



TRANS TRIBUNE

*Chronicle of
Warrior Logistics
in Motion!*

No. **2**²⁰
11



598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), Rotterdam, The Netherlands



MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicles loaded in the Port of Durban, South Africa (Page 10)
..... and many more articles related to the **598th Trans BDE Mission!**

"Warrior Logistics - In motion"



598th TRANS TRIBUNE

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SDDC 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

This newsletter is an official publication authorized under Army Regulation 360-1 and is published quarterly by Chief, Command Affairs, SDDC 598th Trans Bde overseas. The 598th Trans Tribune provides information of people, activities and operations of the 598th Transportation Brigade. Views and opinions expressed in this electronic newsletter are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. All photos, unless otherwise noted, are U.S. Army photo's. We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, force protection and grammar.

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Commander's Corner

*Colonel William L. Moseley
Commander
598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC)*



Many things have occurred since the last '598th Trans Tribune'! We continue to provide world class distribution expertise and support to AFRICOM, EUCOM, Afghanistan along the Northern Distribution Network (NDN), and of course all our other enterprise partners such as DLA, DECA, AAFES, etc. The 598th Transportation Brigade and SDDC are in the process of change and "This is not your Father's MTMC". The brigade staff and both battalions have worked tirelessly in training, resourcing, and exercising our expeditionary capability with our Joint Task Force Port Opening (JTFPO) task force. I am extremely pleased with the coordination, cooperation, and support we have provided to our Geographic Combatant Commands. We continue to refine our processes and seek ways to enhance our support all while reducing cost, redundancy, and overhead. Our relationships with our commercial partners are clearly one of the keys to the success of supporting our Warfighters.

I want to send a farewell and Thank You to Command Sgt. Maj. Felton Head who was the 598th Brigade CSM for two years. I also send a farewell to the 838th and 839th Battalion Commanders: Lt.Col.'s Riley Cheramie and Doug Vallejo and their families for their outstanding leadership and dedication. Sgt. Maj. Bonner is now the interim Brigade CSM who was previously the Sgt. Maj. for the 838th Trans Battalion. I also want to welcome Mr. Stephen Marshall, the first Deputy to the Commander of the brigade, who recently arrived from Army Material Command. Lastly, I want to send my condolences to Hanna and the family of Mr. Pierre Hoogstad, our Personnel Chief for over 30 years, who recently passed away; Pierre will be missed.

The 598th Transportation Brigade Workforce is comprised of Professional and Committed, personnel who strive for excellence in all they do and are greatly appreciated by me and the customers they support daily. We all know the Department of Defense is still undergoing drastic budget cuts and all Services, to include the U.S. Army, will be greatly impacted. As the saying goes the only thing constant is change and as Gen. Shinseki, the former Chief of Staff of the Army, once said: "If you don't like change you will like irrelevance even less".

God Bless the 598th Transportation Brigade, SDDC, and the U.S. Army.

Warrior Logistics in Motion!



598th Welcomes Stephen L. Marshall Deputy To The Commander

■ *Mr. Stephen L. Marshall, became the first 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), Deputy To The Commander. He is an experienced DAC within the field of transportation/logistics. He is Vietnam Veteran and has served with the U.S. Army in CONUS and Europe for over 40 years*



598th Command Sergeant Major Corner

SGM Marvin L. Bonner, 598th Transportation Brigade Interim Command Sergeant Major

■ *The new 598th Trans BDE (SDDC), Sergeant Major Marvin L. Bonner*



Greetings members of the Warrior Logistics Brigade (WLB) and fellow logisticians I am both humble and honored to serve as the Interim Brigade CSM for this outstanding team of professionals. As we often say during ceremonies that leaders come and go but, the unit identity remains the same when the colors are passed to the next warrior. Upon assuming the duties and responsibilities as the Brigade CSM, the OPTEMPO remains high and I have hit the ground running on the Brigade Commander's intent and priorities.

The Commander and I have had the opportunity to conduct command visits to a few subordinate units over the summer. Our top internal priority is Force Protection and with all that has occurred around the world this year along, the Commander and I will continue to focus a lot of attention and resources protecting the WLB workforce.

I also would like to take a moment to inform the WLB that I am in full support of the USAREUR's Command team focus on Army Corps Values. I agree that the Army is a values based organization and that we should incorporate the Army Values in the way we conduct business and in the way we carry ourselves each and every day. The NCO Creed states that "all" Soldiers are entitled to "outstanding" leadership...I challenge leaders/supervisors in the brigade to provide that outstanding leadership to members of your team. Also, I believe that environment of mutual trust and morale of the organization starts at the top. The commander and I will set and maintain those standards and we will expect leaders at all levels to do the same; in doing so, we will build a team we can all be proud of. I challenge each member of the WLB Team to stay trained and ready to carry out our war time mission when ordered to do so. Because, in the words of the Army Song, we are proud of all that we have done (and continue to do) and we will fight til the battle is won...

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest Senior Enlisted Leaders (SEL) to the WLB team; both are recent graduates of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. First is Sgt. Maj. Chukwuemeka N. Uchegbu who assumed the duties as the SEL for the 838th Transportation Battalion on 2 August 2011. Secondly, Sgt. Maj. Daisy Jackson who assumed duties as the SEL for 839th Transportation Battalion on 31 August 2011. From Command Sgt. Maj. Felton L. Head we received the following words which I would like to pass to you:

As personnel rotate in and out of the organization, we remain postured for upcoming challenges and continue to meet the warfighters and supported partner's requirements.

I also will be doing the duffle bag drag across the Atlantic Ocean this summer en route to the 596th Transportation Brigade to assume duties as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major. Truly an exciting three years for my family and I while serving as the Battalion Sergeant Major with the 839th Transportation Battalion for my first year and closing the last two out at the Brigade Headquarters. It has been a pleasure working with such great professionals that makes up and supports this organization. I will pass the Brigade Command Sergeant Major duties and responsibilities on to Sergeant Major Marvin L. Bonner who will assume duties as the Interim Brigade Command Sergeant Major until Command Sergeant Major Cedric Thomas arrives in a few months. I know they both will do an outstanding job continuing to ensure conditions are set right, brigade remains trained, equipped and ready for upcoming challenges and missions.

Command Sergeant Major Felton L. Head



Lt. Col. John M. Gallagher
Commander
838th Trans BN (SDDC)



Sgt. Maj. Chukwuemeka N. Uchegbu
Battalion Sgt. Maj.
838th Trans BN (SDDC)

New 838th Trans Bn Team

Rotterdam, The Netherlands -- Lt. Col. John M. Gallagher assumed command of the 838th Transportation Battalion (SDDC) on Friday 24 June 2011. He replaces Lt. Col. Riley J. Cheramie whose next assignment is with the G4 at the Pentagon. During his second deployment to Iraq in 2010, Gallagher was notified of his selection to serve as Commander of the 838th Trans Bn in The Netherlands. In Iraq he served as Special Assistant and later Executive Officer of the Deputy commanding General, Advising and Training, U.S. Forces Iraq. Prior to his deployment he served as Executive Officer to the commanding General, 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Germany

The new 838th Trans Bn Sgt. Maj. Chukwuemeka N. Uchegbu took over from Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Bonner on 2 August 2011.

The 838th Trans Bn is responsible for the total planning, coordination, support, and execution of port operations to move the defenders of peace anytime, anywhere within its area of responsibility which covers the Northern part of Europe and parts of Africa and, when necessary, globally. To accomplish its mission, the 838th has subordinate units located in four countries of Europe: The Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and Portugal. The Battalion's motto is "Gateway to Victory". ■



Lt. Col. Marcilyn Patterson
Commander
839th Trans BN (SDDC)



Sgt. Maj. Daisy Jackson
Battalion Sgt. Maj.
838th Trans BN (SDDC)

New 839th Trans Bn Team

Livorno, Italy -- Lt. Col. Marcilyn Patterson assumed command in a ceremony July 22 on Camp Darby's Parade Field. She succeeds Lt. Col. Douglas Vallejo whose next duty station assignment is with the Chief of Transportation and the Transportation Corps in Ft. Lee, Virginia.

Lt. Col. Patterson was most recently the Division Transportation officer for the 2nd Infantry Division and Joint Task Force North plans officer.

Sgt. Maj. Daisy E. Jackson assumed duties as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the 839th Trans Bn on 31 August 2011. She took over responsibilities from Sgt. Maj. Angelia L. Keltz.

In 1951, the U.S. Army established the Livorno Port of Embarkation, initially to meet the shipping needs of U.S. Forces based in Austria. It began providing support to all United States military services in the Southern European Region in 1955. In 1976, the Military Traffic Management Command, also known as MTMC, assumed the water terminal operations and established the Leghorn Terminal as a subordinate command. In 1997, the Terminal was re-designated as the 839th Transportation Battalion. The battalion has detachments in Greece, Turkey, and Italy, which serve as the single port managers for operations throughout seaports in Southern Europe, the Balkans, the Adriatic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and Northern (and Western) Africa. ■

839th Transportation Battalion Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills

Story and photo by Chiara Mattiolo
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

22 April 2011 - CAMP DARBY, Italy- The Soldiers of the 839th Transportation Battalion spent April 18-22 training on their warrior tasking battle drills.

“This semiannual requirement helps us prepare for deployment in different situational awareness,” said Sgt 1st Class Emilio Frijas, 839th Transportation Battalion Non Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC). “One of the most important outcomes of the training is the team work and learning more about each other.”

The Soldiers trained at the Multifunctional Training Area of the Italian Folgore Brigade where they were also educated on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

“The Italian Army Soldiers just came back from Afghanistan and they passed us their true life experience on IED which change pretty often,” said Frijas.

As part of the training, the Soldiers also received guidance from the US Army Garrison 511th Military Police.



■ 839th Transportation Battalion conducted combat training at Italian Folgore Brigade training area during April 18-22.

“The MPs trained us on how to set up an entry control point and also on vehicle and personnel search,” Frijas said. “Overall it was a great learning experience; we learned a lot and accomplished our requirement.” ■

Spring Cleaning at the Rotterdam Community

16 May 2011 -- Personnel of the Rotterdam Community (598th Transportation Brigade, 838th Transportation Battalion and the U.S. Coast Guard), came together for the first Spring Clean-up for our building. The clean-up displayed the pride we have in our aging facility and our dedication to keep it clean.

■ Sergeant Major Marvin Bonner, 838th Transportation Battalion, took the picture.



AS-51 at Eemshaven, The Netherlands



By Lisette Weteling,
Benelux Detachment.
Marine Cargo Specialist

■ *The MV Virginian*
(Photo by SGM Marvin L. Bonner).

Early in the evening of 18 April 2011 the *MV Virginian* arrived at the port of Eemshaven, the most northern tip of the Netherlands. It was there that 838th Transportation Battalion's Benelux Detachment coordinated the movement of Ammunition Shipment 51 (AS-51) from and to Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point in the United States and Ammunition Center Europe in Miesau, Germany.

The actual port operations were conducted from 19-21 April and shifts ran from 0600 until 2200. During this timeframe 137 ammo containers were discharged from *The Virginian* and loaded onto railcars destined for Miesau, Germany. The operation continued with 216 ammo containers which arrived in the port by rail and then uploaded onto the *Virginian* in compliance with segregation rules and regulations.



One of the lessons learned from previous AS-missions was to avoid down-loading CONUS-bound containers from the railcars and uploading the same railcars immediately with Germany-bound containers. After all import cargo had left the port, four trains loaded with ammo containers for Sunny Point arrived and were loaded on the *Virginian*. Michel van Marle, Benelux Detachment Marine Cargo Specialist, stated: *"Bringing in empty railcars first and upload them with import containers and then receive the loaded trains with export cargo ensured a smooth and stress-free operation"*.

The factors of this operation ranged from an intense planning and executing phase, involving pre-planning meetings with many parties involved, as far as two months ahead. To avoid any possible segregation or stowage problems, ICODES planners from Sunny Point, 598th Transportation Brigade and the Benelux Detachment worked closely together and even deployed a team to Kuwait to assist the 1188th Transportation Battalion with the final stow plan during their portion of the AS-51 mission.

Bart Fiegel, Benelux Detachment, Acting Director said: *"During operations like these, never take anything for granted, stay alert, and always think safety!"*

At the end of the operation it was clear that all the planning, coordinating and hard work had paid off and the Detachment had met the challenge. ■

■ *Captain Timothy Kirby, 838th Transportation Battalion Operation Officer conducts a port operations meeting with his military and civilian personnel.* (Photo by SGM Marvin L. Bonner).

950th Supports 172nd OEF Deployment

By Sgt. 1st Class Omar Robertson
950th Transportation Company NCOIC

During the months of April and May, the 950th Transportation Company displayed their flexibility and agility in supporting the 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (IBCT) deployment into Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan, at the Port of Bremerhaven, Germany as well as at Schweinfurt and Grafenwöhr, Germany.

The 172nd IBCT movement began with concurrent Deployment Distribution Support Team (DDST) operations located at two geographically separated installations in Southern Germany. Hazardous material, marine cargo and documentation specialist from the 950th TC with support from our sister unit, the Rhine River Detachment, collaborated and integrated with installation staging area personnel and unit movement officers to provide guidance from an SDDC perspective.

Specifically, DDSTs provided deployment support briefs that covered shipping requirements, hazardous material requirements, answers to frequently asked questions, lessons learned experiences, vehicle and container preparation and documentation. Additionally, DDSTs remained engaged and committed prior to and during staging area operations as subject matter experts providing on-the-spot corrections and direction.

As staging area operations commenced, the 950th TC prepared port support activities by setting up the Nordhafen Area for the reception of 177 pieces of equipment. During that period, port office containers and mission-essential equipment were delivered; communications were established and tested and meetings were held with port contractors, port authorities and 21st TSC MACG.

All 172nd IBCT cargo was booked by 598th OCCA to the *MV "MAERSK KIMI"* The 950th TC demonstrated its typical flexibility, agility and determination to continuously lean forward, ensuring movement and delivery of combat power to support the warfighter.

The success of this 950th Trans Co is attributed greatly to the experience, institutional knowledge and commitment to excellence of the workforce here. ■



▲ Packing of flatracks to include blocking and bracing of cargo.

► Nils Pfuhl, 950th Safety Specialist, inspecting lashing of cargo on flat rack with contractor personnel.



■ Robert Bischof, 950th Marine Cargo Specialist, verifying seals and IMO labels.

■ Photos by Sebastian Szameitat, 950th Transportation Specialist

950th Supports 227th AV RGT OEF Deployment in Spain

Article and photos by Major John Dang,
Commander 950th Transportation Company

Between 15-22 May 2011, the 950th Transportation Company, acting as the 598th Transportation Brigade Short Notice Deployment Distribution Support Team (DDST), assisted the 839th Transportation Battalion, Italy Detachment in supporting the 227th AV RGT's deployment into Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan, at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

As part of their training, a short notice order was given to the 950th to prepare them to rapidly deploy to any port to serve as the Single Port Manager or augment the Joint Task Force- Port Opening (JTF-PO). This mission had the Italy Det act as the JTF-PO with the 950th DDST augmenting them. The 950th DDST provided documentation specialists, integrating with the Italy Det to provide 227th AV RGT guidance from an SDDC perspective.

The Italy Det provided invaluable training to the 950th DDST. Specifically, the Italy Det provided answers to frequently asked questions, lessons learned experiences and documentation. Additionally, they remained engaged and committed prior to and during staging area operations as subject matter experts providing on-the-spot corrections and direction.

As staging area operations commenced, the Italy Det coordinated with port operations for the reception of 304 pieces of equipment. During that period, helicopters and mission-essential equipment were then marshaled on the pier for onward movement.

All 227th AV RGT cargo was transported to the airfield at the naval station where they were loaded onboard C-5 Galaxy transport aircraft and airlifted to Afghanistan. The 950th DDST demonstrated great flexibility, agility and adaptability ensuring movement and delivery of combat power to support the warfighter.
POWERMOVERS! ■

► Sgt. 1st Class Omar Robertson, 950th NCOIC, documenting a UH-60 Blackhawk.



■ AH-1 Apache Longbows marshalled on the port.



■ Patrizia De Sanctis, Italy Detachment Documenter, observes 1st Lieutenant Karla Bayles, 950th Executive Officer, documenting CH-47 Chinook tail stabilizers as it is discharged off the vessel.





MRAPs, OUT OF AFRICA

■ Cliff Serwe, Rhine River Detachment, inspects the MRAP for pre customs clearance into the United States at the port of Durban, South Africa.

Story and photos by Larry Yeley,
Director United Kingdom Detachment

The 838th Transportation Battalion recently sent a Deployment Distribution Support Team (DDST) to Durban, South Africa to assist with the movement of 21 MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicles on 21 May 2011.

The mission started as any other with planning and preparation leading to the successful execution. The DDST consisted of a diverse team of logistics experts from across Europe. The members consisted of Team Leader Larry Yeley from the United Kingdom Detachment, Cliff Serwe of the Rhine River Detachment, Cor Schaatsbergen of the Benelux Detachment and Staff Sgt. Marcus Akabi-Davis of the 838th Transportation Battalion.

The MRAPs were flat-racked at the Port of Durban at the DAMCO warehouse and tarps were tied over each for added protection during shipment. At 1.2 million dollars each the additional care is value added for the customer. Each MRAP was customs inspected by the DDST and pre certified for entry into the United States. The team also applied RFID tags to each MRAP to provide in



■ Staff Sgt. Akabi Davis and Cor Schaatsbergen update the PDK system after scanning the RFID Tags applied to the MRAP vehicles at the port of Durban, South Africa.

transit visibility and ensured the Worldwide Port System database had accurate information regarding the shipment.

Due to a vessel arrival date change, the shipment of MRAPs from the factory to the port required a great deal of dedication and determination by the factory team (BAE Land Systems) in order to meet the required delivery date for vessel departure. BAE Land Systems did an outstanding job and met the requirement giving the DDST and stevedoring company DAMCO the time needed to prepare the cargo for shipment. ■

839th Deploys for EXERCISE AFRICAN LION 2011

By Andrew Maul,
839th Transportation Planner

AGADIR, MOROCCO – In cooperation with the 690th Rapid Port Opening Element (RPOE) and Navy Expeditionary Port Units (EPUs), the 839th Transportation Battalion recently deployed in direct support of Exercise African Lion 2011 to serve as the command and control element of Joint Task Force - Port Opening (SPOD).

The Camp Darby, Italy-based battalion deployed a team of nine to the Surface Port of Debarkation (SPOD), Agadir, Morocco, to receive, provide in-transit visibility (ITV) for, and facilitate onward movement of, the entire exercise African Lion equipment set, consisting of over 600 pieces of cargo.

Originally planned to deploy in support of a Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (JLOTS) exercise, the team from 839th Transportation Battalion shifted focus to the commercial port of Agadir in order to execute the branch plan. Due to sustained unsatisfactory weather and sea-state conditions at the bare beach of Tan-Tan, Morocco, 200 kilometers to the south, the vessel *LMSR USNS PILILAAU* was instructed to proceed to Agadir to discharge. While the cancelation of JLOTS forced the majority of key players associated with Phase I to redeploy without completing training objectives, the unique flexibility of JTF-PO (SPOD) allowed the entity to shift operations from Tan-Tan beach, to the commercial port, and enabled them to perform even more of their core functions.

The shift in location allowed the entire JTF-PO (SPOD) team, including embedded Navy Expeditionary Port Units (EPUs), to utilize their unique skill sets in order to achieve mission success operating at a developed port facility. EPU members were able to assist with vessel husbanding, a core competency that would have gone unutilized at the Tan-Tan bare beach location.

In an agreement with the Agadir port authorities, through Joint Task Force Morocco, JTF-PO (SPOD) established a base of operations, deploying their Joint Operations Center (JOC) on the pier adjacent to the USNS PILILAAU berthing location. From this JOC, JTF-PO (SPOD) was able to seamlessly coordinate all aspects of the operation, ultimately leading to mission success, upon reception of the final piece of exercise cargo at the Cap



▲ Cargo set to move from Agadir to Tan Tan.



▲ Maj Kuppinger, Commander, 690th RPOE, addresses the JTF-PO Team in Agadir, Morocco.

▼ JTF-PO JAT (Joint Assessment Team) and ADVON set up their living area on Tan Tan beach.



Photos by Lt. Col. Douglas M. Vallejo, Commander 838th Trans Bn

Draa Logistics Support Area (LSA) near Tan-Tan. Forward deployed 200 kilometers south of Agadir, 690th RPOE personnel lived in austere conditions at the Cap Draa LSA for the duration of the deployment phase of the exercise where a small team of Soldiers served as the JTF-PO (SPOD) "Forward Node." The team provided ITV at destination for all exercise equipment onward moving from Agadir by High Speed Vessel, LCU-2000, and convoy. Once the final piece of equipment

arrived, JTF-PO (SPOD) was considered "mission complete" by the Joint Task Force, and preparation for redeployment began.

Cancellation of JLOTS and Branch plan execution at Agadir Port allowed JTF-PO (SPOD) to prove its capabilities in both well-developed and austere environments. Despite being a Marine Forces Africa (MARFORAF) hosted exercise, the joint planning and execution by all branches were still able to effectively demonstrate to our host nation, Morocco, and other African Partners, a full scope of capabilities, and valuable bi-lateral training and cooperation. ■

African Lion 11 Redeployment

By *Dustin Huddleston*,
SDDC Intern to 839th Transportation Battalion

The redeployment mission for African Lion 11 started on the morning of 4 June 2011. The upload took place in Agadir, Morocco and was loaded onto USNS Pililaa. As an SDDC intern, I deployed to Agadir, Morocco to work with the 839th Transportation Battalion's Documentation Team and the Marine Cargo Specialists during this mission. The team consisted of a total of twelve personnel from across the Battalion staff and all three Detachments (Greece, Italy, and Turkey), as well as one Dutch local national from the 838th Transportation Battalion who served as a French translator during the mission.

While working with the Documentation Team, I helped verify all cargo staged in the staging area located at the Wheat Pier at the Port of Agadir. During the documentation process, I made sure that all cargo had the correct Military Shipping Label (MSL), and had an active Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag for the upload. The Documentation Team worked hand and hand with the U.S. Marines that had a documentation team on ground to correct any errors prior to the upload. On the evening of 5 June 2011, all cargo had been verified by the Documentation Team.

On the morning of 6 June 2011, cargo started to move from all of the staging areas and was consolidated at one staging location by model at the loading location on the pier. The USNS Pililaa arrived at 1300, the ramp lowered at 1500, and upload operations started at 1600. During the upload process on Day 1, I was responsible for the documentation of all cargo that would be loaded onto D deck. The loading operations on Day one ended at 2100.



■ JTF-PO JOC at Agadir, Morocco

The upload of African Lion 11 redeployment cargo on Day two started at 0700. I was responsible for placing equipment consisting of heavier cargo in accordance with the pre-stow plan on E deck of the vessel. This was a great experience to finally see how the pre-stow plan comes together once the upload begins. Having the classroom training on ICODES and then seeing how the operation is handled puts all the pieces together. The upload ended around 2100 with the completion of E deck being successfully stowed, and a total of 355 pieces successfully loaded.

On Day Three of the upload, I assisted the Documentation Team by doing the final scanner uploads of cargo being stowed so we could start to prepare the final load manifest. All 468 pieces were successfully loaded onto USNS Pililaa at 1500 on 8 June 2011. The Documentation Team and the Marine Cargo Specialists hand delivered the final manifest and stow plan to the Chief Mate. The USNS Pililaa departed the Port of Agadir on the morning of 9 June 2011 at 0600Z for onward movement to Sunny Point, NC and Norfolk, VA.

In conclusion, as the 839th Transportation Battalion intern, I now have a better familiarity on how ship loading operations are conducted. Every operation has its hiccups, but it's the way you work through those obstacles that makes the mission a success. I'm grateful to have a better understanding of how the upload process works from my experience on the ground and from a school-house perspective ■

Photos by Lt. Col. Douglas M. Vallejo, Commander 838th Trans Bn

The Rotterdam Community says Farewell to Herman Wiertz



In presence of his wife Gerda, his children and representatives of the entire Rotterdam Community, Herman Wiertz was awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his 40 years faithful DMOD Government Service by his Commander. Colonel Bruce E. Haselden, Commander SHAPE Health Care Facility who came from Mons, Belgium. This happened during an official retirement ceremony at HQs 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) in Capelle aan den IJssel, The Netherlands on 31 March 2011. Commander U.S. Coast Guard Activities Europe, Captain John S. Kenyon presented Wiertz the Public Service Award and Lt.Col. Farris C. Williams, Acting 598th Commander presented a 598th Certificate of Appreciation and plaque and the 598th Retirement Certificate. Pierre Hoogstad, 598th Dutch Ministry of Defense (DMOD) personnel manager presented the DMOD Retirement Certificate plus lapel pin and a gift of the Rotterdam Community personnel. Herman was the key element within the Rotterdam Community between the U.S. Military and Civilian personnel and the House Doctor and the Hospitals. He helped many people in support of good medical care. (598th PAO)

Patient Liaison
Coordinator/
Health Benefits
Advisor



In Memory of Pierre Hoogstad

Capelle aan den IJssel, NL -- After a short illness we are sad to inform you that Pierre Hoogstad (62), Chief Netherlands Local National Personnel (DMOD), 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), passed away on Saturday 6 August 2011 at 06:15 am.

Pierre leaves behind his wife Hanna and two children, Kim and Jan-Willem & daughter-in-law Wendy and grand-daughter Charlie

The cremation took place on Thursday 11 August 2011. More than 50 colleagues from the Ministry of Defense and the 598th Transportation Brigade paid their last respect and gave their condolences to his wife and family.

We remember Pierre Hoogstad as the Personnel Chief who worked with SDDC from 1973 - 1996 and from 2000 - 2011. He was the key liaison personnel manager between DMOD, the U.S. Leadership and the Host Nation DMOD employees.

We wish Hanna and the family a lot of strength in the future ahead.
598 PAO

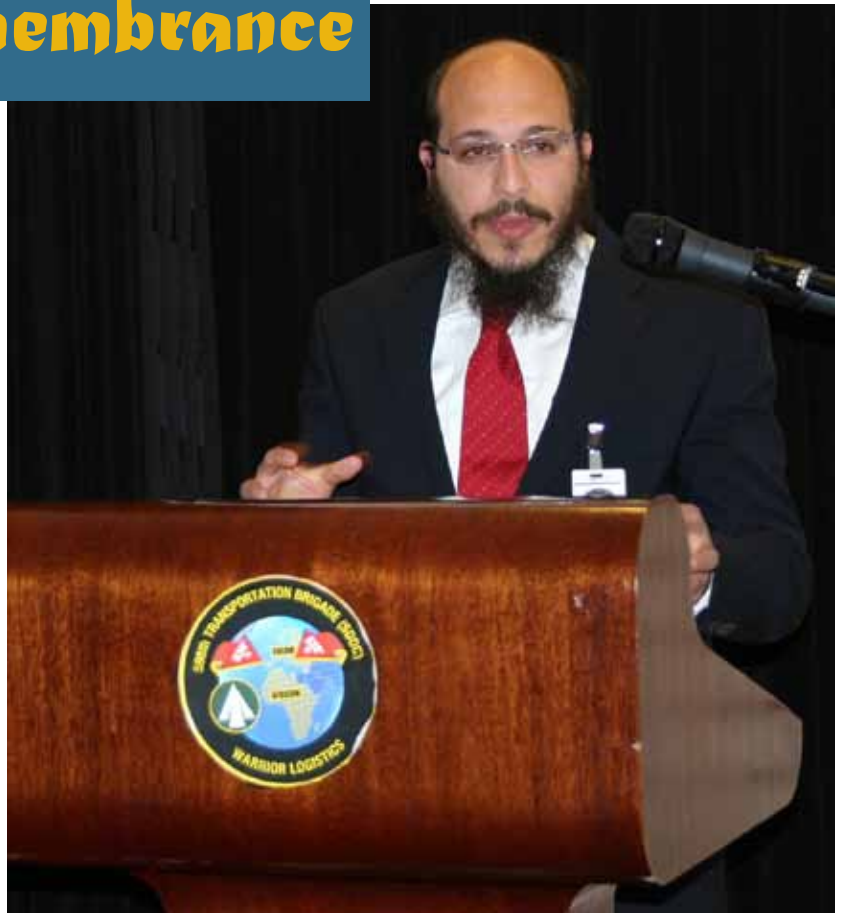
Days of Remembrance

On Wednesday, the 4th of May, 2011, Rabbi Avi Tawil came to the Rotterdam Community to talk during these days of Remembrance about the Holocaust.

Rabi Tawil said a traditional Kaddish (prayer) and talked about justice and accountability in the face of genocide. He tried to answer the question of what we have learned over the years? He addressed a Jewish Song; The El male. After the presentation Rabi Tawil received a 598th Transportation Brigade plaque and coin from acting 598th Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Riley Cheramie.

Rabi Tawil is currently Director of the European Jewish Community Center (EJCC) in Brussels, Belgium. He promotes Jewish Culture in Europe.

During the evening Lt.Col. Cheramie and 598th Command Sergeant Major Felton Head placed a wreath on behalf of the United States of America at the WWII monument at the cemetery in Capelle aan den IJssel. The people of The Netherlands commemorated those who gave their lives during WWII and after on May 4th, the day before Liberation Day which is on May 5th.



■ Rabbi Avi Tawil from Brussels learned the Rotterdam Community audience about the Holocaust

950th Transportation Company sponsors initiative for motorcycle safety

Article and pictures by Nils Pfuhl,
Safety Specialist, 950th Transportation Company

Practical experience especially in extreme situations helps to reduce accidents

On May 22nd, six 950th POWERMOVERS engaged in a real situation training session for a day at the Bremerhaven Airport under the guidance of four professional trainers. Over sixty bikers from various commercial companies including thirty members of the Bremerhaven Police, spent Sunday on the apron to increase their level of awareness in a field where we lose too many members of the armed forces due to accidents every year (FY 2011: 21 fatalities, FY 2010: 78 fatalities).

This event organized by German Road Safety Organization (Verkehrswacht Bremerhaven) wel-



■ All bikers receiving a special safety vest for motorcycle riders before the convoy departs to the airport.

comed the proposal of the POWERMOVERS to get several partners from the Port of Bremerhaven in one boat to make this event happen. Major Dang, Commander of the 950th U.S. Army Transportation Company lauders the dedication demonstrated by the participants, who sacrificed their own time to help enhance safety both on and off duty. ■

Memorial Day in the Netherlands

Composed by 598th CAO

Colonel William L. Moseley and Master Sergeant Michael J. Scott, 598th Operations NCOIC, represented the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) during a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Netherlands American Cemetery & Memorial at Margraten, The Netherlands, on Sunday 29 May, 2011.

The ceremony was attended by Maj. Gen. H. Morsink, Adjutant General to Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands and Chief of the Military Household; the Honorable Fay Hartog Levin, Ambassador of the United States of America; Mr. Frissen, the Queen's Commissioner of the Province of Limburg; Maj. Gen. Byron S. Bagby, U.S. Army, Director of Operations Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum and many leading civilian and military authorities who laid wreaths during the ceremony. Col. Moseley laid a wreath on behalf of the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC).

The World War II Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial is the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands. The cemetery's tall



■ *The Joint Color Guard from Joint Force Command Brunssum, and the U.S. Embassy in Den Haag, The Netherlands.*

memorial tower can be seen before reaching the site, which covers 65.5 acres. From the cemetery entrance the visitor is led to the Court of Honor with its pool reflecting the tower. Stretching along the sides of the court are Tablets of the Missing on which are recorded 1,722 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. At the base of the tower facing the reflect-

■ *The Honorable Fay Hartog Levin, U.S. Ambassador to The Netherlands, accompanied by Captain, Daniel E. Braswell, U.S. Navy, Defense and Naval Attache show their respect after laying the wreath honoring the U.S. Military who died and suffered during and after WWII.*



ing pool is a statue representing a mother grieving her lost son. Beyond the tower is a burial area. Here rest 8,301 of our military Dead, representing 43 percent of those who were originally buried in this and in other temporary cemeteries in this region. Most of them gave their lives in the airborne and ground operations to liberate eastern Holland, during the advances into Germany over the Roer and across the Rhine and in air operations over these regions.

The site was liberated on 13 September 1944 by troops of the U.S. 30th Infantry Division which were advancing northeastward toward the Roer in Germany, as part of the U.S. First Army. A battlefield cemetery, one of the first to be used for the interment of American soldiers who fell on German soil, was established here on 10 November 1944 by the U.S. Ninth Army.

Of the 8,301 Dead who gave their lives in their Country's service, from every State in the Union, The District of Columbia, England, Canada and Mexico, 106 are Unknowns. In no less than 40 instances two brothers lie buried side by side, while one headstone marks the common grave of two Unknowns.

The American Cemetery in Margraten, near Maastricht, is not quite like any other American cemetery in Europe: it is the only one where the fallen soldiers' graves have been adopted by local inhabitants. The adoption program started in 1946 and the more than 18,000 American graves at the time were soon adopted on a voluntary basis by Dutch families, who committed themselves to maintaining the graves well, adorning them regularly with fresh flowers, and to keeping in touch whenever possible with the soldiers' relatives in the United States.

The cemetery site has a rich historical background, lying near the famous Cologne-Boulogne highway built by the Romans and used by Caesar during his campaign in that area. The highway was also used by Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, and Kaiser Wilhelm II. In May 1940, Hitler's legions advanced over the route of the old Roman highway, overwhelming the Low Countries. In September 1944, German troops once more used the highway for their withdrawal from the countries occupied for four years. ■

■ *Mr. Warren Proctor, from the 598th MWR office, laid a wreath on behalf of the American Legion*



■ *Colonel William L. Moseley, Commander 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) laid a wreath at the US/NL WWII cemetery in Margraten, NL.*



FREEDOM IS NOT FREE AND IS ALWAYS WORTH FIGHTING FOR:

The 598th Transportation Brigade of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) Participate in The 67th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion

We studied the logistics impacts, leadership examples, challenges and personal sacrifices associated with the success of Operation Overlord. The display of selfless service and willingness to sacrifice American and other Allied Forces Lives for the freedom of others was overwhelming. We honored the sacrifices of our forefathers and also acknowledged the sacrifices of our Warriors in the current fight for the freedom of others. Freedom is truly not free but is always worth fighting for!"

Colonel Bill Moseley, Commander 598th Transportation Brigade

*By Captain David M. Mackintosh,
598th Transportation Officer*

The Officers and Civilian directors of the 598th Transportation Brigade conducted a staff ride to Normandy, France on the 67th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 D-Day Invasion of Normandy, the largest amphibious invasion in world history. This staff ride highlighted many of the leadership, tactical and logistical challenges faced by Allied Forces in the execution of Operation Overlord, the largest amphibious assault ever conducted. The low cost trip was sponsored by the Schinnen MWR, led by tour guide John Bruls who provided briefings and written products about the history of the invasion.

Colonel Bill Moseley said: "With an Army at war for over 10 years with an amazing OPTEMPO, I wanted to re-establish Staff Rides and Officer Professional Developments that have been a vital ingredient to the success of our Officer Corps. We took the time to conduct this invaluable opportunity to develop our Officers and Senior Civilians with this staff ride".

Sites visited on the first day focused on the British and Canadian sector with visits to the Merville Battery, Pegasus Bridge, Juno Beach, Longues-sur-Mer, and Arromanches, former home of "Port Winston", a prefabricated Mulberry harbor the creation of which represents one of the great military logistical accomplishments of the twentieth century, and the ruins of which are still easily visible from the coast.

The second day included visits to Pointe Du Hoc, a gun battery destroyed by U.S. Rangers following an assault up perilous 100 foot high cliffs all while under heavy enemy fire; St. Mere Eglise, the first French village liberated by American forces; the landing sites of U.S. Forces at Utah



■ The Officers and Department of the Army Civilians of the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) visit Point-Du-Hoc which US Army Rangers assaulted after scaling 100' cliffs to destroy a gun battery. (Photo: 598th Trans Bde Archive).



■ Major Anderson Raub and Major Dan Gunter of the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) escort a WWII Ranger who participated in the Omaha Beach assault landing during a wreath laying ceremony on 6 June 2011. Photo by: Lt.Col. Delois Watson-Brown, 598th Intel OIC

and Omaha beaches; and the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer.

In addition to providing the Officers and Department of the Army Civilians with an opportunity to study and acknowledge the sacrifices and accomplishments of Allied Forces at Normandy, the trip also allowed the officers and directors of our diverse command to interact and build camaraderie. It is doubtful that any of the participants will soon forget the first annual 598th “Mud &

Blood” bowl; a friendly touch football game after a 2 mile esprit-de-corps unit run.

All participants agreed one of the highlights of the staff ride was the opportunity to meet with some of the veterans of the D-Day invasion, including veterans of the 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army Rangers, and British Navy who recounted personal accounts; many of which have not yet made it into the history books. Despite the fact that most of the officers are themselves combat veterans; all stood in awe of the challenges faced, sacrifices made, and dedication to mission that was exemplified by the veterans who fought on D-Day.■

598th Trans BDE team participates in Rotterdam Marine Challenge 2011

*by Martin Weteling,
598th Trans BDE Public Affairs Officer.*

Rotterdam, NL, 25 June 2011 – Despite bad weather conditions over ten teams gathered at the Van Ghentkazerne in Rotterdam, The Netherlands to compete in the Rotterdam Marine Challenge. Weather conditions prevented the teams from competing in the full program meaning the prizes were awarded earlier than expected.

Commander of the Marine Barracks, Colonel Abe, opened the day by welcoming the athletes in the morning. A special welcome was mentioned for the only ‘foreign’ team, the 598th Trans BDE team. After Abe’s introduction it was time to warm those muscles. Sports instructors from the Royal Netherlands Marines ensured that all athletes began the day with a proper warm-up. The first part of the program consisted of soccer and volleyball. The 598th Trans BDE soccer team played their three matches in the pouring rain and were unlucky with two losses. Both were lost in the last minute when the opponent found the net. The third game was won and the players left the field with their head held high!

The volleyball team operated at full speed. There was no stopping them and no team was able to beat them. All players displayed dedication and eagerness to win leading to three clear victories in their group. This under the loud cheers of commander Colonel Moseley and Command Sergeant Major Head.



■ *The Soldiers and Civilians of the 598th Transportation Brigade came together once again to participate in the Van Ghentkazerne (Royal Netherlands Marine Corps), annual Sports Day event. This is the second time year, 598th participated.*

Following the morning program a luncheon was served. The traditional Marine luncheon, a Indonesian Ricetable was received with enthusiasm and strengthened the athletes for the afternoon program, at least that was what they thought! Outside the weather changed for the worse and rain was now gusting down with fierce winds. The Van Ghentkazerne Sergeant Major directed all to the main hall for an announcement. There all were told that the afternoon program, which would predominately take place outside was cancelled. This meant that the prizes were handed out based on the morning program. The 598th Trans BDE team ended on the 4th place. This means an improvement of last years team challenge since they ended the competition in eight place last year.

The Rotterdam Marine Challenge is an initiative of the Marine Challenge foundation to maintain the strong bond between the Royal Netherlands Marines and Rotterdam through sports.■

Gudrun Geisert - 30 years of Service -

On 1 June, 2011 the Rhine River Detachment honored Gudrun Geisert for 30 years of service with the United States Army. She began her career 1 June 1981 working for Rhine River Detachment as a Data Transcriber. She was promoted to Shipment Clerk in 1982, and her position was later re-titled Transportation Assistant. In addition to serving as a Transportation Assistant, Ms Geisert serves as the Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE) clerk.

"Her support has helped the Detachment maintain an outstanding record of property accountability spanning years.", said Clifford Serwe, Director, SDDC Rhine River Detachment, Mannheim, Germany. ■

■ *Gudrun Geisert received a 30 years of service pin from Clifford Serwe, director Rhine River Detachment in Mannheim, Germany,*



ICAF Students visit 598th in Rotterdam, NL & RRD in Mannheim. GE

During the third week of May, the 838th Transportation Battalion's Rhine River Detachment (RRD) recently hosted the Industrial College of the Armed Forces Transportation Industry Study group in Mannheim, Germany. The study group's goals include developing a strategic perspective of the transportation industry, and examining policy options to increase network capacities and improve levels of service. Their itinerary included multiple sites across the United States and Europe.

At the RRD they gained an understanding of our three lines of operation; privately owned vehicles, Mannheim and Germersheim barge operations, and contingency operations. They also received a briefing from the firm Wincanton, the contractor that provides the Rhine River Roll-On/Roll-Off service. They discussed their European distribution operations, vessel capabilities, major customers and their support to the Department of Defense through their relationship with Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.



■ ICAF Class 2011 visiting Rhine River Detachment

The group left with a broader understanding of the impact of the Rhine River upon the European distribution network, and a clear view of the benefits of using barge operations to reduce costs, network congestion, infrastructure damage to the road networks, emissions and fuel consumption.

ICAF also visit HQ 598th in Capelle aan den IJssel, NL the week prior. Here they were briefed by 598th Trans BDE; the Flower Auction in Aalsmeer; Heineken in Zoeterwoude; ECT, the Rotterdam Port Authority, the Dutch Customs in Rotterdam Port and Van der Vlist Special Transport in Groot-Ammer. ■

Safety Sends - *Off-Duty Losses*

By William T. Wolf, Brigadier General, USA, DASAF and Commander, Combat Readiness/Safety Center

Leaders,

Under your great leadership, our young Leaders and Soldiers are doing superb work executing the missions both at home and in theaters overseas. Double-digit reductions in all on-duty accident categories show safety has become a top priority on the job, and we are poised to set another record low in on-duty fatalities at year's end. On-duty, our Leaders are engaged while our Soldiers continue to look out for each other on every mission, at home station and in the AOR. Through March of this year we were also seeing decreases in almost all off duty fatality categories as well. However, since the end of April, approximately four Soldiers have died every week during their off-duty time, primarily in privately owned vehicles (POV) and privately owned motorcycles (POM) crashes.

For the fourth consecutive year, Soldier deaths in sedans, trucks, SUVs, and vans, as well as on motorcycles have accounted for nearly two thirds of all accidental fatalities. Fatal POM accidents are currently 50 percent above year-to-date totals for both 2009 and 2010 and are approaching the record high set in fiscal 2008. Additionally, off duty fatal personal injuries like drowning, falls from buildings, and even private airplane accidents are also on the rise and already exceed numbers recorded during the previous two fis-

cal years. If this trend continues through the end of September, we could close the year with over 190 Soldiers lost to accidents during fiscal 2011.

Indiscipline is the root cause of the vast majority of these fatalities. Simply put, Soldiers are killing themselves by driving too fast and/or under the influence of alcohol, neglecting to wear seat belts or personal protective equipment, mishandling firearms, failing to use basic safety equipment, and swimming/boating after drinking or in dangerous areas. I think you are all familiar with the many tools we have available on our website, <https://safety.army.mil>. The POV/POM Toolbox and "Off Duty, On Guard" interactive challenge as well as the Soldier Safety Kit presentation will prove especially useful for your Leaders in fighting risky behavior. I encourage you to explore our site and share this knowledge with Leaders down your chain of command.

The tools are only as powerful as the people who use them. Our junior Leaders know who is at risk in their unit; they need to engage their Soldiers with the same dedication they have exhibited on-duty. These Leaders may need your help with establishing a garrison style of engagement with their Soldiers, so I would ask for you and your Senior Leaders to step in as necessary. Someone always knows when a Soldier is taking unnecessary risks and like we have seen in theater and at home station during training, our Soldiers look out for each other and take care of one another well when they are on-duty. I need your help to ensure our Soldiers know to step in and make a difference with their battle buddy off-duty as well.

Thank you all for what you do every day for our Soldiers, Families and Civilians. Working together, we will turn the arrow down on these tragic accidents. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and always play it safe! ■

