenges. It's not that any one challenge is so daunting, it's that there's six of them. [They] are diverse, they're all significant, they're likely to be enduring. Unlike the Cold War, when we had one big enduring threat and then a series of episodic threats, we have several that are likely to be enduring now."

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Reuters

Nearly Every U.S. Arms Program Found Vulnerable To Cyber Attacks

By Andrea Shalal

Read full story at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/21/us-cybersecurity-pentagon-idUSKBNOKU02920150121>

Nearly every U.S. weapons program tested in fiscal 2014 showed "significant vulnerabilities" to cyber attacks, including misconfigured, unpatched and outdated software. Michael Gilmore, director of operational test and evaluation said program managers had worked to resolve problems discovered in previous years and security was improving, but this year's testing had revealed new vulnerabilities.

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