

TRANS TRIBUNE

Chronicle of Warrior Logistics in Motion!

Volume 8, Number 6, June 2009



598th Transportation Group Rotterdam, The Netherlands



SDDC

INCOMING The 598th Transportation Group welcomes Lt.Col. Riley J. Cheramie the new Commander of the 838th Transportation Battalion in Rotterdam, NL (Page 4) and Captain Sol A. Velez, the new Interim Commander of the 950th Transportation Company in Bremerhaven, GE (Page 5).



Lt.Col. Riley J. Cheramie



Captain Sol A. Velez

OUTGOING The 598th Transportation Group says farewell to Command Sergeant Major James E. Riddick, 598th Trans Gp CSM (Page 2), Lieutenant Colonel(P) James E. Anderson, former Commander of the 838th Trans Bn, and Major Reed, former Commander of the 950th Trans Co.



Cmd. Sgt.Maj. James E. Riddick



Lt.Col.(P) James E. Anderson



Maj. Scott M. Reed



598th TRANS TRIBUNE

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SDDC 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

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From the Commander

*Col. Stephen E. Farnen
Commander 598th Trans Gp (SDDC)*



Team! – the Summer Solstice has passed and we are officially in the Summer Season! Again, I could not be prouder of the hard work and efforts of the entire Workforce that continue to make a profound difference across the EUCOM/AFRICOM areas of responsibility and in support of ongoing contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan! Truly remarkable! The Northern Distribution Network continues to serve as a critical lifeline for expanding operations in Afghanistan. In fact, as we approach the end of June we are about to achieve a significant milestone as container # 1,000 will be successfully delivered to Afghanistan - with over 3000 more booked and in motion... We will continue to grow and expand this of course and your efforts are not going unnoticed. Ongoing missions on the continent of Africa continue to prove successful as well as we recently wrapped up African Lion in Morocco and Shared Accord in Benin – both in support of U.S. Marines/AFRICOM. We are also actively looking to expand capacity in Africa by bringing Global Freight Management capabilities to the continent. This will help enable us in becoming the surface movement answer for AFRICOM beyond just an ocean leg. All very exciting stuff! At the same time, our Headquarters relocation project to Van Ghentkazerne (VGK) remains on glide-path to completion Winter 2010. We have a lot to be excited about that is for sure!

The Summer timeframe is known to be a time of great change in our Army and this Summer is no different as we say farewell to some key leaders and welcome new ones in their place. Though change is difficult we must accept it and embrace it.

On a melancholy note, we said farewell to my right hand and battle buddy Command Sergeant Major Riddick! As you know Pauline, JR and Joseph left earlier and their presence in the community is certainly missed – not to mention the profound impact Pauline had in transforming and invigorating our Army Community Service (ACS) activities while serving as Chief, ACS. Fantastic stuff! At the same time – Cmd Sgt. Maj. Riddick's impact on our entire organization has been significant as well. His strong, confident demeanor and relaxed, friendly sense of humor will certainly be missed across our community and formation. Cmd Sgt. Maj. Riddick truly cared for our Workforce and was always quick to provide insightful advice when needed. His Warrior Competitions, plan for amplifying the Year of the NCO, ability to link new mission sets to training, and community upgrade initiatives, left an indelible imprint on our organization. We wish him all the best as he has departed for Ft Eustis, Virginia to serve as the Commandant of the NCO Academy. A task well suited for his skill and experience and great news for our NCOs and leaders that will pass through the NCO Academy in his tenure. As we always say – once you leave the 598th family you always have reach-back – so we encouraged him to stay in touch and holler if there is anything we can do for him! Cmd Sgt. Maj. Felton Head and his family are set to arrive in August and we know he is eager and anxious for the challenge.

We also said good bye to Lt.Col.(P) Jim Anderson, Melissa, Sarah and Alex as they changed command of the 838th Transportation Battalion and move on to Carlisle Barracks to attend the Army War College. They have a fantastic year

ahead and as was said at numerous farewell ceremonies, award presentations, and finally at the change of command ceremony – their impact will resonate for years to come! We wish them all the best and look forward to staying in touch. In their place, Lt.Col. Riley Chermie, Laura, Tristan and Leah take the reins of the proud 838th. We welcomed them with open arms and know they will do their best to build off the foundation laid and take things to the next level!

Many articles in this edition of the Trans Tribune are dedicated to these individuals and subsequent events. What great people we have across our formation and in our communities to keep us focused, strong, balanced and having fun!

Reinforcing the ideal:

“If you want to go quickly, go alone...If you want to go far, go together.” African Proverb

As always, the enthusiastic spirit and professionalism displayed across our Workforce continues to make me proud to serve!

Activities linked to our themes for 2009, the Year of:

- Information Technology/Knowledge Management – Leap ahead 5 years
 - o Win the information domain!
- The Family Covenant at our FOB Rotterdam Community and beyond...
 - o Deliver!
- The SDDC NCO
 - o Set expectations & define what it means to be an SDDC NCO...

So our charter is: With these themes as a watermark and the principles of innovate, pioneer, and transform to guide us – be a committed, dependable, relentless entrepreneur and let’s grow and expand who we are and what we do so our brand recognition inspires trust, endures, and resonates an aura of certainty regardless the nature of the fight or challenge across the spectrum of conflict.

Keep up the great work and continue to fight complacency at all costs! Be a prudent risk-taker and Own the Edge – this will keep us in motion and tracking in all we do.

Keep Workforce Strong and Safe; Trust each other; and let’s make a difference together!

Thanks for all you do! ■

“Imagination is more Powerful than Knowledge”
EINSTEIN

Cmd Sgt. Maj. James E. Riddick says Goodbye!



“WOW! Can you believe it has been two years? One thing is for sure it has been an eye opening two years. The folks that I have had the opportunity to work with here at Rotterdam have been incredible. The Dutch local nationals are very knowledgeable at what they do. Their support, smiles, and conversation have made my time here an enjoyable one. I have truly enjoyed meeting and getting to know all those associated with the 598th Transportation Group as well as its tenants. As I move on to me next assignment, I would like to say thanks for the memories and I wish you all much success in the future”, according Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Riddick.

Master Sgt. Gilbert M. Scott
*will be the 598th Acting
Command Sergeant Major
until Cmd Sgt Maj. Felton Head
arrives in August.*



On Tuesday the 23rd of June a ceremony was held at the 598th Transportation Group building in Capelle a/d IJssel, Netherlands for Command Sergeant Major Riddick to recognize his accomplishments and to wish him farewell. He was presented with awards and tokens of appreciation from various organizations he worked with including, the Coast Guard, 838th and others.

During the ceremony CSM Riddick thanked two Dutch families that really helped his family as they were first getting settled upon their first arrival. He remarked on the great amount of kindness and warmth they extended to his family. Riddick also made a few comments about what a great experience it is to be living and working in Rotterdam, Netherlands. He remarked that “He is truly grateful for the opportunities such as this that the Army has provided him”.
(598th Trans Gp PAO)

598th Transportation Group (SDDC)

Warrior Logistics In Motion!



CHERAMIE NEW COMMANDER FOR 838th TRANSPORTATION BATTALION



By 598th Trans Gp CAO

■ *Lt.Col. Riley
J. Cheramie*

Lieutenant Colonel Riley J. Cheramie took command of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's 838th Transportation Battalion during a change of command ceremony at the 598th Transportation Group Building in Capelle aan den IJssel, The Netherlands on 26 June 2009.

Cheramie, whose previous assignment, was to the J3, United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), Scott Air Force Base as Joint Mobility Operations Officer and NORTH-COM Branch Chief. Prior to this assignment Cheramie was deployed to Iraq as the Support Operations Officer, 49th Transportation Battalion (MC), 64th Corps Support Group in Balad, Iraq.

Host for this Change of Command was Colonel Stephen Farmen, Commander 598th Transportation Group (SDDC). During the ceremony, Farmen symbolically turned over the command by receiving the 838th Transportation Battalion colors from the departing commander, Lieutenant Colonel (P) James E. Anderson, and officially presented the colors to the new commander, Lieutenant Colonel Riley J. Cheramie.

The Change of Command took place in the 598th Transportation Building where over one hundred military and civilian authorities mostly related to the transportation and logistics business in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the United States attended the ceremony.



Among the dignified guests were Lt.Col. Cheramie's family, his wife Laura, daughter Leah, and son Tristan.

Lieutenant Colonel Anderson, his wife Melissa and their daughters Alexandra and Sarah depart for the United States. Anderson's next assignment will be to the Army War College where he will be part of the class of 2010.

SDDC's 838th Transportation Battalion 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 covering the Northern part of Europe and Africa and, when necessary, globally. To accomplish its mission, the 838th Transportation Battalion has subordinate units located in three countries in Europe. Besides its own location in Capelle aan den IJssel, NL, the 838th has units in Germany, the United Kingdom and Portugal.

The Speeches

During Anderson's time at the 838th the Battalion tackled over 30 missions and pushed the most cargo through Bremerhaven since 1996. SDDC's 838th Transportation Battalion 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 covering the Northern part of Europe and Africa and, when necessary, globally. To accomplish its mission, the 838th Transportation

Battalion has subordinate units located in three countries in Europe besides to its own location in Capelle a/d IJssel, The Netherlands. These are Germany, the United Kingdom and Portugal. Colonel Farnen of the 598th Transportation Group stated “since Anderson took the reigns of the 838th we have seen growth and progress. He has effectively written a new chapter in the Battalion’s history”. He also commented on the fact that Anderson was made an honorary NCO by his NCO’s, which shows the amount of dedication and trust they have in their Commander. Farnen’s final comments about Anderson were “he really stepped up and made a difference in both the unit and the community”.

Anderson opened with this statement “the last two years have been the most exciting and humbling in the last 20 years of my military career”. He talked about the vast amount of cargo they moved in the last two years, and the experience of living in the Netherlands. He said all the things the unit has accomplished in the last two years were possible because of the dynamic “workforce, which is second to none”. In his final words to the workforce he said “it was an honor and a privilege to serve you”. He also had a few words of encouragement for Lt. Col. Cheramie and that he would be working with the best. In closing Anderson said “get ready for the best experience of your life. Two years goes quick enjoy the ride”. Anderson his wife Melissa and their daughters Alexandra and Sarah will depart for the United States. His next assignment will be at the Army War College where he will be part of the class of 2010.

The new Commander, Lt.Col. Cheramie, whose previous assignment, was to the J3, United States Transportation Command (US-TRANSCOM), Scott Air Force Base as Joint Mobility Operations Officer and NORTH-COM Branch Chief. He said a few words at the end of the ceremony thanking a few people. He talked about the great experience of coming to the Netherlands with his wife Laura and their two children; Tristan and Leah. When we came to the building, he said, “we received a comforting and amazing welcome, we already feel at home here”. He went on to say that he is excited to be here and work with a group that has such high expectations; he hopes to “carry on the legacy of the 838th Battalion”. ■



■ Lt.Col. Riley Cheramie assumes command symbolically by receiving the unit colors from 598th Transportation Group Commander. Col. Steve Farnen.



▲ The 838th Change of Command was attended by many guests supporting the SDDC family from all over Europe.



◀ Lt.Col. Cheramie, the newly installed, commander 838th Transportation Battalion addresses the unit and guests to the Change of Command in his first speech as commander of the 838th Transportation Battalion.

▼ Lt.Col. Cheramie together with Capelle aan den IJssel's Deputy Mayor and Alderman,

▼▼ Lt. Col. Riley Cheramie and his family cut the cake presented to them by the unit after the 838th Transportation Battalion's Change of Command to welcome the family in the unit.



■ Photos by Martin Weteling, 598th PAO



950th Transportation Company Change of Command

■ Photos by Mr. Bill Neeland & Staff Sgt. James Phillips.

Bremerhaven, Germany -- On 12 June 2009, Captain Sol A. Velez accepted the 950th unit colors from outgoing commander Major Scott M. Reed. Capt. Velez will assume command responsibilities until the arrival of Major Gina D. SanNicolas in August. Maj. Reed will attend the Army Intermediate-Level Education (ILE) Course, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

In attendance for the day's events included the Chairman Bremerhaven City Parliament, Commander German Navy Operations School Bremerhaven, Deputy Commander Bremen State Command, S3 German Army Logistic School Garlstedt, and the Bremerhaven Port Captain.

950th Installation Coordinator Mr. Tom Swointek, the day's master of ceremonies, arranged two other special events at the conclusion of the change of command. Guests were able to participate in celebrating the U.S. Army's 234th birthday as well as contribute to the Army Historical Foundation (www.armyhistory.org). Donations collected were sent on behalf of the 950th Transportation Company Power Movers for the construction of the National Museum of the United States Army. ■
(598th PAO)

▼ Representatives of Bremerhaven City, German Navy Operations School Bremen State Command and German Army Logistics School attended the ceremony

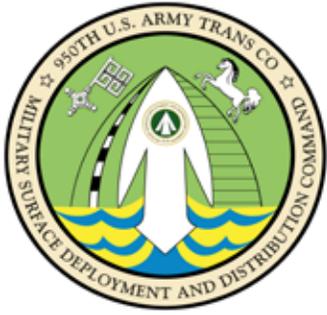
▶ ▼ Lt.Col. James E. Anderson, Commander 838th Transportation Battalion and Mrs. Galina Reed cut the U.S. Army Birthday Cake.

▶ Captain Sol A. Velez

▼ The symbolic Change of Command:

Sgt 1st Class Jackson (center) presents the unit colors to the Departing Commander Maj.Scott M. Reed (right), who hands the colors to Lt.Col. Anderson, 838th Trans Bn Commander, who presents the colors to the new commander Capt. Velez, (Left) who returns them to Sgt 1st Class Jackson.





SDDC **950th Transportation Company** **Supports AFRICOM Exercise**

*By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Jackson,
950th NCOIC Cargo Control*

Bremerhaven, Germany - - 20 May 2009 marked the completion of another successful mission for the SDDC 950th Transportation Company, with assistance from U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command (MSC), in support of the U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa for a combined U.S.- Benin exercise.

According to the U.S. Marine Corps News, the exercise, Shared Accord 09, is a humanitarian assistance exercise that focuses on the conduct of small unit infantry and staff training with the Beninese military and is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures.

The 950th supported the exercise by loading 44 pieces of U.S. Marine Corps equipment that was transported from Norway by motor carrier. Once the MSC awarded vessel, MV Zia Bella, was berthed, loading operations quickly began and culminated within five hours.

Three members of the 838th Transportation Battalion will meet the vessel in Benin to oversee vessel discharge operations.

At the conclusion of exercise Shared Accord 09, the 838th will return to Benin to support the returning of equipment to Norway and the 950th will deploy a team to meet the vessel in Trondheim, Norway for the final discharge and disposition of the equipment. ■



▲ MK27, Heavy utility truck, long wheelbase cargo variant lifted onboard the MSC contracted MV Zia Bella.



▼ Anja Kuehne, 950th Cargo Control checking documentation.



▲ Burkhard Bremer, 950th Chief, Marine Cargo Specialist keeps an eye on all pieces to be loaded.

■ Photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Lekesha Coel,
950th NCOIC Operations



SDDC-UK Detachment Celebrates RAF Mildenhall's 75th Anniversary!

Article and photos by James Cotton

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of RAF Mildenhall, originally designed as a bomber base for a new era of contemporary warfare prior to World War II.

Arriving at work on Friday 15 May, we were all pleased to see that despite the torrential rain, the anniversary celebrations appeared to be going ahead as scheduled. A full day of entertainment was planned, including static aircraft displays, air power demonstrations, flyovers and performances by the USAFE Band. SDDC-UK DET personnel had been given passes to invite up to three guests each to enjoy the day!

Everything began at 11:00 with a performance by the USAFE Band. Over 2000 personnel with their invited guests and local dignitaries enjoyed this opening ceremony which officially kicked off the celebrations. With the flying part of the day set to start at any moment, everybody breathed a sigh of relief as the clouds broke to allow some sunshine through.

First, we marveled at the precision flying which included one of the 100th Air Refueling Wing's KC-135 Strato



■ *Air refueling*

tanker's demonstrating an aerial refueling of two F15 Eagle's and two F16 Fighting Falcon's. A really unbelievable sight!

As the Air Refueling display disappeared on the horizon, the unforgettable sight of two A10 Thunderbolts roared into view in an attack formation demonstrating close air ground support. Explosions could be heard throughout the English countryside as pyrotechnics were detonated

■ *The Havilland DH82 tiger Moth. One of 20 to join in the celebrations!*





■ *The weather wouldn't dampen our spirits!*

for added effect. The A10s were closely followed by some more high speed aerobatics by the F15 and F16 Jets from nearby RAF Lakenheath. The air power display came to an end with a WWII era P-51 Mustang, an aerial combat (dog fighting) plane from a bygone age, performed an amazing display of aerobatics. The pilot thrilled the crowd with several circular loops, high speed dives, with a few barrel rolls, then blasting back straight up into the air where the pilot stalled the aircraft allowing it to plummet back towards earth only to have the pilot regained control of the craft before impact muscling his Mustang back up into the now clear blue sky!

Throughout the afternoon, the UK detachment and their family milled about the stalls enjoying some of the food on offer, everything from the traditional hot dog or cheeseburger to Mexican or Philippine dishes were available. The different squadrons and units based on Mildenhall were displaying equipment and demonstrat-

ing everything from working security dogs to the base fire department.

The highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of over 20 de Havilland Tiger Moths to re-enact the start of the famous air race from England to Australia. It seems unbelievable that these tiny 1930's bi planes took only 71 hours to get from Mildenhall to Melbourne – What an amazing feat!

The day served as a team-building event and was extremely enjoyable providing a great chance for everybody to get together with family members and co-workers alike. The celebrations came to a brilliant finish with the arrival of a Spitfire! The sound of its Rolls Royce Merlin engine was something my colleague Marc Allen had been waiting all day to hear! As it looped in front of the crowds it really brought home the significance of RAF Mildenhall, and its 75 year heritage! ■

KNOW THAT:

The 598th Transportation Group Command Affairs Officers; Bram de Jong and Martin Weteling are always seeking for interesting stories, reports, photos and/or illustrations to make our 598th Trans Tribune more beneficial, important and interesting for our readers.

Please forward text and photos related to transportation/logistics, your unit, your personnel or other 598th Trans Gp related news to: Bram.dejong2@us.army.mil or Martin.weteling1@us.army.mil

Colonel RNLMC Ruud Hardenbol New Commander Van Ghentkazerne, Rotterdam, NL



■ *Colonel Steve Farnen, Commander 598th Transportation Group and Colonel RNLMC Ruud Hardenbol, Commander of the Van Ghentkazerne and Deputy Commander Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (RNLMC).*

(Text & Photo Bram de Jong, 598th Trans Gp PAO).

Colonel RNLMC Carlo van den Berg turned over the command of the Van Ghentkazerne and as well as the function of Deputy Commander Royal Netherlands Marine Corps to Col. RNLMC Ruud Hardenbol at the Van Ghentkazerne on 9 April 2009.

Representatives of the 598th Transportation Group officially welcomed Col. Hardenbol and said farewell to Col. and Mrs. Van den Berg.

Col. Carlo Van den Berg, became the Commander Naval Barracks Den Helder and Facility Manager of the Royal Netherlands Navy which also includes the Van Ghentkazerne and support units such as Navy Fire Brigade, Navy Harbor and Tug Service, the Navy Security Corps and two Navy Museums.

On 28 May 2009, Colonel Farnen welcomed and briefed the new Van Ghentkazerne Commander and RNLMC Deputy Commander, Colonel RNLMC Ruud Hardenbol at 598th Trans Gp in Capelle aan den IJssel. ■



The 234th United States Army Birthday

14 June 2009 -- Two hundred and thirty-four years ago, the United States Army was established to defend our Nation. From the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror, our Soldiers remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 234th birthday commemorates America's Army – Soldiers, Families and Civilians – who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong both here and abroad. Their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is without a doubt, the Strength of our Nation. (USArmyPA)

■ *Lt.Col. James E. Anderson, Commander 838th Transportation Battalion, called together all personnel in the SDDC building and explained the importance of the Army Birthday. His Sgt. Maj. Reginald Thompson together with the 598th Transportation Group's 'Soldier of the Year', Sgt. Scott Yeager, cut the traditional Army Birthday Cake. ■ (Photo and text 598th CAO)*





838th Transportation Battalion received Deployment Excellence Award!

By Staff Sgt. James Phillips, 838th Trans Bn, Movements NCO

The 838th Transportation Battalion was honored at the 2009 Combined Logistics Excellence Awards in Washington D.C. Sgt. Maj. Reginald Thompson, and Staff Sgt. James Phillips were both in Washington D.C. to receive the Department of the Army **"Deployment Excellence Award for Small Supporting Unit Category"**.

In 2008, 838th was runner up for the same award, but was the winner in 2009. Brigadier General Layer, Commanding General, Chief of Transportation at Fort Eustis Virginia congratulated the transportation units that won in their categories.

"It's not an award that can be attributed to any one individual in the battalion. It represents the stellar accomplishments of the entire workforce. As a collective group, there is an expert in every facet of transportation in this battalion – and I was extremely pleased to see that DA recognized the battalion's efforts this year", said Lt.Col. James E. Anderson, Commander 838th Transportation Battalion.

There were representatives from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Japan and Iraq. After the awards



ceremony, there was a banquet held for the awardees and guests. The menu was great and a good time was had by all. Combined Logistics Excellence Awards (CLEA) covered the whole spectrum of Army transportation in which unit preparation and execution was recognized.

"I felt honored to be in the same room with so many NCOs' and Officers that work hand in hand to keep the transportation wheel turning," said Staff Sgt. James Philips. ■

Lt.Col. Jim Anderson says Farewell!

Rotterdam, NL, 26 June 2009 -- "Commanding the 838th US Army Transportation Battalion has been the highlight of my 20 years in the U.S. Army. During the past two years, the battalion loaded, unloaded, or documented cargo on over 7,000 vessels. The battalion's personnel moved nearly 82,000 containers, over 19,000 pieces of military equipment, at a ground total of 4,494,853 metric tons of cargo.

The battalion's personnel from the Azores, United Kingdom, Bremerhaven GE, Mannheim GE and Rotterdam NL have never accepted anything less than perfection. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve with them, and am grateful for their continuing non-stop quest for excellence.

As I transition to the U.S. Army War College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, my family and I will only have fond

■ *Lt.Col. James E. Anderson, former commander of the 838th Trans Bn.*

memories of the personnel that helped this battalion win the 2009 Army Chief of Staff's Deployment Excellence Award.



My replacement, Lt.Col. Riley Cheramie, is more than ready to command this battalion and is anxiously looking forward to the same opportunities I've had during my tenure," says Lt.Col. James E. Anderson, former commander of the 838th Transportation Battalion. ■

(598th PAO)

SDDC NCOs support WWII Veterans at Nijmegen University

*By Master Sgt. Gilbert Scott,
598th Trans Gp, Color Guard NCOIC.*

On 29 May 2009, the Non-Commissioner Officers (NCOs) from both 598th Transportation Group and 838th Transportation Battalion participated in a Veteran's Ceremony honoring the soldiers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Planned and coordinated by Mr. Van Asten of the Nijmegen University, these selected veterans were recognized for their role in the liberation of the Netherlands from the German occupation during WWII.

The event occurred at the University of Nijmegen, in the city of Nijmegen. Clad in their best dressed uniform, the NCOs provided the Color Guard for the ceremony. The U.S., Dutch and Army flags were all represented at the observance.

With the Colors posted, the Soldiers both past and present, paid their respects by rendering a salute. The Forward Operating Base (FOB) Rotterdam NCO Corps was overjoyed to participate in this event, and more than willing to show their respect for those who had paid the ultimate price for freedom.



■ *Veterans salute as they pay respect for those who paid the ultimate price for freedom. The text on the Plaque in the Hall of the Nijmegen Medical University reads; "This building is dedicated to the memory of the 82nd Airborne Division of the United States of America which took so illustrious a part in liberating Nijmegen and it will commemorate our gratitude to the Division, to the American people and to those who here gave their last full measures of devotion".*

(Photos by Mr. Van Asten, Nijmegen University).

SDDC NCOs conduct Honor Guard support at General Gavin Monument in Groesbeek

*By Master Sgt. John Sisk,
598th Trans Gp.*

On Friday, May 29 2009, Soldiers from the 598th Transportation Group and the 838th Transportation Battalion conducted Honor Guard activities in Nijmegen and Groesbeek, Netherlands honoring both the Dutch and United States WWII veterans.

The particular operation that was being honored was the MARKET GARDEN, Holland Operation which was conducted from September to November 1944 and was lead by the 82nd Airborne Division commander, Major General James M. Gavin. General Gavin's daughter was in attendance at both ceremonies and spoke at both praising the Dutch and American soldiers that served under her father.

Also in attendance, were veterans of the operation and it was truly amazing to see the spirit and youthfulness that they still have as well as the patriotism they still show. As can be imagined, all of these veterans were well into their 80s but they all still laughed and joked and heckled back and forth as to which was the better unit the 82nd or the 101st. Master Sgt. Scott wears the 101st combat patch and he heard from many of the 82nd Airborne veterans in attendance.

"I would have to say, I felt honored to be a part of celebrating history. It was great to see all the 82nd soldiers that were actually there during that time and have a chance to shake their hands and talk to them. Listening to the history and seeing how the people of Belgium and the Netherlands really appreciate the help they received from the U.S. makes me proud to be a part of the United States Army," said Sgt. 1st Class Buffie Brown, 838th Trans Bn, and member of the Honor Guard, about the day's activities. ■



■ The pictures show the SDDC Honor Guard and the commemoration of the end of WW II at the 82nd Airborne Division Commander, Maj. Gen James M. Gavin Memorial in Groesbeek. (Photos by Master Sgt, John Sisk).

Operation Market Garden

For the first time Maj.Gen. Gavin would lead the 82nd Airborne into combat. On Sunday, 17 September, Operation Market Garden took off. Market Garden, devised by the British General Bernard Montgomery consisted of an Airborne attack of three Airborne Divisions. The British 1st Airborne's (General Urquhart) mission was to seize and hold the bridge across the Lower Rhine in Arnhem. The 82nd was to take the bridge across the Maas river in Grave, seize at least one of four bridges across the Maas-Waal canal and the bridge across the Waal river in Nijmegen. Also the 82nd was to take control of the high grounds in the vicinity of Groesbeek, a small Dutch town near the German border. The 101st Airborne was to seize several bridges across canals and rivers south of Grave. Next to the Airborne divisions, the British XXX Corps was to advance along the "Corridor" to their objective - Arnhem.

The battle of the 82nd Airborne culminated on September the 20th, with the famous Waal crossing of the 3rd Battalion of the 504th Regiment, under the command of Major Julian Cook. The 504th took the bridge across the Waal river, but it was too late, the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, 1st Airborne Division, was defeated and couldn't hold on any longer to their north side of the Arnhem bridge. The Guards Armoured Division, which attacked the south side of the Waal river bridge would not advance towards Arnhem until the following afternoon. Lt. Col. Reuben Tucker, CO of the 504th Regiment, was furious.

Source: Wikipedia

VIPs visit 839th Transportation Battalion



Story and Photos by Joyce Costello,
U.S. Army Garrison Livorno Public
Affairs

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, U.S. Army Material Command and Mr. Dean Popps, Army Acquisition Executive, Acting Assistant Secretary of Army (Acquisitions, Logistics and technology) stopped in Italy, June 8 to visit their units stationed on Camp Darby military installations.

Surface Deployment and Distribution Command now falls under the Army Material Command and Gen. Dunwoody believes that has resulted in positive benefits for both commands.

"Now SDDC has Army top cover for resources they may need," said Gen. Dunwoody. *"They have a tremendous relationship with U.S. Transportation Command which gives them operational orders and missions; and we give them the administrative support whether it's through personnel or resources."*

Lt. Col. Robert King, 839th Transportation Battalion Commander added that his unit is better resourced because of this relationship.

"I believe it has really made a difference knowing that we have a four star general taking on SDDC issues and working for resources for the command," said Lt. Col. King.



▲ (Left to right) Lt. Col. Robert King, 839th Transportation Battalion Commander meets with Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, U.S. Army Material Command, and Mr. Dean Popps, Acting Assistant Secretary of Army (Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology) and Army Acquisition Executive, during their visit to the Camp Darby military community June 8.

Lt.Col. King provided a command briefing on the 838th Transportation Battalion with special attention paid to movement of relocatable buildings from Italy to Afghanistan via the Northern Distribution Network and the emergence of Rota, Spain as a key en-route infrastructure hub. Gen. Dunwoody and Mr. Popps also visited 3/405th Army Field Support Brigade and U.S. Army Africa commander during their visit. ■

■ Nadia Smith, 839th Trans Bn greeted Gen. Dunwoody during her visit to the 839th Trans Bn HQs.





Year of the NCO Event: 'NCO Pride in Service!'

By Sgt. 1st Class Bobby J. Blanson, 838th Trans Bn

The NCO's of the 598th Transportation Group continued its support of the year long Celebration of the Noncommissioned Officer by hosting yet another event for the Rotterdam Community on 22 June 09.

The event kicked off with a brief introduction in the 598th theater and opening remarks from Cmd Sgt. Maj. James E. Riddick of the 598th Trans Gp followed by briefs from Staff Sgt. Phillips of the 598th Trans Gp on the Army Physical Fitness Uniform, Master Sgt. Sisk of the 598th Trans Gp on the Army Combat Uniform and Sgt. 1st Class Blanson of the 838th Trans Bn on the Army Class A Uniform.

The three briefers donned and demonstrated the uniform they discussed and gave a brief History of their perspective uniform. To close out the theater portion, the audience viewed two motivational videos, one Army Pride in Service and the other on David Smith, Son of Paul Smith Army Hero.

The events then moved into the Gymnasium where Staff Sgt. Joseph Phillips gave a PT demonstration complete with a motivational run and a traditional cadence call which got the crowd pumped up and ready for a little Drill & Ceremony. Hooah! Next Sgt. 1st Class Brown-Gilchrist took a squad of four NCOs and demonstrated proper marching and some basic military commands and of course once again with a little cadence to keep the crowd motivated. "Double to the Rear", "March!"

To close out the day, the community was released into the caddy where after eating some good food, playing video games, board games and a mini cookout the youngest member of the 598th Family joined 1st. Sgt Yarbray of the 598th Trans Gp for the cutting of the cake. This marked the closing of the events.



▲ NCOs running in a double time.

► Alyssa Taylor and 1st Sgt Yarbray cutting the cake.

All and all I would say it was a definite success. We, the NCOs of the 598th TG were able to show our Pride in Service and both little and big Kids alike had fun. Not bad at all for a Monday! ■

▼ NCOs and community children do push-ups.



■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th CAO

Force Protection and Anti-Terrorism Measures: Our Responsibility!

*By Major Wayne Bowen,
Security Officer, 598th Trans. Group*

The Netherlands is an allied country, with low levels of crime and terrorism, especially compared to many other places to which the US Army is regularly deployed. However, a moderate to low risk is not the same as no-risk; Soldiers, civilian employees of the Army, and family members need to take some basic steps, to include (1) practicing situational awareness and; (2) completing annual anti-terrorism training, in order better to reduce their vulnerability to potential incidents.

As far as awareness, the first thing we should keep in mind is the overall level of security. U.S. Army Europe has a system in place, "Force Protection Condition (FPCON)," that gives us a general idea of current risks from external threats. There are four levels, each reflecting an increased potential of danger to personnel, information and critical resources: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. FPCON Alpha applies when there is an increased general threat of possible activity against personnel or facilities, the nature and terrorist extent of which are unpredictable. FPCON Bravo applies when an increased or more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. FPCON Charlie applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action or targeting against personnel or facilities is likely. Implementation of Charlie measures will create hardship and affect the activities of the unit and its personnel. The most immediate impact could be restricting building access to mission-essential personnel only. For example, the PX, library and CADI could be closed, dependents could be temporarily excluded from the facility, and Dutch Ministry of Defense employees could also have limited access.

FPCON Delta applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is imminent. Normally, this FPCON is declared as a localized condition. FPCON Delta measures are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods. Delta could involve completely shutting down operations, maintaining only a small staff of critical personnel, or banning all movement into or out of the building. As always, with increased security measures, there are increasing restrictions on movement, access, and communications; the higher the level, the less freedom we have and the more limitations we may face in accomplishing



our mission, but in exchange, we expect to limit our vulnerability to terrorism, crime and other threats.

Our current FPCON level is Bravo. Among the measures we have in place are ID and vehicle checks at the gate and main entrance, armed guards, physical barriers, controlled access to parking areas, and 100% accountability for personnel within the building. The command, on the advice of the S2 Office, can add or change these procedures in keeping with changes to our local situation. Please remember that these measures are in place to protect everyone; failing to comply has a negative impact not just on the individual involved, but the entire unit. It is everyone's responsibility to protect the personnel, information and facilities of the 598th; report any problems or potential failures in the system to the S2 office immediately.

Another ongoing responsibility for every member of the unit is awareness training. All DOD personnel, to include military members, civilian employees and dependents 14 years age and above must complete Anti-Terrorism Awareness Level I training at least once a year, as well as within six months of the begin date of in-country leave or PCS to OCONUS. Host nation employees are encouraged to receive the AT Awareness Level I brief once a year. You can find this training on the Internet at <https://atlevel1.dtic.mil/at/> or <http://at-awareness.org/> Print a copy of your training certificate and submit to the S2 Office.

Together, we can fulfill our mutual responsibility to minimize risks to the people and resources of the 598th. Force Protection is not only an issue for the S2, but is a critical element in our combat readiness, reflects our character as members of a mutually-responsible community, and demonstrates the way in which we reflect Honor, a key Army Value.

If you have any questions about security, or recommendations for ways to improve it at this facility or others within the command, contact the S2 Office at (DSN) 362-2366 or (Comm) +31-10-459-2366. ■



U.S. Army, Coast Guard, DAC and DMOD personnel of the US-NL Rotterdam Community represented at Veterans Breakfast at Capelle City Hall

*Text and Photos by Bram de Jong,
598th Trans Gp CAO*

Ten volunteers represented the US/NL Rotterdam Community at the Dutch Veterans Breakfast at Capelle aan den IJssel City Hall, last Saturday, 27 June 09.

Honorable Joke van Doorne, Mayor of Capelle aan den IJssel, NL, welcomed the almost 100 Capelle veterans who answered her invitation to attend the Capelle Veterans Breakfast at Capelle city hall. After explaining the importance of Veterans Day, she soon switched to the English language and publicly special welcomed the delegation of U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard EUR, DAC and LN personnel who represented the SDDC building in Capelle aan den IJssel, NL. She described SDDC as an important group of people working in her community.

The mayor also mentioned the importance of the municipality and city hall not forgetting those who risked their lives during combat for the nation. She was happy that 27 June has been selected by the Dutch Government to honor the veterans nation wide. In Capelle there is quite some progress. Since last year the veterans meet each other frequently in a Veterans Cafe and they organize trips etc.

Later on during the luncheon, she talked with veterans and several members of the SDDC delegation. Major Luke Meyers, 838th Trans Bn, answered some questions of the mayor. He thanked her for the invitation and mentioned the importance of recognizing those who defend the interests of the nation. This counts for The Netherlands but also for the United States of America. It is important to recognize and both our countries can learn from each other how this could be done.

"No matter the differences we may have in language we speak or the uniforms we may wear, we all can agree that our veterans are individuals that must be honored and treated with respect", said Major Luke Meyers.

After the breakfast the SDDC delegation returned home, The Dutch veterans, of which a number of them are in the eighties, took a special reserved bus which brought them to Den Haag/ The Hague where the NL Veterans came together for a Veterans Parade which was saluted by His Royal Highness Prince William Alexander, the Dutch Crown Prince. ■

► *Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Andrews, 598th and LCDR Radiah Jones, USCG EUR talking to a Dutch veteran.*



■ *Capelle aan den IJssel Mayor Hon. Joke van Doorne asked Maj. Luke Meyers, 838th Trans Bn to give his opinion about Veterans Day.*



■ *The Majors Andrew Meyers and King Kao, both 598th Trans Gp talk with Dutch Veterans at Capelle City Hall..*



■ *From left to right: Pierre Terburgh, 598th; LCDR Daniel VanBuskirk, USCG EUR, Maj John Drakeford, 598th; Mayor Van Doorne; Mike O'Conner, 598th and two Dutch Veterans.*





BBO GRILL SAFETY

*By Rudy Magereij
598th Trans Gp Safety Director*

YOU'VE GOT A LOT AT STAKE WHEN COOKING ON AN OPEN FIRE

Summer is a great time for cooking outdoors. Here are a few tips to keep your cookout safe and enjoyable.

LP Gas Grills:

Follow the instructions in the owner's manual and local fire department concerning lighting and operation of the grill and transportation and storage of propane tanks.

Charcoal Grills:

When using instant lighting briquettes, do not add lighter fluid. Spread them in a single layer and light several briquettes at the edge.

Standard briquettes should be stacked into a pyramid. Apply lighter fluid and allow it to soak in for a few minutes before lighting. Never add lighter fluid to lit coals. Once coals are ready, spread them into a single layer.

Flare-ups:

Dripping fat from meat is ignited by the fire and cause flare-ups. Prevent flare-ups by grilling low-fat meats and trimming fat from meat. Place a drip pan beneath meat to catch fat. Squirt water on charcoal to reduce flames if necessary. Be careful when you do this as large amounts of steam will be produced and could give you a bad burn.

Always grill in a well-ventilated area because coals give off noxious fumes. Cook away from children's play area and areas of heavy traffic.

Grill Location:

Don't cook on small balconies or porches. If a fire should start the whole building could burn. Make sure that the grill is located a safe distance from

building and other materials, such as wooden fences, that could catch fire from the heat produced by the grill. Four feet of distance or more is needed to be safe.

Never leave a lit grill unattended especially while children are around. Fat dripping from the meat can quickly catch fire and become uncontrollable!

Barbecue Food Safety:

Salmonella, a bacterium typically found in raw or undercooked meat, poultry and eggs, is a common cause of food poisoning.

A lot of the fun in barbecuing comes from being outdoors. Make sure you keep all the meat and foods containing eggs and dairy products (like potato salad) under constant refrigeration until you are ready to cook or eat them. Keep uncooked meat wrapped in aluminum foil or heavy paper until you are ready to cook. Don't let raw meat or its drippings touch other foods or cooking surfaces.

Cook all meat, especially hamburgers, thoroughly, as it is not safe to eat it rare. Partially cooked foods do not get hot enough inside to destroy bacteria. Grill until internal temperatures reach 160 degrees (for pork, beef and poultry) and 145 degrees for fish.

Don't re-refrigerate food that has been left out for several hours during a barbecue. Throw it away!

With these simple and easy tips, your backyard barbecue is sure to be a safety success. ■