



No. **3<sup>20</sup>**  
**11**



# **TRANS TRIBUNE**

*Chronicle of  
Warrior Logistics  
in Motion!*

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



*One Mind - One Heart - One Purpose*

■ Personnel of the Turkey Detachment (839th Transportation Battalion) deployed to the Republic of Georgia to support the movement MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected - military vehicle) Cougars to the Krtsanisi Training Area (KTA) for the MARFOREUR (Marine Forces Europe) Liaison Office). Photo by Carnall William - Turkey Detachment Director. **See Page 11 >**

**"Warrior Logistics - In Motion"**



# 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

Volume 10, Number 3  
3rd Issue 2011

## SDDC 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

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**Brigade Sergeant Major**  
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## Commander's Corner

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



It is already time to take a look at what has occurred since our last Trans Tribune. The OPTEMPO throughout the Warlog Brigade has been at warp speed. We continue to refine, train, and test our rapid deployable capabilities to ensure we are ready to respond to any crisis throughout AFRICOM and EUCOMs AORs, when called upon. We continue to support many different missions, exercises, contingencies, and humanitarian relief missions throughout AFRICA and EUROPE. We have also moved over 83,000 TEUs along the NDN in support of the Joint Warfighter in Afghanistan. The 598th Command Teams recently returned from the Semi-Annual Commanders Conference at SDDC HQ's and it was another successful beneficial time with the SDDC leadership, fellow brigade command teams, and the SDDC staff refining the SDDC Campaign Plan along with sharing cost savings and contracting best practices. I had a great time with the 598th/SDDC retirees' first official annual reunion conducted at the brigade HQs. What an amazing group of dedicated professional and entertaining personnel!

The brigade had several key visitors over the last several months and it was great to have Maj. Gen. Leonard and Command Sgt. Maj. Riddick visit our team in Rotterdam to see our Workforce, our garrison infrastructure and provide his vision.

I continue to be amazed at the diversity of the missions the team continues to accomplish from moving Combat Aviation Brigades on multi-modal missions in Rota, Spain to over 440 ammo TEUs in the Netherlands, to providing support to engagement teams in AFRICA to include supporting the TNC in Benghazi, Libya.

It is clear the Army is in the midst of downsizing the force and we acknowledge budget constraints are upon us as we continually work to become more efficient. Although the environment has changed and resources have become more scarce we will not degrade or reduce our commitment in providing world class distribution and expeditionary support to AFRICOM, EUCOM, CENTCOM, and all our other customers.

We are comprised of a diverse Workforce that is clearly dedicated to supporting all our customers on a daily basis and I want to say a personnel thank you for what you do each and every day.

**1M1H1P**  
*Warrior Logistics In Motion*  
Colonel William L. Moseley



# 598th Brigade Sergeant Major Corner

Wow, what a fast paced and productive quarter! Since assuming the duties and responsibilities as the Interim Brigade Command Sergeant Major, I began viewing things through a different lens than I did when I was the 838th Battalion Sergeant Major.

I've observed members of the War Log Brigade workforce doing some amazing things and executing some awesome missions. Throughout this edition of the Trans Tribune, you will see pictures of and read about all of the outstanding things/missions the War Log Brigade are doing in support of our #1 external priority. (Deployability)

Additionally you will notice all that we've done in support of the SDDC's mantra...One Mind (focused on the mission) One Heart (willing to serve) and One Purpose (keep our Soldiers alive).

I would like to personally thank each and every member of the War Log team for what you do every day in support of the men and women serving at the tip of the spear and in harm's way. Those protecting and defending the freedoms that we enjoy each and every day is the reason why we serve.



■ 598th Trans BDE (SDDC)  
Sergeant Major  
Marvin L. Bonner

As we continue to support our two Geographical Combatant Commanders daily and transition to the upcoming holiday season, I ask that each team member take a moment to reflect. Please reflect on all of our accomplishment to date and those things that are important in life to you. Additionally, take advantage of this period to spend some quality time with friends and love ones and enjoy the upcoming festive time of year.

Once again, thanks for being a valued member of the War Log team and I am honored to serve as your interim Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

**Warrior Logistics...In Motion!!! War Log-7**

A holiday greeting graphic. On the left, there is a circular logo for the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) featuring a globe with "AFRICON" and "EUROCON" labels, and "WARRIOR LOGISTICS - IN MOTION!" at the bottom. Below the logo is a cartoon illustration of a red car driving through snow. On the right, a red rectangular box contains the text "598th Transportation Brigade Commander, Sgt. Maj. &amp; Staff wish you" in white, flanked by two bell illustrations, and "A Joyous Holiday Season" in white below. The entire graphic is set against a yellow background.

# AFSBn-Italy Consolidated Depot and Foreign Military Sales Shipment

By Yolanda Santiago, Director Italy Detachment

*Livorno, Italy* — The 839th Transportation Battalion's Italy Detachment recently deployed in the capacity of single port manager to the Molo Italia port in Livorno, Italy. This deployment was in support of the combined Army Field Support Battalion-Italy (AFSBn-Italy) Consolidated Depot Shipment to CONUS and Foreign Military Sales shipment to Egypt.

On 13 June 2011, the Universal Service Contract vessel *ARC Patriot* arrived at the port of Molo Italia, Livorno, Italy, to upload 303 pieces of diverse military deadlined/operational equipment which included HMMWVs, M2A2s, M981, M1A1 and 40T Cranes.

Collaboration was essential to the success of this mission. AFSBn-Italy, 14th Transportation Battalion Movement Control Team (MCT), Italian Port Authorities and Police, and the Italy Detachment combined efforts to synchronize port activities and ultimately achieve a smooth delivery to the port as well as a safe upload.



■ An M2A2 Bradley is about to be loaded onto the *ARC Patriot*.

The MCT coordinated with the local authorities to securely transfer all items including sensitive from Leghorn Army Depot to the Molo Italia port in addition to loading all of the tracked vehicles. The Italy Detachment's Stevedore and Related Terminal Services (S&RTS) Contractor was ordered to load/lash all other equipment. Deadline equipment was not an impediment for the contractors. In true spirit of the Italy Detachment's port management 280 pieces were loaded in less than 24 hours without any accidents or incidents as well as the manifest was transmitted via WPS within 8 hours after vessel load enabling true and expeditious In Transit Visibility.

Even when faced with the challenge of the vessel not meeting the space offered, the Italy Detachment stepped up to the plate to resolve the issue. Coordination between OCCA Europe/Africa, the 839th TB S3, and AFSBn-Italy resulted in a second vessel getting assigned within 24 hours. The Detachment also coordinated with the port authority to have the cargo moved to a secure alternate location within the port. The vessel agent moved the equipment to and from the alternate temporary secure location assuming all costs, and finally AFSBn-Italy and the Italy Detachment's S&RTS contractor loaded the equipment onto the assigned vessel. Overall, the Italy Detachment supported the AFSBn-Italy Consolidated Depot Shipment, executed key tasks to standard, and safely redeployed all personnel to home station. ■



■ 170th & 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Teams' (IBCT) equipment staged at Molo Italia port.

■ Photos by Yolanda Santiago, 839th Trans BN

# 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (2SCR) Returns to Germany

By 2nd Lt. Samuel Robinson,  
950th Transportation Company,  
Operations Officer



Between 17-22 July 2011, the 950th Transportation Company served as the Reverse Deployment Distribution Support Team (R-DDST) in conjunction with the 598th Quality Assurance (QA) team in supporting the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (2SCR) redeployment from Operation Enduring Freedom.

The R-DDST and 598th Trans BDE QA teams provided the 2SC reducatonal briefings that covered a wide range of topics from the Transportation Discrepancy Report (TDR) process, to the actual inland transportation movement plan. During the course of planning and preparation for the redeployment the R-DDST played an instrumental role in ensuring that the quality assurance procedures were followed and enforced.

During the course of the operation, the R-DDST inspected and tallied 374 pieces of cargo redeployed back into Grafenwöhr, Germany. The inspection included, but was not limited to, identification of damaged cargo, signs of pilferage, and accountability. In addition to inspecting and identifying troubled cargo, the R-DDST served as a liaison with 2SCR and American Roll-on/Roll-off Company (ARC) commercial shipping company; for cargo that 2SCR wished to claim as damaged or pilfered. The team also provided on the ground guidance to 2SCR as to specific procedures needed to process pilfered cargo. The 950th R-DDST demonstrated great flexibility, agility and adaptability ensuring movement and delivery of combat power to support the warfighter. POWERMOVERS! ■

■ *Warrant Officer Ciubucciu (2SCR Mobility Warrant) and Sgt. 1st Class Robertson, 950th NCOIC, inspecting bolt seals.*

■ *Heiko Lehmann, 950th Marine Cargo Specialist and Holger Hencken, 950th Heavy Vehicle Driver, identifying cargo requiring a Transportation Discrepancy Report.*



■ *Port of Bremerhaven, Germany with the MV ARC Honor, unloading 2SCR equipment.*



■ Photo by Martin Weteling, 598th PAO



■ Photo by 2nd Lt. Samuel Robinson, 950th Trans CO



■ Photo by Martin Weteling, 598th Trans BDE PAO

# SDDC Supports Exercise SHARED ACCORD 11

Article and photos by  
1st Lt. Karla Bayles,  
950th Transportation Company,  
Executive Officer



August 18, 2011, marked the completion of another successful mission for the 950th Transportation Company, Deployment and Distribution Support Team (DDST), in support of U.S. Africa Com-mand (AFRICOM) and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Africa (MARFORAF) during Exercise SHARED ACCORD 11 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

As the SDDC representative to the exercise, the 950th Trans CO served as the Single Port Manager, coordinating the discharge and upload of equipment as well as inland movement to and from the staging area and the exercise area. The DDST also assisted in coordinating the agriculture cleaning and customs for the equipment.

SHARED ACCORD 11 is an annual joint exercise between U.S. and African forces. Each year, a different African nation is selected, with South Africa for 2011, to conduct combined exercises with the Marines simulating a Peacekeeping/Stability Operations scenario. The month-long exercise focused on a Field Training Exercise and a Command Post Exercise in order to promote U.S. and South African National Defense Force interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques, and procedures. The exercise also incorporated Humanitarian Civic Assistance activities to include medical, dental, veterinary, and engineering components. This was the first time, since the South African government changed 17 years ago, that the U.S. conducted an exercise of this type.

This was also the first mission conducted by the 950th Trans CO after its recent conversion from WPS to GATES. The DDST encountered many challenges stemming from systems incompatibility with the Marines, to conducting business in South Africa. However, the DDST demonstrated great flexibility, agility and adaptability by discharging and loading 153 pieces of U.S. Marine Corps equipment from the *MV MAERSK Vilnius* and onto the *ARC Resolve*. Both vessels berthed in Port Elizabeth Harbor, approximately five miles from the staging area located at the South African National Defense Force 2nd Signal Base. ■



■ Marine cargo is being loaded to the *MV ARC Resolve* for shipment back to the U.S.



■ Robert Bischoff, 950th Marine Cargo Specialist, inspects with vehicles alongside the Marines at the port.



■ Marines staging equipment inside the *MV ARC Resolve*

# 839th DDST works 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Deployment

By Staff Sgt. Delano Hamler,  
Movements NCO,  
839th Transportation Battalion



Once again the 839th Transportation Battalion, Livorno, Italy, sent a Deployment and Distribution Support Team to the Naval Station in Rota, Spain, to execute a mission. This time three members from the SDDC Italy Detachment and three members from the Operations section of the 839th Transportation Brigade deployed the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). The team consisted of a Terminal Manager, a System Administrator, a Marine Cargo Specialist, a Documentation Specialist, a Cargo Control Manager and a DDST Soldier.

This operation turned out to be special for the team since this was the first time they used GATES while being deployed. When the team arrived at the Naval Station they immediately started setting up the Deployment Gates system (DGATES). Staff Sgt. Hamler said, “This was the



■ Staff Sergeant Delano Hamler scanning an MSL on an ISU-90.



■ Photos by 839th Transportation Battalion Sgt. Maj. Daisy Jackson

first time we set

■ A CH-47 (Chinook) being discharged from the MV Green Ridge.

up the system and it was special for me. I learned how to load and prepare the scanners for discharge and disposition operations.”

On Monday 12 September, the team managed to discharge equipment as usual, without damages in a safe manner. At the end of the day the DDST managed to upload the documentation information into DGATES in order to prepare a file for the Regional Gates (RGATES), what makes it possible to view in Gates everywhere. The next day the remaining pieces were discharged and documented so that all cargo was ready for onward movement.

Terminal manager Franco Infante was the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for the Stevedore and Related Terminal Services (S&RTS) Contractor. “In my function I ensured the proper information was sent through the various channels and ensured the contract was followed. For this I coordinated information with the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) and Central Gulf Lines,” said Infante.

The team consisting of Fabiano Bartoli, Patrizia de Sanctis, Monica Simoncini and Staff Sgt. Hamler ensured all cargo was properly discharged and documented. Between the four of them they were responsible for the timely and safe handling of the cargo.

No mission can be successful without communication support. For this mission Larry Kimmich, SDDC Italy Detachment System Administrator came along. Kimmich was responsible for the communications between Rota and SDDC’s 598th Transportation Brigade in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He also ensured there was communication through the proper channels from Rota, Spain to Livorno, Italy. This enabled the team to work constructively and within a timely manner. ■

# M1/M2 Retrograde Operation in Antwerp, Belgium

By Major Tim Kirby,  
838th Trans BN, Operations Officer.



Antwerp, Belgium -- The 838th Transportation Battalion (SDDC) conducted the retrograde of M1 and M2 tanks to Charleston, SC. Personnel of the Benelux Detachment conducted rail and barge download on 19 Sep 11 at the port of Antwerp receiving the M1 Tanks from the Rhine River Detachment via barge and M1 Tanks via rail from Kaiserslautern, GE.

On 22 September 2011, the stevedores, under the watchful eyes of the 838th marine cargo specialists, created a smooth symphony of steel while placing almost 40 pieces carefully on board ARC's MV Independence II.

Personnel of the 838th Battalion HQ, 950 Transportation Company, and the Benelux Detachment conducted STAMIS and Deployment Distribution Support Team (DDST) training in conjunction with the port operation. This is also the first time they deployed a Seaport Command Element (SCE) in support of an operation.

The Joint Task Force - Port Opening (JTF-PO) Seaport Command Element (SCE) set up the Mobile Port Operations Center (MPOC) for the operation. *"The combined effort of all parties involved in this multi model operation is a true example of the hard work, dedication to mission accomplishment and the quality of work here in the 838,"* concluded Major Tim Kirby, Operations Officer, 838th Trans BN. ■

Photos:

1. M1 Abrams Tanks staged at the Port of Antwerp
2. M2 Bradley pulled on board the MV ARC Independence II
3. M1 Abrams Tank and port tractor on its way to the MV ARC Independence II.
4. Close up of M1 Abrams Tank



■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th Trans BN, BDE PAO

Pictures:

5. 838th Transportation Battalion personnel (Documentors) at their office in Antwerp.

6. & 7. The Mobile Port Operations Center in Antwerp.

9. The entire SDDC Team (838th Transportation Battalion and Benelux Detachment personnel) pose for a group photo.



■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th Trans BDE PAO and Sgt. 1st Class Jaime Ramos-Santiago

# Ensuring Mobile Port Operations is Ready

By Joyce Costello  
USAG Livorno Public Affairs



■ The 839th Transportation Battalion conducted a Joint Task Force Port Opening Operation simulation on September 22 and 23.

The 839th Transportation Battalion set up a Joint Task Force Port Opening Operation in order to test their quick reactions capabilities as a JTF-PO Element Sept. 22 and 23. According to Staff Sgt. Edward Jones, 839 Trans BN Non-commissioned officer in charge, they can be called on at any time there is natural disaster to open up a port facility in order to facilitate the movement of humanitarian aid into the region.

*"Before we were not designed for that specific ability, but with all of the new equipment we have received over the past year, our capabilities have expanded,"* said Jones.

Right after Haiti, 839 Trans BN became responsible for Port Opening quick response for the European region. Jones added that they had used some of these skills in African Lion in Morocco this past summer, but that the September exercise at Camp Darby was a chance to include their Italian workforce and Department of Army civilians who did not deploy with us at the time.

*"During this training not only did we test our capabilities of putting up a camp from scratch, but also we checked the quality of the equipment and the time we need to make it all functional, from tents to computer equipment,"* said Jones.

*"This training is extremely important for us to ensure we are able to put up a camp in places where we don't have any type of support, for example Haiti,"* said Lt. Col. Marcilyn Patterson, 839 Trans BN Commander. *"We need to be 100% independent and ready to deploy if the need arises."* ■



■ Members of 839th Transportation Battalion roll out a tent to assemble during their Joint Task Force Port Opening Operations Exercise at Camp Darmby, Italy.

More photos can be found on [www.flickr.com/photos/campdarby/sets/7215627609297621/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/campdarby/sets/7215627609297621/)

■ Photos by Chiara Mattirido

# MRAPs Deployed to the Republic of Georgia

Article and photo by Carnall Williams, Turkey Detachment Director



■ Spec. Hardaway, GTST Mechanic, watches the unloading of the first of four MRAPs delivered to KTA on Monday, 24 October 2011. In total, the GTT has received six Cougar variant MRAPs sourced from the US Marine Corps..

The 839th Turkey Detachment deployed to the Republic of Georgia on 21-24 Sep 11, to support the movement of two MRAP (*Mine Resistant Ambush Protected - military vehicle*) Cougars to the Krtsanisi Training Area (KTA) for the MARFOREUR (Marine Forces Europe) Liaison Office.

This was the first of multiple MRAP shipments to enhance the training and development of the

Georgian Armed Forces. This training is provided by Georgian Deployment Program (GDP-ISAF) and will enhance the Battalion's capability of conducting distributed operations in a Counter-insurgency (COIN) environment and prepare the Georgian Armed Forces battalions for service in support of MEB-A. (Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan).

MARFOREUR is developing the training capability of the Georgian Land Forces utilizing the Train-the-Trainer concept, and will eventually turn over the GDP-ISAF Training Program responsibility to the Georgian Land Forces Training Command. ■

*Turkey Detachment: "Bridging East and West"*

# Pick-Up Trucks for U.S. Forces Azores (Lajes Field)



■ Photos by Helio Faria

■ Lucio Pires and Jorge Moniz place ramp in place prior to driving vehicles out of the container



By Joshua P. Spoo,  
Director Azores Detachment

On September 26, 2011, SDDC Azores Detachment discharged and loaded the *MV Geysir* at the commercial port in Praia da Vitoria, Azores, Portugal. *MV Geysir*, operated by TransAtlantic Lines, calls the commercial port every 25 days. The vessel provides the primary logistical support for the American Forces stationed in the Azores and is the sole means of surface transportation between Continental United States (CONUS) and the Azores. The *MV Geysir* transports over 90% of all supplies used on Lajes Field, including food, other necessities, and amenities providing quality of life.

This most recent operation conducted by the Azores Detachment included the discharge and un-stuffing of seven Ford F-150 Pick-Up trucks, containerized for carrier's convenience. These trucks were being shipped by U.S. General Service Administration (GSA) to the Azores in support of base Airfield Terminal Operations on Lajes Field. Detachment personnel un-stuffed vehicles and coordinated with 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron Traffic Management and Vehicle Operations Flights on the inspection, receipt, and disposition of the vehicles. Coordination and execution was a complete success! ■



■ Arnaldo Coelho and Jorge Moniz remove blocking and bracing while Lucio Pires crawls through vehicle window in preparation to drive vehicle out the container.

# 839TH FORKLIFT TRAINING

By Staff Sgt. Edward Jones  
and Staff Sgt. Nadia Smith  
839th Transportation Battalion



The 839th Transportation NCOs and selected civilians received forklift training from the AFSBn-Italy's (Army Field Support Battalion – Italy) Drivers Training/ Licensing Division on 4 October 2011. The training covered the Preventive Measures Check and Services (PMCS), Hand and Arm Signals for ground guides and the capabilities of the non-tactical 6K forklift.

The participants had the opportunity to climb into the cab and familiarize themselves with the controls and get a feel for the movements and noises that the forklift makes while in operation. After everyone had the chance to familiarize themselves, everyone took turns driving up and down a blocked street to practice turns and stops. Then it was time for our on the spot test: each NCO had to move one ISU-90 from one location in the container yard to another using a ground guide and a spotter. This test focused on both the forklift operator and the ground guide having constant communication while moving cargo. Needless to say, all the containers were moved with great success with no injury or damage to equipment or personnel.

This new capability will now give the 839th Transportation Battalion the ability to be self-sufficient when it comes to loading and unloading cargo in and around the Leghorn Army Depot / Camp Darby area. Also, having licensed drivers and ground guides readily available will cut down on the outsourcing of civilian Military Heavy Equipment (MHE) which will save the battalion money in the long run. In conclusion, having the means to "do it yourself" can speed up the unit's reaction time to any situation that requires Soldiers or civilians trained in the art of forklift operations. ■



■ 839th Forklift Training at Camp Darby, Italy.



■ 839th Deployment and Distribution Support Team (DDST) NCO's during the Forklift Drivers Training at Camp Darby, Italy.

From left to right: Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Wister; Staff Sgt. Nadia Smith; Staff Sgt. Cesar Salcedo-Acosta; Staff Sgt. Phillip Goodwin (in forklift); Staff Sgt. Delano Hamler; Staff Sgt. Edward Jones. All are Deployment and Distribution Support Team NCOs (88Ns).

■ Photos by Fabiano Bartoli, 839th Trans BN



## **SDDC CG** **Maj.Gen. Kevin Leonard and** **Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick** **visit 598th Transportation Brigade**

*Hq 598th Transportation Brigade, Capelle aan den IJssel* -- For the first time, Major General Kevin A. Leonard, Commanding General, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), accompanied by his Command Sergeant Major, CSM James L. Riddick, visited his Brigade for Europe and Africa on 19 and 20 September 2011.

Leonard talked with the Commanders of the 598th Transportation Brigade, 598th Staff, 838th and 839th Transportation Battalions and with the 950th Company and Detachment Commanders who all came to 598th to meet the SDDC CG.

After an award ceremony at the 598th Gymnasium, where all U.S. military, U.S. civilians and all host nation employees were present, Maj. Gen. Leonard was introduced by his Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick. Maj. Gen. Leonard made motivating remarks about "Trust and Respect". He also mentioned that he had no news about the move of the 598th Headquarters. Nothing has been approved by the higher leadership. Everything is still open. ■

*598th CAO*

*Pictures:*

- *The assembled 598th workforce during the Award Ceremony and Speech by SDDC CG.*
- *Maj.Gen. Kevin A. Leonard in front of his motto: '1 Mind, 1 Heart, 1 Purpose'.*
- *Command Sgt. Maj. James Riddick.*



■ Photos by Martin Weteling, 598th CAO/PAO



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Photos by Martin Weteling, 598th CAO/PAO

While visiting HQ 598th Transportation Brigade in Capelle aan den IJssel, NL, Maj. Gen. Kevin A. Leonard presented some awards; 1. Joe Schott, 598th Chief OCCA received the Army Achievement for Civilian Service. 2. Capt. Tim Kirby, 838th Trans BN Ops Off, was presented the Lean-Six Sigma Green Belt Certificate. 3. Maj. Gen. Leonard recognized Gary Allen; (Bram de Jong, not in picture); 4. Rudy Magereij; Ines Nargang; Mark Oerlemans and Martin Weteling (not in picture) for their exemplary performance. 5. From 598th; Mr. Stephen Marsch, Lt. Col. Russell Long (both not in picture); Rick Marsh; Eric Lowe; Staff Sgt. Charles Gutierrez; Clifton Peterson; Janet Lange; Capt. Lowry; Robert David and (not in picture) from 838th Stacey Vande Linde and Sgt. 1st Class Jaime Ramos-Santiago and from 839th Francesco Infante and Spero Pekatos received the SDDC Commanders' Coin for Excellence.

# 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) LNO's

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# Interview with **Bart Fiegel** **Traffic Manager** **838th Trans BN**



■ *Bart Fiegel, Traffic Manager, 838th Trans BN*

*By Bram de Jong, Editor*

"I will be retiring soon (*Dec 2011 - Editor*) and I am glad that the NDTA Benelux Chapter Newsletter gives me the opportunity to look back at my career with the U.S. Government and NDTA," says Bart Fiegel, Traffic Manager of SDDC's 838th Transportation Battalion."

SDDC's 838th Trans BN is responsible for the planning, coordination, synchronization and execution of port operations to move U.S. Department of Defense equipment, 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 all located in four countries in Europe: The Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and Portugal. The Battalion's motto is "**Gateway to Victory.**"

## **History**

"I joined the transportation world with the Halcyon Line Ship owners at the operational department in 1967 and, after military service, I started with Cornelder's Shipping Company as booking agent for cargo to the Middle East for companies ASOK, EAC, and later Scanaustral. In 1972, I applied for a job with the U.S. Government, U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Group, Europe (USATTGE), presently called 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC)."

"I was hired back in 1972 to work with the Benelux Terminal, an organization under the umbrella of Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC). (*MTMC became SDDC = Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in 2004 - Editor*).

After three years, working in all aspects of the terminal, I started working for the 4th Trans Brigade located in Oberursel Germany, the equivalent to the present 21st Theater Sustainment Command. Gaining an exceptional experience in onward movement,



I was welcome to return to the MTMC and the 1318th Medium Port Command (Benelux Terminal) as the lead in the Contract Admin Division in 1989."

## **Terminal Manager**

"In 1997, the 838th Transportation Battalion was born and the Benelux Terminal was integrated as a direct reporting unit. I was selected as Terminal Manager."

"I joined the NDTA in 1999, and remember the former president of the Benelux Chapter, Jean-Jacques Moyson who was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) Eddy Geudens. With their cooperation and expertise and the back-up of the powerful, often underestimated, members of the NDTA, we successfully planned and executed OIF operations."

"When I started working for the USATTGE in 1972, containerization was transforming port operations and global distribution. We were headquartered at the old Lloydhaven in Rotterdam where I had the opportunity to observe the loading and discharge of 20 foot containers with a floating crane! The shore cranes did not have the capacity yet. Containers were an innovation at the time and companies quickly realized the need for tracking their conveyances through the use of registration numbers. Companies like United States Lines did not have tracking systems for their containers and they lost many due to their inability to track them. SEALAND set up a tracking system by placing registration numbers on their containers and reaped the rewards. You may remember when you were on holidays and came across old USL containers as storage or housing. It was also at this time that cargo was secured on vessels with peck and hail, i.e. with D-rings on vessel's holds. A tremendous improvement was the ability to secure loads with straps instead of wire and chain. Also,

we should not forget that RORO vessel operations started in the seventies. All these innovative practices brought the port call time of a vessel from four or five days to one or two days."

"Unfortunately, after 9/11, security measures restricted a lot of communication between U.S. military and (Dutch) Host Nation employees and the commercial partners. This resulted in wild discussions about current and future operations, which I still regret up to today."

### **Commercial practice**

"These two magic words represent the introduction of business enterprise and business best practices into SDDC operations. There are many good techniques, tactics and procedures that commercial industry follows that work well for SDDC and the U.S. military. In my opinion the SDDC commercial partnership is a strong relationship, as indicated by the robust and highly esteemed business and military membership in the BENELUX chapter of the National Defense Transportation Association. My fear is that the U.S. Military units in SDDC may cede too much to Commercial Industry and at the end of the day, SDDC must find the right "balance." In history, many innovative ideas started in the military or out of military necessity. We should never lose sight of the importance for the U.S. Army to maintain its edge in conducting port operations in austere environments or combat zones. We should not become the NCDTA; the National Commercial Defense Transportation Agency."

"Commercial business guarantees goods to be delivered on time and of course, with in-transit visibility to ensure tracking of shipments; but everything has a price, and not just in monetary terms. Destinations in Africa are hard to reach and commercial carriers will deliver from origin till destination, but all has a price. We must have the foresight to maintain balance so that the U.S. Military maintains the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities to operate ports; whether in Antwerp or the most underdeveloped port city in Africa. We can and should continue to leverage our commercial partners with their networks throughout Africa and Eastern Europe as Defense relationships alone will not build up relationships with local authorities, but we must ensure we balance SDDC's dependence on the commercial carrier."

"My fear is that the enormous experience of units in SDDC to operate during contingency operations will be lost. Our contacts with local authorities and host nation authorities have begun to atrophy with the adoption of a "Commercial First" or "Commercial Only" model." When I look at our units and detachments I think of the incredible work over the years in all deployments and redeployments. We truly enabled critical combat operations; peace keeping and humanitarian assistance."

"For my colleagues in the Netherlands, Germany, England and the Azores, and our brothers and sisters in the Mediterranean, I hope that SDDC will use their talent and unlimited experience in the future and strike the right balance between door to door and door to port bookings so that our units can maintain critical skills. I hope that you will maintain the high level of expertise

■ *During Operation Iraq Freedom (OIF) in Antwerp. From left to right; Mario Smits, Bart Fiegel, both 838th Trans BN and Lt. Col. Eddy Geudens, Deputy Commander Antwerp Military Province Command..*



■ *From left to right: Lt. Col. Sharon Baker, Commander 838th Trans*



*BN, Bart Fiegel, Traffic Manager, 838th Trans BN and Col. Bernard Jacobs, Commander Antwerp Military Province Cmd.*

and professionalism that has made SDDC so relevant for USEUCOM and USAFRICOM and that you will continue to provide the highest level of support for U.S. and Coalition forces and their equipment!!!!"

### **Retirement**

"I will retire at the end of this year, and I am proud to be a part of SDDC and a member of the NDTA. Never forget the many REFORGER exercises, Operations Desert Shield & Desert Storm, IFOR, SFOR, KFOR, OIF and OEF operations and the exceptional level of expertise and support that we provided to the US and its coalition partners. I hope that our transportation units will continue to have the chance to make themselves valuable for future operations."

### **Successor**

"I am proud to announce that, in the interim, my successor will be: Lisette Weteling as per 1 January 2012. I trust that she has all qualities to serve as the Traffic Manager of the Benelux Detachment." She has a wealth of experience in all facets of what the BENELUX detachment does from documentation to all aspects of ship loading and stowage."



### **What next?**

"Playing golf is one of my new ambitions. I just finished my golf permit and they allow me to play elsewhere. My friends know that I am a soccer fanatic and fond of sport in general, so to watch the Olympics, Tour de France, Wimbledon etc, cannot wait." ■

# Women's Equality Day

Capelle aan den IJssel, NL -- On Friday 26 August 2011, 598th Trans BDE DOL/S4 hosted this year's Women's Equality Day, the Guest Speaker was Ms. Millie Waters, HQ USAREUR G3 Stationing Planner.

Ms. Waters theme was: *"Dance Like Nobody's Watching and Other Small Acts of Courage"*. She shared with us some of her life experiences, her wisdom and also some very funny anecdotes. It was her first time speaking in front of an audience but she had everyone entertained from start to finish..she sure danced like nobody was watching her!

She made a great impression on us and no doubt we will see her again sometime in the near future.

The women in the Community also showed us their various art and crafts. There were handmade soaps, paintings and a quilt put on display in the hallway. ■ (598th - PAO)



■ Ms. Millie Waters, HQ USAREUR G3 Stationing Planner visited the Rotterdam Community at Hq 598th Trans BDE (SDDC) in Capelle aan den IJssel, The Netherlands. She talked about Women's Equality Day.

## Representatives from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Asymmetric Warfare visited Rotterdam

Representatives from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Asymmetric Warfare visited the 598th Transportation Brigade, the Port of Rotterdam, and the APM Terminal as part of their study on the movement of containerized cargo in the global supply chain. The focus of their visit was on the automated processes associated with port operations, networks and communications, security, and power infrastructure; ultimately, this information will be used to prepare for an exercise at the Port of Hueneme designed to evaluate local, state, and federal agency response to a port incident. ■ (598th - CAO)

■ At the Rotterdam World Port Center. From left to right: Rob Slegtenhorst, Sr. Advisor Harbor Master; Rick Marsh, Deputy 598th Trans BDE S3; Joyce Borgen, Deputy Director Planning and Ron Kimmelmann, Technology & Logistics Manager, both from the Naval Postgraduate School; and Frans van Keulen, Chief Public Affairs Rotterdam Port Authority.





# Former 598th/SDDC employees conduct a Reunion at HQ 598th Trans BDE



■ The group of former and present 598th/SDDC employees posing for a picture at the SDDC building lobby.

By Bram de Jong,  
598th Trans BDE PAO

598th Trans BDE (SDDC), Capelle aan den IJssel, NL -- Colonel William L. Moseley, Commander 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), welcomed a group of twenty former SDDC employees. Attendance was by invitation for the social held at the 598th lounge on Friday afternoon, October 14th.

During his welcome Colonel Moseley commented he was glad to grant this request and to host this get-together for this group of retirees and former SDDC employees. This event was initiated by Jan de Ruijter, former 598th Traffic Manager, who took the lead and put together a list of retired and former SDDC colleagues. He was able to compile a list of 38 names, but it was not easy to track all the addresses listed and he continues to look for those still not contacted. However, the idea itself was so successful that a group of 20 former SDDC workers answered the invitation and attended the spontaneous get-together.

Jan de Ruijter e-mailed after the event: *“The large number of attendees thoroughly enjoyed the re-acquaintance along with the MWR sponsored drinks and buffet. Amongst the retirees were*

*several of the 'founding fathers' of the U.S. military community in Rotterdam. Some starting employment in the early 1960s and completing 40 years of faithful and proud service, e.g. Lou Woutersen and Jan de Ruijter 598th, Fred Zweere MSCEUR and Aad van der Giessen 838th (Benelux Terminal). This event, reuniting the SDDC family, was considered a great success by all and well worth pursuit of a next time in the near future.”*

Gerry de Visser, former 598th Command Secretary, e-mailed: *“Everyone present enjoyed the gathering immensely. To have spent so many years in a position with MTMC/SDDC, it really feels like coming home for the invitees. A lot of retirees spent more than 20 - 30 even 40 years in their position with MTMC. No wonder that this really fills a gap of great memories from the past, which are also part of life.*

*I received a lot of response from people who regretted not having been present. In other words, it was definitely an event worthy of repetition in the future --- this was expressed by everyone present.”*

Colonel Moseley was pleased to see so many former SDDC workers answer the invitation. *“I am surprised how young and fit you all look and can only pray I look as good as you all do when I am retired,”* was the opening comments he made to the former employees. He praised them for their contributions and loyalty to SDDC and presented all the former employees with a 598th Transportation Brigade Commanders Coin of Excellence. He also gave them an overview of the current 598th mission and geographic areas of responsibilities supporting AFRICOM, EUCOM, and Afghanistan along the Northern Distribution Network. ■