



U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command FLIGHT

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Advance Planning Briefings to Industry offers partners ‘predictability, situational understanding’



The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command hosted the Redstone Arsenal Center of Excellence — Advance Planning Briefings to Industry March 22-24 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

The annual event offered transparency in acquisition strategies by providing long-range technology and capability development objectives to members of industry. It also showcased potential

business opportunities available with various Team Redstone organizations.

Due to COVID-19 conditions, the event was held virtually again. Although the auditorium was nearly empty, approximately 1,000 participants tuned into the three-day forum, which was packed with presentations from senior leaders throughout the federal government, as well as civic leaders, such as Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, Madison Mayor Paul Finley and Madison County Commissioner Dale Strong.

Army Materiel Command Commanding General Gen. Edward Daly was the keynote speaker and described the APBI as critical and beneficial, as it provides predictability and situational understanding to the corporate sector. [READ MORE](#)

AMCOM leadership launches monthly podcast

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command has released the inaugural episode of its podcast, [What AMCOM Can Do for You](#), with Kevin Fleagle as the featured guest. This episode is a conversation between Fleagle, AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith about the important work performed by Logistics Assistance Representatives around the world.



AMCOM’s senior leaders will host a new podcast each month and use the platform to share information with the force about the resources and capabilities of AMCOM. The idea for the podcast came to Smith during a recent trip to Germany with Royar.

“We were in the car and I was thinking about different ways that we communicate and how we could reach a different population – a younger population or a population we’re not currently reaching,” said Smith. “We use lots of different communication tools, such as newsletters, online articles, social media and town hall meetings, but there’s so much information in...[READ MORE](#)

Calculated Innovation

I’ve advocated quite a bit for us as an organization to not only accept, but to lead change. If we do not, we risk becoming irrelevant as the world changes around us.



That’s easy to say, but hard to do as most of us fear failure.

Innovation requires taking risks, trying something new that may hold promise, but also may result in abject failure.

We should not fear failure – it’s a forgone conclusion that not all of our ideas will work. So how do we decide what to innovate on because we also cannot afford to fail every time?

I want our team to have the authority to innovate – try something new. To that end I offer a few key points:

- *Prioritize what we innovate on – those areas that are already underperforming or the environment that our process is based on is changing.*
- *Innovate to the extent that you at your level can underwrite any failure.*
- *Establish metrics to identify when the idea is not working and, hence, when to stop – do not fall in love with the idea if it does not produce.*
- *Learn from the failure, make changes, and try again.*

We need a culture of innovation.

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Cold spray technology enhances LEAD's capabilities

Integrating emerging technologies is a critical component of the modernization of Letterkenny Army Depot — also called LEAD. LEAD's modernization plan focuses on multiple lines of effort working in unison to allow the depot to sustain Army readiness, meet current Army demands and posture the depot to maintain future requirements.



One such technology is cold spray. Depot personnel have been hard at work to bring this technology to LEAD — a process that required collaboration across directorates and thorough safety considerations.

“Cold spray is an additive manufacturing technology that we’re using to repair parts,” said Ashley Filling, a production engineer at LEAD. “Unlike other additive manufacturing technologies that are used to make parts, cold spray is used to repair many different materials. We’re focusing on aluminum right now but are looking to expand into steel repairs as well.”

Artisans at Letterkenny are using cold spray technology to perform non-structural repairs, including repairs of corrosion and other surface defects. Cold spray offers additional repair benefits because of the lower operating temperature.

“What’s great about cold spray is

Calculated Innovation

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Regardless of where you work, I hope you identify a problem and try something new.

Army Strong!

Maj. Gen. Todd Royar
AMCOM commanding general

that you can build up a surface and repair the part without putting a ton of heat on the part,” Filling said. “Right now, for example, we’re looking at parts that have plastic behind the metal. We can use the cold spray to repair the metal without melting the plastic behind it.”

Artisans are currently utilizing cold spray on non-structural aluminum components to support programs tied to one of the depot’s industry partners. On the horizon, artisans are preparing to integrate cold spray...[READ MORE](#)

Stand-downs garner stand-out results

The Directorate of Product Assurance and the Directorate of Industrial Operations at Letterkenny Army Depot are engaging in consistent collaboration to ensure compliance to the AS9100D/AS9110C Quality Management Systems. In order to maintain compliance, DPA personnel conduct regular stand-downs with DIO employees to evaluate current processes for alignment to AS9100D and AS9100C QMSs.



The quality stand-downs begin with leadership training to ensure they can enforce the standards throughout the directorate. The bulk of the stand-down consists of quality assurance specialists and quality control inspectors going on-site to the DIO shops to observe actions and help answer questions...[READ MORE](#)



Meet the AMCOM Diversity Board

P2P Performance-to-Promise is a measurement of how an organization holds itself accountable to the commitment to meet worldwide customer-required delivery dates.

Letterkenny Army Depot
98.8% ▲ 0.8%

Corpus Christi Army Depot
96.9% ▲ 3.9%

Missile SA
80.5% ▼ 3.5%
Second pass

Aviation SA
92.5% ▼ 0.1%
Second pass

SA Supply availability is defined as the percentage of demands placed on the wholesale echelon of supply that are not backordered, excluding future material obligations.

Aviation Center Logistics Command
Mission-capable aircraft
76.2%
4.0% Non mission-capable supply

USATA Employee Engagement Council provides voice to workforce

The leadership of the U.S. Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Activity is always focused on the numbers, whether the topic is calibration, measurement or employee engagement.

Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, USATA is responsible for the TMDE calibration and repair support mission for the Army. In addition to Alabama, there are 42 USATA locations around the world, and Director Richard Parker said it is the people who matter the most in his organization.

Parker arrived at USATA in early 2020, which coincided with the COVID-19 travel restrictions, meaning

he could not go out and meet more than half of his workforce. A year later he was permitted to travel to USATA locations around the world and since then, he has visited more than half of them. However, his visits are not about inspecting the work being completed at the locations; they are about talking to the people.

“The truth is, I needed to learn,” he said. “Visiting is about me learning — not just how we do it, but who we do it with and for, and discovering the operational environment. The TMDE enterprise is vast, very complicated and very dynamic, and we rely on our 42 team leaders to be the point people for it.”

With his workforce spread out across multiple states, countries and time zones, Parker said he wanted a way to be able to hear from everyone, so he established an Employee Engagement Council.

“The Employee Engagement Council is a method,” Parker said. [READ MORE](#)



This month in history



May 8, 1945: V-E (Victory in Europe) Day is celebrated in the United States as well as Great Britain and Western Europe. V-E Day marks the end World War II in the European theater and the defeat of German forces. Cities across the United States, Great Britain, and the formerly occupied Europe put out flags and banners celebrating the end of warfare. Germany had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies at Reims, France, just the day before.



May 15, 1942: Spurred on by the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Congress approved the creation of the Women Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on May 14, 1942. On May 15, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law. The WAAC was established "for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill, and special training of women of the nation."



May 23, 1962: A predecessor to what is today known as The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, the U.S. Army Missile Command (MICOM) is formally established at Redstone Arsenal. MICOM would become one of the original major subordinate commands under the U.S. Army Materiel Command. The command, however, would not formally activate until August 1, 1962.



May 28, 2008: The U.S. Army activates the first THAAD units. Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, was that unit. At the time of activation, the unit had 24 THAAD interceptors, three THAAD launchers, a THAAD Fire Control and a THAAD radar.



May 30, 1868: Memorial Day is officially recognized as a federal holiday. Originally known as Decoration Day during times of the Civil War, the practices of Memorial Day was documented from both northern and southern states at the time. Today, Memorial Day is recognized across the armed forces by placing flags and wreaths on service members' graves to honor their service and sacrifice.



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