



No. 4²⁰₁₂

TRANS TRIBUNE

*Chronicle of
Warrior Logistics
in Motion!*



598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC), Sembach, Germany



82nd CAB Multi-Model Redeployment

- An AH-64 Apache helicopter is towed onto the M/V Green Point
- ▼ 82nd CAB Soldiers and TASM-E (Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager-Europe) contractors push a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter into its stow location.

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"Warrior Logistics - In Motion"



598th TRANS TRIBUNE

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SDDC 598th TRANS TRIBUNE

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Commander

Col. Matthew D. Redding

**Brigade Command Sergeant Major
Cynthia B. Howard**

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From the Commander

Colonel Matthew D. Redding
Commander
598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC)



The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus is quoted as saying "You can never step in the same river twice...." That same perspective on change could very well apply to the 598th Transportation Brigade! The changes that the Brigade and its personnel have seen throughout its history are amazing. As I have had the honor of traveling around the Brigade in the short time I have been in command - one thing hasn't changed: the quality of our people and their dedication to the mission.

I am still in the throes of traveling to see everyone. Command Sergeant Major Howard and I have continually been impressed when we visit units at their mission sites and in their workplace. Our military, civilian and local national workers continue to demonstrate a great deal of resolve and ingenuity in the face of some major changes we face in our near future. With all the headlines about changes in the global economy, national defense budgets, and explosive international security challenges it is not hard to know why our efforts will be as important now and in the future as they have ever been. Creating surface transportation solutions at the "best value" to our customers means that we need to look at our operations carefully to make sure we deliver consistently excellent results.

As I have traveled and spoken to our team - questions about the future naturally arise during the course of our visit. My message to everyone is that "change is inevitable" but this should not be met with anxious feelings, rather, it presents an opportunity to become more relevant and more effective in a dynamic period of military transition. Our own mission has shifted from the classic "port operations" mode to a "door to door" method of operating. Instead of a historic emphasis on ports and terminals we will find ourselves looking at contract oversight and traffic management. All this against the backdrop of Afghanistan drawing down our national and partner troop/ equipment levels and shrinking defense budgets. We will certainly not be the "same river" we were just a few years ago! I am confident that our people will remain the focus of our efforts in the Brigade and that leaders everywhere will help folks stay informed on the changes we see in our future.

We will seek to clarify the planning and coordination we do with our supported COCOMs by growing the emphasis on Battalion Level operations. Special regional knowledge will be required to operate in the future and expert technical knowledge and traffic management will be needed at Battalion level in a level that has not been seen in previous years. We will also see an increase in our need to oversee large scale container traffic under the new stipulations of the Universal Services Contract (USC) 07. More and more verification will be required in the field to validate receipt of cargo and authorize payment and invoices inside of a system for container cargo. Change will require that we train our personnel on these new skills and ensure we have the right organizational structure to meet these challenges.

I was recently told by one of our team - "Sir, you are my 19th Brigade Commander..." which is a testament to the long experience of our professional workforce and the many

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changes that come with a new command team. CSM Howard and I are committed to providing a clear and open communication about our future and want everyone to be part of that discussion. Our families and commercial partners should also be included in our discussions and kept abreast of the changes we are facing and I hope that everyone is able to share with them this newsletter.

As a final note - I would like to highlight the onset of our Holiday season. Many of us will be taking well deserved leave and time off from work in coming months and CSM Howard would like to begin and end the Holiday season with safety in mind. Slippery roads, holiday stress, long travel plans, and parties that involve alcohol may be part of our merriment. Please have a plan to mitigate travel risks and I will make sure that first line leaders are personally engaged in having a plan for their personnel and a means to reach out to the chain of command while on leave or during the holiday duty periods. Everyone in this command is a precious resource and we need everyone to be safe.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Warmest regards, Colonel Matthew D. Redding

Command Sergeant Major Cynthia B. Howard Corner

■ *CSM Cynthia B. Howard
598th Trans BDE (SDDC)
Command Sergeant Major*



“HAPPY HOLIDAYS”

Team, we’re approaching the Holiday season once again. We need to keep in mind that it’s a perfect time to remember those that are less fortunate and our comrade’s in harm’s way. Let us all give homage and be grateful for our friends and families. This will be a unique Holiday season for the 598th Transportation Brigade since it will be the first one we celebrate in our new hometown. Do not forget that there are people who are alone during the holidays, open your heart and celebrate together if you can.

At this moment we’re still in the middle of the transition from The Netherlands to Sembach in Germany. As the Headquarters continue to finalize the relocation move, we also have the 838th Transportation Battalion finalizing its move and conducting operations across Europe.

The 838th’s Rhine River Detachment is relocating from Mannheim to Germersheim Germany. The Benelux Detachment is also preparing for their move within the Rotterdam area in The Netherlands. We are working closely with the Dutch Ministry Officials we are close to having final plans on where the detachment will settle in -- we’re not there yet but definitely heading in the right direction! As the year comes to a close – we will all take time to thank our loyal and professional workforce for their long service. Please know that we appreciate the many decades of service to our mission and the history of the command will always bear your impact! Good luck to each and every one of you as you prepare to transition to another major chapter in your lives and the commander and I offer our heartfelt thanks for a job well done!

I would like to wish all the eligible Sergeant First Class’s in the BDE that competed for the Master Sergeants selection board, good luck! Each and every one of you has the potential to serve at the next higher grade level. I’m looking forward to announcing some new MSGs within the 598th Transportation Brigade.

As we look at what this BDE has accomplished this year it is amazing to think that it was all done in such a professional manner and with no impact to our customers! Keep up the great work in the New Year and our warmest regards to your families during the holiday season.

Happy Holidays! Stay Safe and Stay Vigilant!

“WARRIOR LOGISTICS IN MOTION”

Update!



Capelle aan den IJssel, NL -- Everyone is curious about the status of the movement of the Benelux Detachment. As we are in the middle of November, and knowing the final closure of the Rotterdam facility is 1 February 2013. Where are we with planning?

After much negotiation and many visits it has been decided the Benelux Detachment will relocate to Van Ghent Kazerne, Rotterdam, on 28 November. This will be to a temporary location as we await the completion for occupancy of a Semi-Permanent structure also on Van Ghent Kazerne.

The structure is scheduled for turnover on the 21st of December and will then be occupied by the Benelux Detachment, MCT Rotterdam and a few remaining staff of the HQ.

While all of this is happening, we continue the closure of our current Rotterdam facility with a final closure date scheduled for the first of February. To date we have closed the Shoppette, Library, Craft Shop, Gym, Locker Room, Mail Room, and Recreation Areas. We continue clearing offices, and cleaning up many years of paper, folders, books, and the things no longer needed.

As the holidays approach we will be taking a few breaks to celebrate with families but otherwise we are on track and meeting all projected time-lines.

Surface Warriors - "Delivering Trust"

Stephen L. (Loyd) Marshall
Deputy to the Commander, WARLOG 5



ROTTERDAM AAFES SHOPETTE CLOSED!

Roy Turner, the AAFES Regional Sales Manager, came down from Germany to the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) building in Capelle aan den IJssel to present some awards. Due to the move of 598th Trans BDE to Sembach, Germany the AAFES Shopette closed on 9 November 2012.

Stephen L. Marshall, 598th Deputy To The Commander received on behalf of the 598th an AAFES letter of appreciation (photo above) for support since 1983 when SDDC moved into this building. Darla Vermeulen, the Rotterdam Shopette Manager, received an AAFES Award for her service as Shopette Manager in Rotterdam for 16 years. (photo below).



Kenneth Deppe New Director Italy Detachment



Welcome Aboard!

Kenneth Deppe took over the position as Italy Detachment Director on April 23rd, 2012.

His responsibilities include managing, directing, and supervising all activities related to the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's movement of cargo through the Defense Transportation System in the Italy Detachment's Area of Responsibility. This area includes: Italy, Spain, France, Monaco, Malta, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and the Western Sahara.

Deppe is originally from the state of Missouri, but now has a home of record in Alaska. He has earned degrees in Business Management from McKendree University, and Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Deppe has Level One certifications in Contracting, Acquisition Logistics, Program Management, and Production, Quality, and Manufacturing from the Defense Acquisition University. Deppe has been working toward Level Two certifications in the afore mentioned fields of study.

Deppe served on active duty with the U.S. Army for nine years with the 2-75th Ranger Battalion,

the 3-75th Ranger Battalion, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the Ranger Training Brigade.

Deppe also worked for four years as a military contractor prior to coming onboard as a Department of the Army Civilian in 2006. Prior to this assignment, Deppe was stationed at FT. Richardson, Alaska, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and Scott AFB, Illinois. He has served as a Deployment Specialist, Transportation Specialist, and Traffic Management Specialist, and has worked in support of Operations New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom.
(598th CAO)



Matthew L. Burr **New Director** **Azores Detachment**



■ Archive photo

Welcome Aboard!

Matthew L. Burr became the Detachment Director for the Azores Detachment of the 838th Transportation Battalion (598th Transportation Brigade and the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command), at Praia Da Vitoria, Azores, Portugal on 30 April 2012.

Burr was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and grew up in Detroit and Toronto, Ontario. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1987 and served in the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He entered the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at Colorado State University where he graduated and received his commission as a 1st Lieutenant in 1994. Burr attended Graduate School at Troy State University where he earned a Masters in Management degree in 1996. He retired from the military after 20 years of service in 2010.

Prior to his current position, Burr served as the Senior Military Science Instructor and Operations Officer for the Army ROTC at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Previously, Burr was the Executive Officer for the 2/363 TSBn, Mesa, Arizona; Chief of Current Operations, 402nd FA BDE, Ft. Bliss, Texas; Chief of Transportation, 63rd RRC, Los Alamitos, California; Company Commander, 254th Base Support Battalion,

Schinnen, The Netherlands; Platoon Leader, S & T Company, 1st USA Support Battalion, El Gora, Arab Republic of Egypt; and Motor Transportation Officer, 34th Support Group, Yongsan, Republic of Korea.

Other assignments include staff positions at 1st Transportation Movement Control Agency and 39th Transportation Battalion in Kaiserslautern Germany and USAREUR ODCSOPS, Heidelberg, Germany during which Burr deployed several times to SFOR and KFOR AORs and conducted port operations at Thessaloniki, Greece, while assigned to the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and Burgas, Bulgaria as well as being the U.S. Army Liaison Officer to the Bulgarian National Logistics Coordination Center, Sofia, Bulgaria. ■
(598th CAO)



Col. Matthew D. Redding, Commander 598th Trans BDE (SDDC) visits 950th Transportation Company in Bremerhaven, Germany



Town Hall Meeting

By Maj John Dang, Commander 950th Trans Co.

Bremerhaven, GE - Colonel Matthew D. Redding conducted his initial visit to the 950th Transportation Company on 24-25 September 2012. Accompanied by the 838th Trans Bn Commander, Lt.Col. John Gallagher, and the 950th Trans Co Commander, Maj. John Dang, he toured the facilities at the Port of Bremerhaven.

Redding viewed the various areas of the port where different operations occur including where the 950th receives equipment, House Hold Goods, Privately Owned Vehicles, the container repair facility and agriculture cleaning areas. He also met with local contractors at the port where they provided an overview of their operations and support to the 950th. The highlight of the tour was observing the staging of equipment associated with ongoing port operations. While at the staging area, Col. Redding attended the mission briefing and met with the equipment liaison officers.

The tour continued at the 950th headquarters building. There, Maj. Dang provided Col. Redding with a command brief detailing the missions of the 950th, workload trends over the years and recent accomplishments. During a Town Hall meeting with 950th personnel, he introduced himself and explained his goals and philosophy. Understanding that change is inevitable and sometimes difficult, he urged the 950th personnel to be vigilant,



Operations Briefing



Port Tour

continue the hard work and dedication and to look for opportunities to improve efficiency with the methods of transportation.

The tour concluded at the Port of Nordenham where Col. Redding met with the port operators and discussed the resolved issue of Sovereign Immunity and gratitude for the over 60 years of ammunition missions at Nordenham. Col. Redding departed Bremerhaven with a better understanding of how the 950th has nested with the 598th mission and how the 950th continues to successfully support it. ■

Photos by Bramde Jong, 598th CAO

German Officers of the 'Landeskommando Bremen' visit 950th Trans Co (SDDC) Port Operations in Bremerhaven Germany



By Michael Korn
950th Trans Co
(SDDC)
Terminal Manager

Bremerhaven, Germany -- During the deployment of exercise equipment through the Port of Bremerhaven, our long time partners and Host Nation military counterparts from the German Forces State Command Bremen (Landeskommando Bremen) were hosted by the 950th Transportation Company (SDDC) Operations Officer and Executive Officer, 1st Lieutenant Samuel Robinson and Michael Korn the 950th Terminal Manager. The group consisted of Lieutenant Colonel Herrmann, Captain Geyer, Lieutenant Cornett and Sergeant Major Brenmöhl.

▲ The visitors were received in the Tactical Operations Center in the Port of Bremerhaven and briefed by 1st Lieutenant Samuel Robinson, 950th Trans Co, Operations & Executive Officer, about the ongoing loading operation of exercise equipment to the roll-on/roll-off vessel RESOLVE.

▲► During a tour of the vessel the visitors were welcomed by the master of the RESOLVE, Captain William Rapone, on the bridge of the vessel. He took all time to explain the RESOLVE shipo operations to the visitors

► Nils Pfuhl, 950th Trans Co, Safety Specialist, explained to Lieutenant Colonel Herrmann how SDDC load and document the rolling stock on board the vessel.



■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th CAO

82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Multi-Modal Redeployment



*Text and photos by: Sgt. 1st Class Philip Goodwin,
839th Documentation Supervisor*

Naval Station Rota, Spain – Italy Detachment, augmented by a Turkey Detachment Marine Cargo Specialist (MCS) and Noncommissioned Officers from the 839th Transportation Battalion, deployed to Naval Station (NS) Rota, Spain to provide support for the multi-modal redeployment of the Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), 82nd Airborne Division from Operation Enduring Freedom. Ken Deppe and Sgt. Maj. Daisy Jackson provided command and control over the Documentation section consisting of Antonio De Marco, Patrizia De Sanctis, & Sgt. 1st Class Philip Goodwin and the Marine Cargo section with of Riccardo Scotto, Huseyin Tartar, Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Curley and the Contracting Officer Representative Gino Orsini.

All personnel set out with the mission of accounting for all of the equipment that would be moved from the NS Rota airfield to the seaport. After documenting all of the equipment, the team coordinated with the NS Rota Transportation Officer for the movement of the helicopters, breakbulk, and rolling stock to the port. The team receipted the cargo after all of the equipment was staged, and then contractors and stevedores loaded the equipment onboard the vessel with emphasis on the stow location of each piece. This information allows the ship's crew to find a particular piece of equipment when needed during the trip to the United States.

Without the full effort of all personnel involved, the mission would not have been successful as it was. Each section relies heavily on each other for information to complete their jobs. This seamless information flow expedited the success of the mission. ■



■ Colonel Matthew D. Redding, commander 598th Transportation Brigade, discusses the redeployment operation with 82nd CAB Unit Movement Officers.



■ Colonel Redding discusses the vessel stow plan with Riccardo Scotto and Huseyin Tartar, MCSs from Italy and Turkey Detachments.



■ Sgt. 1st Class Curley and Mr. Tartar, 839th and Turkey Detachment MCSs, verify container stow locations and observe stevedores lashing cargo.

■ Photos: 839th Trans Bn Archive

JTF-PO (SPOD) FTX

Articles and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hamilton,
839th Trans BN, Cargo NCO



Port Canaveral, FL – The **Joint Task Force-Port Opening (JTF-PO) field training exercise (FTX)** at Port Canaveral, FL in mid-July 2012 was successful as Soldiers, Sailors, Department of Army Civilians, and Local Nationals from the 839th Transportation Battalion (U.S. Army), 688th Rapid Port Opening Element (U.S. Army), and 107th Expeditionary Port Unit (U.S. Navy) came together for this joint effort.

The purpose of the exercise was to quickly establish a JTF-PO, open a seaport in an austere environment, discharge vessels, and transport the cargo to a forward node in order to clear the seaport. The 839th Transportation Battalion, based in Livorno, Italy, formed the core of the JTF-PO staff, known as the Seaport Command Element (SCE). The Battalion's has been focusing on training in order to be completely self-sustaining at any given port in the 839th's Area of Responsibility (AOR). Normally, the Local Nationals (LN) in the regional Detachments would perform all Single Port Manager (SPM) functions; however, civilians cannot deploy to all operational environments. This exercise gave the team various scenarios to work through in the event that LNs are not available for port operations.

The team was able to work through small setbacks and diversity to form the JTF, establish a JTF-PO battle rhythm, and gain a better understanding of each unit's responsibilities during a port opening scenario. ■

■ *Sgt. 1st Class Rica Hamilton briefs the Documentation section, consisting of 688th RPOE and 839th Transportation Battalion personnel, on their plan to account for all discharged cargo.*

■ *The JTF-PO (SPOD) team conducts final checks and balances while they await the placement of the ramp.*

■ *The flat racks are lifted from the vessel and placed on the semi-truck for onward movement.*



■ Photos: 839th Trans Bn Archive

Col. Redding & CSM Howard Visit the 839th in Italy



■ 839th Trans BN personnel and Col. Matthew D. Redding, commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Cythia B. Howard from the 598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC) .

By Maj. William Kost,
839th Executive Officer

Leghorn Army Depot, Italy – Col. Matthew Redding, the 598th Transportation Brigade Commander, accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Howard, conducted his first site visit to the 839th Transportation Battalion and Italy Detachment from 9 through 11 Oct 2012. While visiting Leghorn Army Depot/Camp Darby, Italy, Col. Redding took the opportunity to discuss his philosophy, vision, expectations, and the future of SDDC to the 839th Workforce. He met with other tenant units to discuss how SDDC can support their operations, received tours of the Port of Livorno and Tombolo Dock, and gained an understanding of the local garrison support structure and capabilities. The group then traveled to Caserma Ederle, Vicenza, Italy to meet with the U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) G3 and G4 to learn about surface movement challenges in Africa and discussed future USARAF-839th Transportation Battalion partnerships. ■

■ 839th Town Hall meeting with 6598th Commander and CSM.

■ 839th Transportation Detachment personnel.



■ Photos: Chiara Mattiolo, Darby Military Community PAO

Reenlistment & Promotion



■ Capt. Nathaniel Beckett, 839th Ops Off, reenlists Staff Sgt. Delano Hamler on 6 September 2012.

■ Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Curley and Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hamilton promote Staff Sgt. Delano Hamler, 839th Documentation Supervisor to Sgt. 1st Class.

■ A happy Sergeant 1st Class Delano Hammler, 839th Documentation Supervisor after reenlistment and promotion.



■ Photos: 839th Trans Bn Archive



U.S. TRANSCOM Strategy 2013 - 2017

review on

<http://www.ustranscom.mil/strategy/v1.cfm>

Colonel Maurice Bastin, RNLA New RMC - West Commander

Den Haag, NL, 28 Sep 2012 -- Col. Matthew D. Redding, commander 598th Trans BDE (SDDC) visited the farewell reception of Colonel Bas van



■ Col. Redding bids fare well to Col. Bas van Hoof. Per 1 Oct 2012, Col Van Hoof his new job will be at NATO Brussels where he will be working with the NL Permanent Military Representative .



■ Col. Maurice Bastin, New Commander RMC West and Col. Matthew D. Redding, commander 598th Trans BDE (SDDC).

Hoof, commander of the Dutch Regional military Command West (RMC-West). Col. Redding also welcomed the new RMC West Commander Col. Maurice Bastin. RMC-West is the Point of Contact for Civilian Partners in relation to Military Support for the western part of The Netherlands (Holland & Utrecht). Col. Bastin also became Deputy Commander of the RNLA 11 Air Mobile Brigade.

■ Photos by Bram de Jong, 598th CAO

598th Commander & CSM Award Italian Military

► Col Redding Commander 598th Trans BDE meets Col Raffaele Iubini, Commander, Italian Base Command (IBC) of Camp Darby.

▼ During their visit to the 839th Trans BN, Col. Redding and CSM Howard presented Lt.Col. Giovanni Croce, IBC Deputy CDR; CMCS Cristiano Gneri, and CMCS Giacinto Tuffilli letters of appreciation and command coins for their enduring support.



■ Photos: 839th Trans Bn Archive

West Berlin and the U.S. Army Rail Transportation Office

A lifeline from West Germany to West Berlin

By
1st Lieutenant
Samuel E. Robinson
950th Trans Co
Operations Officer

Today, U.S. citizens and European citizens can travel freely throughout Germany. There was a time, in the not so distant past when that wasn't the case. West Berlin, also known as "Freedom Island", was deep within communist controlled East Germany.

"At World War II's conclusion, it was determined that Germany would undergo military occupation by forces of France, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, and United States, each power being responsible for an individual Zone. The Nazi capital, Berlin, sitting deep within the Soviet Zone, was divided into four Sectors, each assigned to an occupying power. On September 10, 1945, the four Victorious Powers enacted regulations for rail traffic (Protocol CONLIP [46] 27) in the occupation areas. Those regulations remained in effect until Germany was reunited in October, 1990."

"Western Allies were allowed two railway connections, through the Soviet Occupation Zone, to the beleaguered City of West Berlin. The tracks ran from Helmstedt via Marienborn, Magdeburg, and Potsdam to West Berlin. The other route was via Potsdam, Stendal, Magdeburg, and Oebisfelde to Hannover."

"On December 1, 1947 the Americans activated RTO. The British and French Armies used different stations for their railway traffic."

The Rail Transportation Office (RTO) provided the means for the U.S. Army to resupply West Berlin with troops and supplies, thus keeping freedom alive, in a sea of communism, for 45 years.

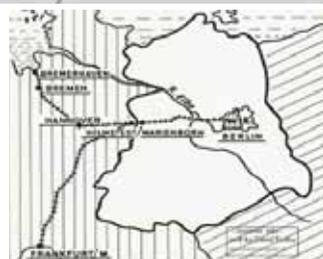
To this day, you can see reminisce of the West Berlin lifeline, in Helmstedt Germany.

You can also enjoy free movement throughout west and east Germany, as 1st Lieutenant Samuel E. Robinson, with the 950th Transportation company, recently did, as he completed the 2012 Berlin Marathon with the historical Brandenburg Gate in the background. ■



▲ This map shows how Germany was divided in different zones.

► Berlin was also divided in different zones and could be reached from the West by a rail. The train ride to Berlin was 115 miles through the "Iron Curtain" Without the train and its link to the Port of Bremerhaven the ability to sustain the western sectors of Berlin would have been difficult at best.



■ You can also enjoy free movement throughout west and east Germany, as 1st Lt. Samuel Robinson, with the 950th Transportation Company, recently did, as he completed the 2012 Berlin Marathon with the historical Brandenburg Gate in the background.

Seat Belts Save Lives!!!

By Stephen L. Marshall
598th Transportation Brigade (SDDC)
Deputy To The Commander

At least we meet again, all the soldiers, DAC's and Local Nationals.

Autumn is fast approaching with Winter peeking its head out from time to time. During this transitional time of the year we must remember to be careful, not only on the roads, but also as we walk to and from our vehicle or public transportation, both at home and at work. This means to think about safety. So, in talking about safety let me relate to you a personal incident that will bring things home to everyone.

On the 10th of October I took the day off and my wife, two year old grandson, and myself, began the drive back to Rotterdam from Sembach. My wife had just completed her dental check-up and she was told her braces would come off on November 29th, that would be her final visit. We left happy and even my two year old grandson thought it was great that his grandma was happy. We stopped back on the installation, checked mail and then dropped over to the Bella Bear for some hot wings (me), a steak for my wife, and chicken nuggets for our grandson to eat when he wasn't playing with all the bears.

After lunch we departed from Rotterdam enjoying the beautiful day. The sun was shining, the roads were clear, traffic was not heavy and the day was so nice that you could walk around in a T-shirt.

About an hour and a half later, driving towards Venlo, out of nowhere, without warning tragedy struck. Suddenly a semi-truck began scraping the passenger side of the car and then all I saw was this same truck spinning in front of me. I felt helpless as I could do nothing except hold onto the steering wheel as we hit the truck, and my Ford Expedition flipped over and slammed on to the driver's side.

We were totally out of control and sliding. I could see we were heading toward sign posts and then we started to shear them off like toothpicks. I could see we were heading toward a Shell gas station



Buckle Up!

and I could do nothing to avoid what could quickly become a collision with gasoline pumps or refueling vehicles parked there. Then as I held on the Expedition was suddenly flipped upright again and I saw that we were heading towards the grassy area beyond the highway's shoulder...then it happened... we stopped and I do mean stopped. The front airbags inflated everywhere and we were surrounded by a lot of banging and the smell of burning powder in the air. We had hit a dirt embankment.

I looked at my wife and asked if she was OK. She responded that she was. Then the next moment she was flying out the passenger door with something in her arms...our grandson. Somehow she had grabbed him from his car seat and opened her car door. Unfortunately the Expedition was on the edge of an embankment with a 10 foot drop on the passenger side. My wife fell to the ground but she was Ok as was our grandson. It turned out that the embankment had saved us from impacting a cement culvert.

The Police arrived along with ambulances and we were whisked away to the hospital. I was immediately tested as is the custom and had a 0.0 reading. At the hospital we were treated and released. I was found to have seatbelt and airbag bruising and a small cut on the right hand...my wife had two broken fingers and similar bruising and our grandson was completely unhurt.

The reason for writing this story is simple. **Seat belts save lives.** My wife, our grandson and I are living proof of that. Also, never attempt to save money when buying a car seat. As the police said the big hulk of the Expedition helped us but without those seat belts being fastened and the car seat for our grandson the outcome of our accident would not have been the same. Using those safety devices made all the difference in the world.

**So, ALWAYS, remember to BUCKLE UP.
It is not only the law; it is the smart thing to do!**

Winter Driving in Europe

By Rudy Magereij, 598th Safety Manager



Avoid starting problems

- Is the cooling system OK, and is there enough antifreeze in it to provide the necessary protection?
- Tires, check for the correct pressure and tread depth (minimum 1.6 mm).
- Be certain that heater and defroster work properly.



It is essential to both safety and comfort in winter.

- Is the radiator clean and leave free, and are the hoses in good condition and clamped down tight?
- Lights must operate at maximum efficiency. In heavy weather clean your lights often.
- Clean your windows well, good visibility is essential.
- Check battery, even a new or well charged battery can quickly wear down in cold weather.
- Is the exhaust system in good condition and free of leaks? Leaks that could send carbon monoxide into your vehicle.
- Windshield: Make sure wipers are in good condition and fill up on winter washer fluid. Ensure your windshield can give you clear vision of the road and traffic around you.

Follow the TEN-POINT PLAN for SAFER WINTER DRIVING

Hand in hand with winter come heavy rain, fog, ice and snow. Bad weather affects visibility and stopping distances. Follow this ten-point plan and be a safer winter driver.

- Allow extra time for your journey and reduce your speed.
- Increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front and be certain you can stop within the distance you can see to be clear.
- If visibility is seriously reduced by fog, use dipped headlights and rear fog lights. Switch on your wipers to keep your windscreen clear.
- Remember to turn fog lights off when they are no longer needed as they can be a distraction to other drivers.

- Remember the obvious - you can see snow, but you can't always see ice. Avoid sudden braking, accelerating too quickly and harsh steering in slippery conditions.
- Keep your windscreen clear of snow and check from time to time that there is not a build-up of snow on your lights.
- Carry a shovel, extra warm clothing, a blanket, a snack and a drink - especially if you are traveling through isolated areas.
- If you are going on a long journey, advise someone of your destination and what time you expect to arrive.
- If you feel uncomfortable driving in bad weather, consider whether your journey is really necessary or whether you can go by an alternative to the car.



Fog Safety Tips

- Consider postponing your trip until the fog clears.
- Slow down before you enter a patch of fog and adjust speed to road conditions.
- Maintain an adequate following distance.
- Be sure you can stop within the distance that you can see.
- Use your low-beam headlights.
- Turn on the wipers and defroster to remove moisture from the windshield.
- Use the right edge of the road or painted road markings as a reference.
- Watch out for slow-moving and parked vehicles. >>>





Rain Safety Tips

- Most important, slow down.
- Avoid hard braking; take your foot off the accelerator to slow down.
- Following distance must be increased because stopping distance increases and visibility reduces.
- Always drive with your headlights on in wet weather.
- Beware of hydroplaning.
- Beware of slick surfaces. Water mixed with roadway dirt and oil can create slick surfaces.
- Beware of high winds during storms and blinding lightning at night.

Risk Management Reminders for the Driver

- If you must drive in bad weather, plan ahead and make sure you have enough fuel.
- See and be seen; clear all snow from the hood, roof, windows and lights.
- Clear all windows of fog.
- If visibility becomes poor, find a place to safely pull off the road as soon as possible.



**598 Transportation
Brigade (SDDC),
Commander,
Command Sergeant Major
& Staff
wish you
a Joyous Holiday Season!**