The DETONATOR

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Committed to the Army Core Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Integrity, and Personal Courage

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105 Round Renovations

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Depot Personnel Center provides key resources to term employees

Written by Mary Moses

Above: Lyan Hughes-Ingram, human resources assistant, talks about the resources provided for term employees by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at Blue Grass Army Depot this summer. Photo by Mary Moses

Although times are difficult for many Blue Grass Army Depot term employees, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, or CPAC, is working hard to provide them with key resources and job assistance.

"I have a book, just for them, of different jobs, jobs in this area," said Lyan Hughes-Ingram, human resources assistant in the CPAC. "If there are any contractors that are located on the depot, if they are hiring as well, we have that for them."

The CPAC office began providing informational meetings and advisory services at the beginning of June, immediately after term and temporary employees received their letter from the depot that their contracts would not be renewed in future months or years.

"After they received their notices, we did a survey, to see what they need assistance with, and gave them the flyers and the resume template of the service that we would be providing in the upcoming weeks," said Hughes-Ingram.

Since that time, CPAC hosted benefits classes, College Fair Days, and a special resume workshop on June 28. The resume workshop held sessions in a career mobile in CPAC's parking lot, making it easily accessible to term employees. By the end of the workshop, all participants had a finished professional resume.

"The workshop gave them all the tools they needed and they just went to town," said Hughes-Ingram.

The local employment office also held a session for term employees at CPAC. Spokespersons came from the health department and veteran's workforce, and other representatives showed how to file for unemployment, do job searches, get interviews, and receive child care assistance.

"They had representatives from all of these places to come and give them booklets on what they'd need to do their last day on the job," said Hughes-Ingram. "So the last day on the job, they have the tools that they need."

Another option for the term employees is continuing their education through colleges and vocational schools. Colleges such as National College have visited several times to provide information on their courses and programs.

"I have some employees who are wanting to transition into education, and they want to know what would be the best route for them as far as financial assistance, because a lot of them are wondering, 'How am I going to pay?', or 'Are we going to pay for them to go?'" said Hughes-Ingram.

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Personnel Center Resources

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"No, you've got to get some financial assistance, and if you're a veteran, there's a lot of programs," said Hughes-Ingram. She said that another option is going through colleges with financial aid advisors for assistance, or taking unemployment while receiving an education.

Some employees wish to take "unemployment so they can finish a trade or get educated in another field, so they can get a different job," said Hughes-Ingram.

Hughes-Ingram said looking for a job is a full-time job.

"Search, search, search," she said. "Looking for a job and a college is a job, basically, it takes time and preparation to do that, you can't just throw something together and expect good results.

"You have to take the time and be very detailed and geared towards what you're looking for as far as what field, or if it's education, make sure you look at what price, what classes they offer, what your goal is once you complete that course or degree," said Hughes-Ingram.

As a result of the CPAC program, two employees have even had job offers, while another employee plans to take a medical course at Spencerian College.

"I think this program has been very successful, some people had some doubts, but all the employees were very respectful," said Hughes-Ingram. "I mean, it's a bad time, but they were excellent, they brought questions, they participated, every time I had something here, they were here, even sometimes when there wasn't anything, they came."

"Looking for a job and a college is a job."

- Lyan Hughes-Ingram, BGAD Human Resources Assistant

Depot supervisors were also instrumental in assisting their term employees by posting jobs she had faxed to the job sites.

Most of the CPAC-sponsored events have had a 50 percent turnout.

"[T]his is their livelihoods, this is very important, what's going to happen to them, to their benefits, what happens from here on," said Hughes-Ingram.

"Some of those questions we weren't able to answer," she also said, "But the ones that we could offer, I tried to make sure that we got some help for each individual person, as much as we could."

If any term has been unable to make a session, Hughes-Ingram has the information they need, and would be happy to speak one on one with them.

"People can come in any time," said Hughes-Ingram. "One of the gentlemen who out-processed last week, I told him if he needed any assistance, he could give me a call...I would be more than happy to assist him."

For those wishing to learn more about their health benefits, life insurance, retirement funds and TSP accounts, Hughes-Ingram recommends www.ebis.army.mil. For additional government job search information, she suggested www.cpol.army.mil or www.usajobs.gov. An individual's SF50s can also be taken directly from www.cpol.army.mil.

For more information, contact Lyan Hughes-Ingram at x6841.

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Back 2 School: Depot School Tours

School groups of all ages are welcome and invited to take a tour of our Blue Grass Army Depot. Tours last an average of 45 minutes, and generally consist of the administrative area, several locations within the restricted area, and may include the Chemical Limited Area.

How to Schedule a Tour:

- To schedule a tour, group(s) should preferably make arrangements two weeks prior, although there are no set requirements.
- A tour may consist of any number but the preferred is at least ten (10).
- The drivers must have either: A government ID or license, registration and Proof of Insurance.
- All ages are welcome, although no student below middle school age will be allowed within the restricted area. Students ages 17 and under require a parent/guardian consent form and must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch can be provided for a fee.

Above: Junior ROTC students take a tour of Loading Platform 92 in Blue Grass Army Depot's restricted area in June. Photo by Mary Moses.

For more information, contact:
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Back 2 School: Technology in the Classroom

Written by Heather Madden

As the summer comes to a close and August settles in, schools open their doors of opportunity once again to young scholars. Schooling used to mean cracking open a book and filling the halls with the scent of old paper, but a new trend has emerged in school classrooms. No longer do we hear only the turning of pages, but also the prominent click of a mouse. So how are kids learning these days? The answer is technology.

"You can hand a kid an iPhone and within minutes, they have figured it out," said Principal Ken Bicknell of B. Michael Caudill Middle School in Richmond, Ky.

Middle and high school curriculums in recent years have included many different forms of technology. In most schools, students are taught to use three Word programs—Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Students in Madison County are now required to type the final drafts of their writing assignments as part of a state requirement. Also within the county, PowerPoint has taken off as a way for students to present projects and reports. Caudill Middle School students will also learn to use Prezi, the latest program in PowerPoint technology, especially in the areas of social studies and science.

Madison Central and Madison Southern High Schools received the Enhancing Education through Technology Grant. The $157,730 grant from the Kentucky Department of Education is for the implementation and use of technology. Over the summer, the Gifted Educational Partnership with Madison County and Eastern Kentucky Unversity's College of Education hosted the "Soar to New Heights" summer camps for Glenn Marshall elementary school students, who were interested in learning more about developing computer technology. Rosetta Stone, a language computer program, will be tested in Madison County schools in 2011-2012. APEX learning and Carnegie Math software are also being used and updated by the schools.

Because of the increasingly affordable price of laptops, cell phones, and other portable electronic devices, most American families now have ready access to them. This year, students at Caudill Middle School will be allowed and encouraged to bring their portable electronic devices to school. Caudill has even adopted Wi-Fi networks for student use.

Above: The library in Madison Southern High School includes technology right alongside paperback books in preparation for the 2011-2012 school year.
Photos by Heather Madden.

What about students whose families don't have ready access to technology?

For those students, Bicknell said, we aren't discriminating.

"We have facilities here to provide kids with opportunity, although it will always be a concern," said Bicknell.

> *"You can hand a kid an iPhone, and within minuters, they have figured it out."*
>
> - Principal Ken Bicknell, Caudill Middle School

The phenomenon of social media has followed in the wake of these new technologies. In 2010, Facebook made world news when it was named the number one site on the Internet, surpassing even Google. With more than 500 million users according to the Washington Post, it has been deemed the most popular social media website in the world. Many middle and high school students are now on Facebook, starting as early as elementary school. Madison County schools unblocked Facebook last year.

With all this technology at students' fingertips, Bicknell is concerned his students don't understand the repercussions of using social media platforms such as Facebook irresponsibly.

"Facebook is a great social connection [but] anything you post is out there, forever. We have to do a better job of teaching students the ramifications of [social media],"said Bicknell.

A particular concern of Bicknell's is a dangerous new trend called "cyber bullying", where school bullying continues online and extends the hurtfulness of bullying to a student's life outside the classroom. The biggest problem with cyber bullying is that students can't get away from the bullying when they leave school.

According to the Cyberbullying Research Center (CDC), "Cyberbullying victims were almost twice as likely to have attempted suicide compared to youth who had not experienced cyberbullying." According to the report released by the CDC, teen suicide rose to become the third leading cause of death among teens in 2010.

In response to the misappropriated use of technology in school, Madison County students and parents are required to sign a user agreement which dictates restrictions on student-technology use, said Bicknell.

Finally, Bicknell wants educators everywhere to optimistically look at technology as a tool and not a crutch. Educators should understand their role is changing, and they are being welcomed into an exciting new world where students seemed more engaged in their own learning process, said Bicknell.

"Students know how to learn and use technology. We want to build an inquiry-based program where teachers fill in the gaps once the students are engaged and interested," said Bicknell.

Employee Spotlight: 105 Renovation Facility

Written by Mary Moses

Are you ready for a tour of one of Blue Grass Army Depot's lesser known but important workplaces? Come with us deep into the depot's restricted area, past ammunition loading platforms, grassy-covered igloos, and deer-inhabited meadows to the front doors of the 105 renovation facility.

Depot employees at the renovation facility support the war fighter by cleaning and renovating old 105 rounds coming from U.S. military installations around the world.

"[This mission] is very important. In fact, it's vital to the Army and to the defense of the United States," said Joseph Blyzes, explosives operator in the 105 renovation facility. "Without refurbishing this ammunition...we would have munitions that would not work when we need them to work."

Renovations for 105 shells take place in the restricted area. Twenty employees handle the work on an assembly line whenever a shipment comes in. The 105 facility is strictly for renovation work, so that the ammunition can be shipped back in excellent condition to service members.

"For the troops out there fighting in our wars, they have to have munitions that work, when they need it," said Blyzes. He said the depot has a step-by-step process for renovating the 105 mines safely and efficiently.

Above Left: Two Blue Grass Army Depot employees secure overpacked and renovated 105 rounds with wire banding in the depot's restricted area this July.
Below Left: A depot employee reprimes 105 cartridges at the 105 renovation facility in the restricted area. Photos by Heather Madden.

The renovation team picks up the 105 rounds from a storage igloo, an earthen covered bunker holding ammunition stockpiles on the depot. Blue Grass Army Depot is home to more than 900 grass-covered igloos.

When the team is ready to do renovations, the ammunition is shipped to the building and carried in on sealed pallets by a forklift operator.

Employees on the facility's assembly line remove the old 105 rounds from wooden chests, which are sealed and secured. The next group of employees pulls the caps off the over-packing to remove the artillery shell. The empty boxes and fiber over-packing containers are later re-treated in a large oven to kill any bugs or eggs that may have contaminated them. All packaging is reused, stamped, and stenciled to indicate they were handled by the depot.

Every assembly line section has special safety features, including an emergency stop button on the assembly line and a sprinkler that release a deluge of water in a single section. The sprinkler is connected to an electronic eye, which even the tiniest spark will set off.

Next, the 105 cartridge case is sent down the assembly line for renovation. In the first bay station, an employee removes the propellant from the cartridge case and dumps it into a barrel. She also places one of the cartridge case components, a cardboard cup, into a box. Once there are 30 propellants in a barrel and 30 cardboard cups in a box, the items are picked up by another employee called the "floater." The old propellants are burned off in a different area of the depot.

In the deprime operation station, a deprimer machine uses a rod to remove the primer from the center of the cartridge casing. A primer is also called a "firing pin", because it ignites the propellant, which launches a 105 artillery shell. The old primers need to be replaced because they often become rusty and corroded with age.

In the reprime cartridge station, the old 105 cartridges are cleaned, painted, and given new primers.

After the cartridge is reprimed, a depot employee gives the cartridge new propellant. A propellant is made up of seven numbered charges connected by a green string. The propellants are each different sizes to allow for different launching distances of the 105 round.

Blyzes said this station is very important, because if a cartridge doesn't have all seven charges, the round may drop too early and "kill your own people."

Inspectors make sure the 105 round has been assembled and stamped correctly in the next station, and then the cartridge is sent down the line for repacking. The 105 artillery shells are repacked into their cartridges. All components are put back into their fiber casing, taped, and squeezed into an over-packing tube. Two tubes are put inside each re-treated wooden chest, stacked on pallets, and held secure with tough metal banding.

The newly renovated 105 rounds are now ready to be shipped to their home installations.

Why does this process matter?

"[We] take ammunition out of the system that the war fighter can't use, and we renovate it, put it back into a condition that it can be put back into the supply system, and issue it to the war fighter when he needs it." said Richard Krossber, an area foreman for depot maintenance and demilitarization.

August 2011

August 1

Clark County Fair
Clark County Fairgrounds
Runs through **August 3**

August 11

First Day of School, Clark County

August 13

EKU Women's Soccer Game
@Indiana University, 7 p.m.

August 15

First Day of School
Madison County

August 18

Kentucky State Fair
Louisville Expo Center
Runs through **August 25**

August 19

Celtic Festival, Berea, Ky.
EKU Women's Soccer (Home)
University of Louisville, 5 p.m.
UK Woman's Soccer
@ Oakland University, 7 p.m.

August 20

Celtic Festival, Berea, Ky.

August 21

Celtic Festival, Berea, Ky.
World Championship Horse Show
Louisville Expo Show/
Freedom Hall
Runs through **August 27**

August 23

EKU Women's Soccer (Home)
UK, 7 p.m.

August 26

Women's Equality Day

EKU Women's Soccer
Wright State, 5 p.m.
UK Men's Soccer (Home)
Payton, 7:30 p.m.
UK Women's Soccer (Home)
Ohio, 5 p.m.

August 28

EKU Women's Soccer (Home)
Miami University of Ohio,1 p.m.
UK Men's Soccer (Home)
University of Michigan, 7 p.m.

Shelter in Place Exercise is a Success

S·I·P
Shelter-In-Place

Written by Jordan Dalrymple

After months of planning, training, and more training, the Blue Grass Army Depot Safety Office is proud to call the Chemical Accident or Incident Response and Assistance, or CAIRA, exercise on Safety Day a success. We would like to thank all participants of the June 30 exercise for working with the Safety Office during the event.

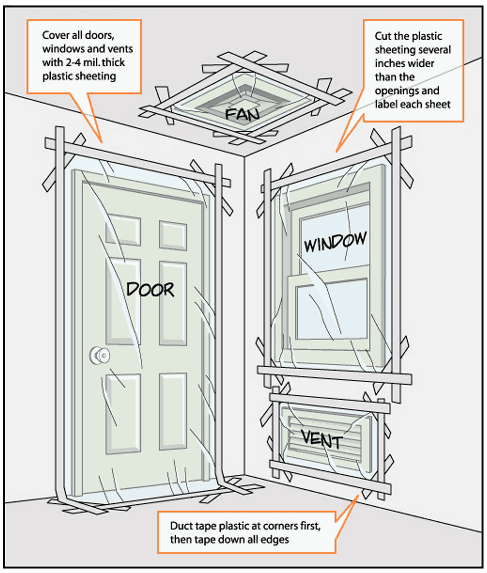
The Safety Office has gathered all After Action Reports (AAR) received from the Shelter In Place (SIP) locations at the end of the exercise, and has analyzed the information provided in these reports.

Employees played an important role in providing constructive feedback for continuous process improvement of the SIP program. Their input is helping the depot Safety Office improve employee safety and efficiency during a CAIRA event through training and frequent visits to SIP locations. We plan on holding another CAIRA exercise a few months from now, after we have worked through the improvement process.

BGAD employees noted that the Shelter In Place (SIP) exercise and training was taken very seriously. Here are some of the event's successes, according to depot employees:

- The accountability process worked, personnel were familiar with their accountability Point of Contact (POC), and the accounting for all personnel went smoothly
- Shelter In Place (SIP) team members knew their roles and responsibilities when CAIRA notification to Shelter In Place (SIP) was received from Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- SIP Kits were prepared and ready for the event. Excellent work!

The Safety Office has analyzed the issues that were brought to their attention before and after the exercise. Future training and exercises will help the Safety Office make improvements in communication and in the available number of SIPs. The SIP program is one of the many ways that the Safety Office is working to provide a safer work environment for all depot personnel.



Depot Water is Safe to Drink

Written by Mary Moses

Every day on Blue Grass Army Depot, the depot's water distribution system treats an average of 250,000 gallons of water from Lake Vega in the restricted area to almost every location on the depot.

Although the water is pretreated, disinfected, filtered, and sampled daily, some employees and members of the local community perceive depot water as low quality.

"We take the safety and security of our employees, our workforce, very, very seriously," said Col. Brian L. Rogers, Blue Grass Army Depot commander. "...we would never expect an employee to drink water that is unpalatable, certainly will never allow ourselves to offer water that is supposed to be potable to an employee that is not potable."

Ramesh Melarkode, acting director of the depot's Directorate of Services and Support (DSS), said that the depot constantly checks and improves its water distribution system.

"We do a very good job, we're self-checking, always fixing something," Melarkode said.

Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) conducts unannounced annual inspections of the depot's water treatment plant as a regulatory requirement. This year, the inspection was performed on June 14.

Melarkode said the results were all positive. The inspection report summarized it as "Overall, a nice inspection."

"We do daily samplings," said Greg Hall, a contractor employee at the depot's water treatment plant. Hall and his team sample parameters, such as pH, alkalinity, iron, manganese, temperature, and chlorine residual in the water. They also conduct more in-depth samplings for inorganic compounds and corrosive materials.

Counter Clockwise:
1. Greg Hall, contractor for the Blue Grass Army Depot water treatment plant, examines water samplings from Lake Vega in the left sink, and the treated water in the right sink.
2. Automatic flush valves like the one installed by the BGAD golf shack prevent depot water lines from standing still and becoming stagnant.
3. A view of the Blue Grass Army Depot water treatment plant.
Photo by Mary Moses.

Lake Vega is a good source of water, said Hall. The highest levels of turbidity of Lake Vega are "minute" in comparison to the turbidity of the Kentucky River.

Sample tests also include monitoring for any ammunition-related contamination of the water source.

"Some of your samples, your volatile organic compounds, synthetic organic compounds, are going to catch that," said Hall. "They've been testing it for explosive contamination and the tests were fine."

When the depot receives a complaint about the quality of their water, the complaints are taken seriously. Corrective steps include flushing the water from the water lines of the complaint area and sampling and testing the water quality, as necessary, said Melarkode. The depot commander, Col. Brian L. Rogers, is kept informed throughout the process.

"We recently had an incident, where we had regressed in insuring that we had good-tasting water inside of the restricted area," said Rogers.

One of the possible reasons for an odor/taste complaint is that water has been stagnant for a while in an affected area's pipes, said Hall. This is especially the case when there is no water usage in a building that was briefly shutdown between projects. One way to fix the problem is to leave the tap running for a while to help turn over the water and freshen it again.

The depot is continuously looking into ways of improving its water operations. One way the depot has addressed the standing water problem is by installing strategically placed automatic flush valves, which release standing water and pump new water into an area. The flush valves help prevent the water from sitting in pipes too long.

"A flusher's primary purpose is to keep the chlorine residual into the lines, which keeps it safe to drink," said Hall.

If the water sits in an area for a week or two weeks, the water becomes stale, Hall also said. The new flushers have helped the depot get fresh water to some of those areas. Before, Hall and his team were going out and flushing all the hydrants manually.

The depot flushes all their water twice a year, regardless of water usage.

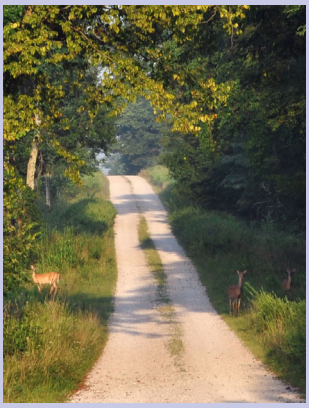
The depot's water system is made up of several components. After passing through the water treatment plant, the water is stored in the water tower beside the clock house (storing 250,000), or into the clear well below the plant (storing 125,000). Any excess water from the clear well enters the fire reserve, which holds 675,000 gallons. That's enough water to supply 15,000 people, said Hall.

The depot's water treatment plant is maintained by contractors K. Hayes Limited/TetraTech Inc. The plant has four regular contract employees.

"Our water is clean...We're still meeting state [requirements], we're just trying to get it to be better and better, maintain it at a high quality," said Tim Barrett, acting environmental chief, DSS.

The Depot at Dawn

Photos by Heather Madden and Keith Justice



View more photos of Blue Grass Army Depot at http://www.flickr.com/photos/bgad/!

Depot Family Page

Special Reaction Team honored by Commander

"We're dependable, we show up, we take it seriously. Everyone is tactically sound," said Daniel Jacobs, special reaction team member.

Col. Brian L. Rogers, Blue Grass Army Depot commander, presented members of the depot's Special Reaction Team (SRT) with achievement coins for their continued valor and excellence during an awards ceremony Wednesday, July 27, on the depot.

Daniel Jacobs, William Downing, Sean Morgan, Clinton Staton, and Jason Woolum were recognized during the ceremony for their high achievements at the Lexington Emergency Reaction Unit school and for their daily efforts on the depot.

"We're dependable, we show up, we take it seriously. Everyone is tactically sound," said Daniel Jacobs, special reaction team member.

Photos by Samuel G. Hudson and Mary Moses.

Welcome to the Depot!

Emory W. Attig, DLES
Monica L. Bryan, BGCA
Robert Z. Ford, USASOC
Timothy J. Glass, DLES
Megan Moore, BGCA
Preston Wood, DLES

Have any story ideas for the Detonator?
We'd love to hear from you!
Contact Sam Hudson at ext. 6221 or Mary Moses at ext.7221 to share your ideas and suggestions.

MWR Starts New Softball League!

Contact Roger Vanwinkle at x6403 to get involved.