



# UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND TRANSPORTER

June 2015



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Scott AFB, Illinois  
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A group of USTRANSCOM athletes participated in the Base Fitness Challenge May 15, and brought home 5th place medals (out of 19 teams participating). Events included a HUMVEE push, flexed arm hang, tire flipping and 10k and 5k runs. Pictured here, challenge participants take off at the start of the the marathons. See more photos on pages 4 and 5. *Photo by Bob Fehringer, USTRANSCOM/PA*

## USTRANSCOM workers earn Excellence in Government awards

By Bob Fehringer, TCPA

The Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board celebrated the achievements of the men and women who serve the public in the St. Louis Region at this year's Excellence in Government Awards Program, "America at Its Best," May 7 at the Orlando Gardens in St. Louis. Many U.S. Transportation Command members were among those honored.

The Greater St. Louis FEB represents 87 federal agencies and organizations throughout the area and includes Ft. Leonard Wood and Scott Air Force Base.

"This program is the Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board highlight of Public Service Recognition Week as authorized by Congress, and is our opportunity to salute the very best of the federal workforce," said Lynn Schulte, Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board. "These are the very best 'Top 40' of the (more than) 20,000 employees in our FEB area. We received 74 Excellence in Government nominations this year."

"USTRANSCOM had nominees in several categories for the outstanding work by individuals and teams supporting the Combined Federal Campaign," said Gail Jorgenson, USTRANSCOM director, Acquisition, "specifically Dien Crisostomo (J8), Kevin Snider AQ, and the TCAQ CFC Team (consisting

of Kevin Snider, Deb Crumity, Stuart Eberle, Adam Hemken, Cathy Jarvis, Tiffany Kauffman, Rob Liebold, Deb Long, Shanda Lyman, Michael Pardue, Sue Schall, Lonnie Teague and Todd White). I am delighted to announce we took home awards in all three categories we represented."

In addition to support for the Combined Federal Campaign, the Awards Program recognized the superior work of several more USTRANSCOM members. Individual nominees were Rhonda Chapman (J8), Karla Babb (AQ), Sandy Halama (AQ), Becky Connor (AQ), Paul Meyer (J8), Peter Ries (JA) and Jessica Gerwitz (J8).

And the winners were:

\* Kevin Snider - CFC Campaign Coordinator & Keyworker Award for the Scott Air Force Base Division, Medium Offices;

\* Karla Babb received a second place award for Community Service Level II;

\* Individual Excellence in Government awards - Paul Meyer (Professional Category) and Jessica Gerwitz (Technical Category);

\* and The Agile Transportation for the 21st Century Team and J2's Africa Region.

See Excellence on page 7



## Eisenhower School students visit US-TRANSCOM

Gen. Paul J. Selva, commander, U.S. Transportation Command, addresses visiting students from the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, located in Washington, D.C. The group, all members of the school's Supply Chain Management program, was here at USTRANSCOM on May 13 for briefings and discussions. Formerly the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Eisenhower School provides military and civilian students education in strategy and resource management. *Photo by Bob Fehringer, USTRANSCOM/PA*

## A Desert Place

By Chaplain Lt. Col. Trenton E. Lewis

Many times we find ourselves in a desert place searching for answers to the challenges we face in our lives. Often while in this desert place we raise the "why me" question to God. Yet, often, the answer to the why me question is the "why not you" response from God.

Indeed, for any particular challenge you face, keep in mind that you may be the only one able to help resolve a given challenge someone else is facing or you may be the only one capable of helping someone else endure and survive the challenges they face. "Who can say but that you [are in your desert place] for just such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14c New Living Translation). Simply put, the reason you may be in your desert place is not only to deal with the dilemmas you are facing, but also to learn how you may help someone else survive and grow through their predicaments.

In Acts 8:26-39, Philip finds himself on a desert road and is instructed to join himself to a chariot he observes sitting on the side of the road. When he is near the chariot, Philip overhears someone reading Isaiah 56:5-12.

Upon approach, Philip questions the reader, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (v30) The reader replies: "How can I unless someone explains what I am reading?" (v31)

Philip then teaches the chariot's occupant, an Ethiopian eunuch, the meaning of the Isaiah passage. He preached the good news story. Beginning with the Isaiah 53:7 passage and, I imagine, ending with "For God so loved the world that HE gave HIS only begotten SON that whosoever believeth in HIM should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Philip helps the eunuch understand what was previously foreign to him: the heart of the eunuch was pricked as he understood the impact the story's protagonist reveals about God's effort to reconcile the God to human relationship lost in Eden. He was convicted and converted through the power of God's love extended through Christ.

The key points of this article are not in finding the answers sought through the challenges you face nor in the questions of why are you in your particular dilemma or why not you for a particular predicament. Rather, the key point is for you to not allow the challenges of being in a desert place prevent you from providing an answer to the inquisitive minds of those you notice drifting astray along the side of today's byways and highways. Who knows, you just may be the one God uses to bring illumination to those you encounter à la Philip's encounter with the eunuch. After all, "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." You may just be the one to help stimulate, increase or improve another's faith journey along the desert roads of life.

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An electronic version is available at:  
<http://www.transcom.mil/documents/transporter/transporter.pdf>

# Teammate Spotlight: D2 CBDS team raises cost awareness

By Lisa Caldwell, TCPA

Embracing the knowledge management components of people, processes and technology, a U.S. Transportation Command team recently launched an automated “one-stop” method to aid cost-conscious choices: The Deployment and Distribution Cost Based Decision Support (D2 CBDS) dashboard.

The D2 CBDS team, which helps the command understand how operational decisions affect expenses and revenue, completed the project in only four months. The dashboard is an electronic PDF document containing hyperlinks to key operational cost process documents, tools and up-to-the-minute data.

“The current budget landscape dictates that cost plays a role in every decision, just as we all make cost-conscious decisions whenever we spend out of our own personal budgets,” said Timothy Landvogt, D2 CBDS team member from the Program Analysis and Financial Management directorate (TCJ8). “The fewer discretionary dollars you have in your wallet, the more cognizant you will be of the price you are willing to pay for something you want or need for your home. The same is true with government spending.”

Core D2 CBDS team members are from TCJ8, handling command fiscal responsibilities, and the Joint Distribution Process Analysis Center direc-



Members of the Deployment and Distribution Cost Based Decision Support team help the command understand how operational decisions affect expenses and revenue. Photo by Bob Fehringer, USTRANSCOM/PA

torate (TCAC), providing command analysis and engineering support. Together, they offer both an operational and monetary perspective.

An expansive working group rounds out the team, with representatives from Air Mobility Command, Military Sealift Command, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Defense Logistics Agency, and the USTRANSCOM directorates of Acquisition; Strategy, Capabilities, Policy and Logistics; and Operations

and Plans.

“Every decision we make has an associated cost,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Larry Nance, D2 CBDS team lead from TCAC. “For instance, there may be courses of action to move cargo by air versus surface. Leadership may have reason to move by air despite surface being the less expensive option, but they’d at least be aware of the cost difference in making that decision.”

## JTF-PO provides mobility solutions during Turbo Distribution 15-4

By Lt. Col. Peter Mahoney, TCJ3-T

Our top priority at U.S. Transportation Command remains preserving readiness in order to successfully execute assigned responsibilities under the Unified Command Plan, especially as the Global Joint Mobility Provider. Exercise Turbo Distribution 15-4, a Joint Task Force-Port Opening (JTF-PO) field training exercise (FTX) recently conducted in Agadir, Morocco, tested that ability to rapidly deploy and employ a JTF-PO seaport of debarkation (SPOD) enabling capability in direct support to a regional combatant command.

Leveraging our partner engagements and combatant command military exercises, Turbo Distribution 15-4 delivered mobility solutions to a exercise Combined Joint Task Force, while contributing to USTRANSCOM’s future organic readiness.

Working at the Port of Agadir, Morocco, a joint task force of 61 soldiers, sailors, and attached Marines executed seaport operations from April 16-25

in advance of USAFRICOM exercise African Lion 2015 in May.

African Lion 2015 is an annual joint multi-lateral exercise sponsored by U.S. Africa Command, with Marine Forces Europe and Africa as executive agent and hosted by Morocco’s Royal Armed Forces.

Displaying the flexibility and capabilities inherent within the JTF-PO construct, the joint team overcame numerous challenges to successfully complete the offload of 419 pieces of Marine Corps equipment within a period of 19 hours. Lt. Col. Nicole Heumphreus, the JTF-PO SPOD commander during Turbo Distribution 15-4, said the experience was, “absolutely beyond what I thought it would be.”

Heumphreus, currently the commander, 838th Transportation Battalion, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), said she could not have been more proud of the teamwork displayed during the exercise.

In spite of delays in the arrival of more than 50 JTF-PO main body per-

sonnel that shortened JTF-PO integration and rehearsal timelines, Heumphreus said, “No kidding, [within] twelve hours we were standing on the commercial pier ready to discharge.”

However, the vessel offload represented only one of the overall exercise objectives. The mission for USTRANSCOM during Turbo Distribution 15-4 was twofold. First, a Joint Assessment Team (JAT) was deployed to conduct a rapid assessment of the commercial port at Agadir, and the forward node approximately three miles away aboard a Royal Moroccan Navy base.

Led by Lt. Col. Alex Arnold from the 833rd Transportation Battalion (SDDC), the 12-member JAT included personnel from the 597th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), the 838th Transportation Battalion (SDDC), a Marine Transportation Specialist (MTS) from Military Sealift Command (MSC), and two personnel from 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) out of U.S. Army Forces Command.

See JTF-PO on back page



## Fitness Challenge

continued from page1

USTRANSCOM athletes who participated in the in the Base Fitness Challenge May 15 included: Petty Officer 1st Class Pedro Montanez, Petty Officer 2nd Class Moises Olivera, Cpl. Joel Gonzalez, Maj. Foster Ferguson, Maj. Christine Takats, Staff Sgt. Timothy Smythe, Maj. Chris Stephens, Josh Greene, Franklin Walston, Erin Strausbaugh, Staff Sgt. Latricia Kirk and Rob Wieland.

Photos, clockwise from right: Montanez and Gonzalez flip a tire: Below right, Smythe runs a marathon: Below, Ferguson runs in the 5k; Left, bottom, Ferguson on the arm hang bar; far left, TRANSCOM runners, in purple shirts, start the 5 and 10k runs; far left, center, TRANSCOM athletes do the HUMVEE push event; left top, Stephens, Wieland, Gonzalez and Montanez do the arm hang and left center Gonzalez participates in one of the runs. Photos by Bob Fehring, USTRANSCOM/PA



# History of TRANSCOM

1998-2001

## “Bridge of Friendship, Hand of Freedom”

By Peg Nigra, TCRC

As Air Force Gen. Charles A. “Tony” Robertson, Jr., took command of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command on Aug. 3, 1998, he couldn’t know his tenure would be bracketed by terrorist attacks against the United States.

Robertson came into the job intending to focus on support to the warfighter, modernization of airlift and sealift assets, and support to the people of the command. He managed to do so while a high operations tempo buffeted the command.

Four days after the change of command ceremony, terrorists associated with Osama bin Laden exploded truck bombs at the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Thousands were injured and more than 200 people, including 12 Americans, died.

In the next three years, the command and its components supported humanitarian operations involving earthquake, hurricane, and flood relief in Central America, the U.S., Africa, Turkey, India, and Taiwan.

Other humanitarian operations included airlifting refugees from Kosovo to the U.S. for temporary settlement; airlifting a member of the National Science Foundation at Antarctica to a hospital in the US; bringing home the crew of a downed Navy EP-3 from China; and in the aftermath of the attack on the *USS Cole* in the port of Aden, airlifting teams of security investigators to Yemen and returning survivors and the bodies of the fallen to their families in the States.

Contingency operations came at a steady pace as the Balkans and Southwest Asia continued to be the focus of national security interests. USTRANSCOM and its components provided aerial refueling, deployment, and sustainment support to operations in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Iraq.

USTRANSCOM underwent organizational changes to meet the escalating demands on the command. On Oct. 1, 1998, Robertson designated the command’s Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems director to be dual-hatted as the Chief Information Officer (CIO). The CIO became the principal advisor to the CINC on matters concerning information resource management and



Gen. Charles A. “Tony” Robertson Jr. information technology.

In July 2001, the Force Protection division in the Operations and Logistics directorate became a directorate in its own right with responsibilities for air, land, sea, and information security.

The most important organizational change was the establishment of a general officer level chief of staff position for USTRANSCOM. In 2000, Congress authorized ten National Guard or Reserve general and flag officers designated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be assigned on active duty to joint positions on the staffs of the combatant commands.

USTRANSCOM used that billet for a chief of staff, and Robertson selected Army Brig. Gen. Carlos D. “Butch” Pair as the command’s first general officer chief of staff.

The command continued to push for modernization of the airlift and sealift fleets. In October 1998, the Deputy Secretary of Defense launched the Mobility Requirements Study 2005 (MRS 05) to examine airlift, sealift, and ground transportation needs for the future.

Robertson believed the nation needed more C-17s and modernized C-5s. He supported programs on the sealift side to increase square footage on roll-on/roll-off ships and worked to keep funding for the large medium speed roll-on/roll-off ship program on track. The Director of the Joint Staff approved MRS-05 in January 2000.

In April 2000, the command partnered with the Defense Logistics Agency to create an integrated, end-to-end, supply chain distribution process, starting a chain of events that would eventually change the command’s mission in 2003.

USTRANSCOM established the Strategic Distribution Management Initiative (SDMI) office to look at

improving strategic/wholesale supply and transportation processes delivering sustainment materiel by air to deployed and US-based forces. Robertson said, “SDMI revealed that we could streamline the supply distribution process, cut the delivery time significantly, and...meet the customer’s requirements better than ever.” He believed the work the command did on SDMI would “serve as the framework for the whole global distribution process to follow.”

On Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four airliners, precipitating the worst domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history. Osama bin Laden’s terrorist network, al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attacks that killed nearly 2,500 and injured thousands more.

USTRANSCOM and its components went into action providing aerial refueling support to fighters protecting the skies over U.S. cities and deployment and sustainment support for the U.S.-led military operation launched against the terrorist network of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban government of Afghanistan that shielded them.

One of Robertson’s favorite speeches discussed mobility as a bridge: “Mobility is the bridge of friendship to the world. Mobility is the hand of freedom, the hand of opportunity to the rest of the world.”

When Gen. Robertson left USTRANSCOM in November 2001, he left a command better able to support the warfighter in the global war on terrorism, better able to be that hand of freedom.

## Ask the Historian

By Peg Nigra, TCRC

**Question:** Why is the third floor of Building 1900 referred to as “the third deck?” F. M.

**Answer:** When USTRANSCOM was established, Air Force General Duane Cassidy was dual hatted as the commander-in-chief of USTRANSCOM and its Air Force component, Military Airlift Command (now Air Mobility Command, but that’s another story for another issue of the Transporter).

Cassidy split his time between the two commands, leaving USTRANSCOM in the capable hands of Navy Vice Admiral Al Herberger, USTRANSCOM’s first deputy commander in chief. As it was explained to me, since Navy personnel refer to the floors of ships as “decks,” and our deputy commander in chief was Navy, that terminology transferred to the third floor of Building 1900. Technically, “third deck” refers to the command suite and not the whole third floor.

# TCAQ hosts Reverse Industry Day

By Bob Fehringer, T CPA

The Directorate of Acquisition, DPO Support Division, and the Office of Small Business Programs hosted an Information Technology and Advisory and Assistance Services Reverse Industry Day, May 15, in the Seay Auditorium.

According to Bill Rachal, chief, DPO Support Division, this Reverse Industry Day was an opportunity for four industry representatives to present their perspective on the government's acquisition process and to afford both industry and government a dialogue on how we can collectively improve the process.

"Understanding industry's perspective, especially the challenges they face, ensures our acquisition professionals realize the impact of our actions to industry," Rachal said. "Information provided will be taken into consideration when developing future acquisition strategies."

The format for the Reverse Industry Day consisted of a moderated discussion on pertinent questions, followed by industry panel members leading a discussion on their own topic of interest, and concluded with a question and answer session.

Members of the panel included: Mike Williams, Trident Technologies, LLC; Deb Hagstrom, Computer Sciences Corporation; Bruce Card, Paragon Technology Group, Inc. and Maryanne Pearle, Northrop Grumman Technical Services.



Terri Francoeur, deputy, DPO Support Division, introduces members of the industry panel at the start of the Reverse Industry Day, May 15, in the Seay Auditorium. Photo by Bob Fehringer, USTRANSCOM/PA

"Enhancing our knowledge of industry practices opens countless opportunities for us to achieve better results for our customers," added Gail Jorgenson, director, Acquisition. "Improved skill craft is a priority for our entire acquisition team and Reverse Industry Day is just one example of our efforts to achieve excellence in the service we provide".

According to Rachal, the event was well attended by members of the Acquisition Directorate, and others from USTRANSCOM and SDDC.



Excellence, from page 1

Intelligence Support Branch, Intelligence Directorate, Operations Division both won the Professional Team Level II Award. (See related story at <https://ww2.ustrancom.mil/news/read.cfm?id=9321>.)

"President Obama's proclamation (on Public Service Recognition Week) so aptly captured the spirit of public service in saying "public service is a calling which has meant so much to so many," Jorgenson said. "It embodies our sense of shared values and reflects our drive to serve a cause beyond our own, to give back to our nation, leave our mark and nudge history forward.

"There is no greater opportunity to help more people or to make a bigger difference," Jorgenson continued. "I was honored to be a part of yesterday's event and to see first-hand so many of our teammates recognized and celebrated. Please extend a big congratulation to every one of our nominees and awardees."

## Editor's note

*Ranks of all services are written in the Associated Press Style format, which is the journalism standard for uniformity of printed material in any form of the news media.*

*We realize that individual branches have their own style, but that is used for individual-service-oriented material.*

## Facilities and Safety Corner

The 375th Air Mobility Wing Annual Safety Inspection of USTRANSCOM-managed buildings (Buildings 1900E, 1900W, 1961, 1986, 1990, 512, 4038) is planned for June 2015.

The inspection will consist of a walk-through of every office, room, attic, and cubicle to look for safety issues. We will publish the schedule when it is finalized.

The common safety issues that will be looked at include the following:

- Plugging appliances (coffee pots, toasters, refrigerators, microwaves, ice machines, donut makers, etc.) into system furniture outlets, surge protectors, or extension cords is not authorized.
- Space heaters must have proper tip-over protection and be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Egress routes are clear and accessible with three-foot clearance.
- Areas in front of electrical distribution boxes must be clear of any objects within three feet.
- Candle warmers, candles, hot plates, plug-in air fresheners, and similar heated items are not allowed.
- We must have 18-inch clearance between an object and the ceiling.
- Paper cutters must have a functional locking mechanism.
- Extension cords may not be used for permanent wiring.
- Surge protectors should not be connected to other surge protectors or UPS units (a.k.a. "daisy chained").
- All areas must be free of trip hazards and trash.
- Fluorescent bulbs must be properly stored.
- Outlet covers should be free from cracks and secured in place.
- Ceiling tiles are not damaged and in-place.
- Emergency lights and exit signs must work.
- Fire Bottles are tagged and inspections up to date.
- Nothing stored in mechanical or electrical rooms except where racks have been installed.

If you see that any of the above items need correction contact your directorate safety representative, your supervisor, and/or Facilities Management office (220-6433 or 220-6218)



# Recognitions



## Excellence in Government

Members of USTRANSCOM's Africa Region Intelligence Support Branch, Intelligence Directorate, Operations Division, were among those honored at the Greater St. Louis Federal Executive Board presented the 2015 Excellence in Government awards ceremony, May 7, at the Orlando Gardens in St. Louis. See related story on page 1. Photo by Bob Fehringer, USTRANSCOM/PA

### Arrivals

Cmdr. Jamie Burts, J6  
Maj. Gwendolyn Whitcomb, SG  
Maj. Jeffrey Johnson, J3  
Maj. Guy Meyer, J1  
Emily J. Niemeyer, J8-BH  
Bradley Shelburg, AQ-I  
Lori K. Hinrichs, AQ  
Paul S. Frazier, J6-PE  
Shawn W. Mann, J1-D  
Lou R. Langevin, JA

### Departures

Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Cesa, SG  
Cmdr. Shane Rice, J1  
Cmdr. David McNutt, J3  
Lt. Col. Raymond Angsioco, J6  
Lt. Col. Charlie Velino, J3

### Promotions

Emily J. Niemeyer, J8

### Retirement

Kenneth Stogner, JA

### Awards

SA James Hoy, TCCC, Defense Meritorious Service Medal

### JTF-PO from page 3

A key training objective involved the JAT compiling and transmitting a go/no-go mission report back to the Deployment, Distribution Operations Center (DDOC) at TRANSCOM within eight hours.

For Sgt. Nathan Watt, a member of the 688th Rapid Port Opening Element (RPOE), the JAT experience proved highly rewarding. "To work in a different environment like this, and still

make things happen, was a challenge. But it was really good. We all worked together really well, and had good communications," he said.

Next, the JTF-PO SPOD main element, in cooperation with Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment-2 out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, would execute the offload, staging, accountability, and ground movement to a forward node of the U.S. Marine Corps equipment in preparation for the African Lion 15 exercise.

The JTF-PO SPOD comprised soldiers, sailors, and civilians from units within two of our Transportation Component Commands, SDDC and MSC: 838th Transportation Battalion (SDDC), 833rd Transportation Battalion (SDDC), 688th RPOE (SDDC), and Expeditionary Port Unit 107 (MSC).

Using Universal Services Contract-07, SDDC chartered the Motor Vessel Liberty Pride, a U.S.-flagged commercial roll-on/roll off vessel, to transport the equipment from Jacksonville, Florida to Morocco.

Upon offload of the equipment, the JTF-PO SPOD would establish a radio frequency/in-transit visibility network using portable deployable kits (PDKs), and flow the equipment out of the clearance yard to the forward node.

Once the exercise began, multiple unanticipated real-world challenges emerged, creating a highly realistic training environment that tested the JTF-PO SPOD's ability to adapt and overcome to accomplish the mission.

Mechanical failures grounded the C-17 aircraft carrying over 50 JTF-PO personnel for two days in Rota, Spain, delaying their arrival at Agadir until

almost exactly when the *Liberty Pride* docked at the commercial port.

Requirements for force protection, operating space, and offload and movement procedures needed to be de-conflicted and adjusted between the JTF-PO, vessel captain, the contracted local stevedore company, and host nation port authorities and armed forces, in order to prevent operational delays. Finally, the *Liberty Pride* unexpectedly pushed for an aggressive offload timeline that forced the JTF-PO commander to accelerate discharge operations.

The JTF-PO SPOD rose to meet all these challenges, completing the offload of the 419 pieces without accident or incident. Working in tandem with CJTF-AL Marines, the JTF-PO SPOD ensured 100 percent accountability of the equipment prior to transitioning responsibility and shifting to preparations for redeployment to OCONUS and CONUS home stations.

Overall, the JTF-PO SPOD was evaluated by a command observation team on 25 tasks supporting USTRANSCOM's Joint Mission Essential Tasks (JMET) for JTF-PO operations.

Collective joint enabler training outcomes and lessons learned from Turbo Distribution 15-4 will positively contribute to our command's top priority to preserve organic readiness capability now and in the future, in order to execute UCP-assigned missions as the Global Joint Mobility Provider.

