

# Reservists' Annual Training Boosts DDTP Mission Performance

by Anthony Ricchiazzi, TYAD Public Affairs Office

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa.—Members of the 398th Quartermaster Company spent two weeks training in the Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna (DDTP) and Tobyhanna Army Depot, helping with several missions.

They received the Superior Unit Award from DDTP commander Lt. Col. David Rodriguez, USA, for their efforts, which also saved DDTP several thousand dollars.

The company, which is based in North Carolina, is charged with inventory processing and maintaining Class VII materiel for equipment such as Abrams tanks, artillery, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (Humvees).

At Tobyhanna, soldiers from the unit, spread over DDTP and Tobyhanna, conducted inventory checks, learned materiel-packing methods, such as anti-electrostatic discharge (ESD) packaging, and tested and repaired electrical equipment from Sept. 17-28 for their Annual Training (AT).

“This was our fiscal year 2001 Annual Training,” said Spec. Leslie Lewis. “We’ve worked in a warehouse environment at every AT we’ve gone to. For example, we worked with ESD packaging at Cherry Point (Naval Air Station, N.C.)”

Most of their work was done in DDTP including conducting location surveys for thousands of warehoused items. “They conducted surveys and counts of items, comparing the unit of issue, quantity and condition code to verify what’s on record,” explained Rich Dudick, inventory team leader, DDTP. Dudick said they did a good job and were very conscientious.



*Spec. Marzella and Sgt. Harold Hundley of the U.S. Army Reserve 398th Quartermaster Company conducted a location survey as part of their two-week Annual Training at DDTP. (U.S. Army photo)*



*Pfc. Clifton Britt (foreground) and Pvt. Abram Williams of the U.S. Army Reserve 398th Quartermaster Company, seal a barrier cover over a box containing an oscilloscope, which they packed. (U.S. Army photo)*

In DDTP’s Packaging Division, several reservists learned how to research packaging databases and how to use different packing methods.

“They use highly specialized software that covers packaging methods used in all the services,” says James Weiner, packer leader. “They also learn foam-in-place, cold seal and ESD packaging, which we specialize in.”

The reservists also learn to utilize “fast packs,” which is an inexpensive alternative to traditional packaging, and to label packages properly.

“The work is extremely important to get equipment to the warfighter without damage and to preserve items for storage,” Weiner explained. “This group has been very enthusiastic.

Their willingness to work is excellent. With their augmentation, we've been able to package thousands of items."

In the Receiving and Processing Division, reservists broke down boxes of equipment received from the field and conducted inventory processing.

"We evaluate the stock to assign different condition codes," Lewis explained. "We put the separated equipment into boxes and input the quantity and the name of the item into the [DSS database], then ship the boxes to a warehouse."

"I would like to thank Fred Eckelmann and Paul Massa for coordinating this," said Sam Cortese, inspector. "They keep the Reservist training program a 'win-win' situation for them, DDTP and Tobyhanna."

Eckelmann is a Reserve Component training coordinator in Tobyhanna's Business Management Directorate and Massa, a material examiner and identifier in DDTP's Receiving and Warehousing Branch, is DDTP's Reserves coordinator.



*Sgt. Donald Oden (right) and Pfc. James Crouch of the U.S. Army Reserve 398th Quartermaster Company inspect a generator to see if it's serviceable. (U.S. Army photo)*

Part of the support for Tobyhanna came in the form of electrical equipment testing and repair for the Vehicle/Generator Support Division, Production Support Services Directorate.

They inspect equipment for serviceability, test them for voltage output, then conduct repairs, which can consist of a total rebuild. After repairs are made, they test them again.

"Some of [the equipment] is just too worn out to service," said Sgt. Donald Oden. "If that's the case, we look for what can be salvaged and use the good parts for other [equipment]. The rest of it is sent to DRMO (Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office)."

"The 398th helped us in every possible way," said Bill Yaninas, general equipment mechanic leader. "They screened equipment to pick the best candidates for repairs. Every task they did, no matter how complex, was done to the best of their ability. 'The 398th can work with us anytime' was the feeling in our shop area."

Other areas of training included Tobyhanna's Computer Service and Repair Division, and the Mobile Equipment Maintenance and Operations Division.

"The soldiers find it beneficial to support Tobyhanna's mission and they get real world tasks," said company commander Capt. Terrence A. Body. "They have enjoyed getting hands-on training and doing a portion of a mission that's essential in the real world."

Body said they especially wanted to get back into the Army community to provide whatever assistance they could after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

"They'll be going back to their lives after this AT is over, but they have to be ready to face real-world situations at all times," he said. "They learn different tasks to support each other and they've learned a lot about Tobyhanna."

"The support provided by the members of the 398th Quartermaster Company was absolutely outstanding," Rodriguez said. "It's especially noteworthy that this support was provided during a time when DDTP was called upon to begin providing support to Operation Noble Response after the terrorist incident on Sept. 11. It allowed DDTP personnel to remain focused on operational sustainment issues and maintain a viable response rate to its warfighter customers and exemplified the team spirit of our motto—One Team . . . One Focus."



*Spec. Genia Gooding of the U.S. Army Reserve 398th Quartermaster Company prepares a circuit board for shipping in electrostatic discharge-proof packaging. (U.S. Army photo)*