

# New vans take maintenance to units in field



Harold Garner/Photo Lab

**HIGHLY REGARDED**— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, AMCOM commander, shows a model of the CALSET 2000 trailer. Brig. Gen. Roger Nadeau, right, program executive officer for combat support and combat service support, also participates in the ceremony.

## Calibration equipment replaces '70s hardware

By KIM GILLESPIE  
For the Rocket

Keeping soldiers' equipment maintained and field-ready is crucial to their mission and safety, and that's what Calibration Set 2000 is all about.

The first CALSET units produced by Team Redstone were released April 7 for soldier fielding. Brig. Gen. Roger Nadeau, program executive officer for combat support and combat service support, said he will sleep better at night knowing that soldiers will benefit from this new equipment.

Nadeau joined Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of Aviation and Missile Command, at the ceremony marking the joint efforts of materiel developers, combat developers, war fighters, and supporting contractors. Nadeau noted that CALSET 2000 replaces 1970s era equipment. Dodgen spoke of how CALSET 2000 will support the force of the future, the Objective Force, because it allows for a more diverse mission. CALSET 2000 checks the calibration on tools and test equipment to ensure that everything from missiles and tanks to helicopters are kept running smoothly.

Howard Race, director of the Strategic Customer Initiatives Office under the Deputy to the Commander for Systems Support, oversees the AMCOM Reuse Office, a key player in the CALSET 2000 success story.

"Everything from research and development and acquisition, to unit production and soldier training was done here at Redstone," Race said. "Not only is Maj. Gen. Dodgen the supplier but he is also the customer so you know he is going to make sure there is a good product because he is on both ends of the life cycle."

Race pointed out that by using the AMCOM Reuse Office as the "systems integrator," the first production units of CALSET 2000 met both schedule and budget requirements.

"The Reuse Office was able to acquire excess vans, recapitalize those vans, and install commercially available or off-the-shelf equipment. By using our systems support contractors and small business contractors, the work was done locally and 90 percent of the money stayed in the area," he said.

But more importantly, CALSET 2000 is meeting soldier needs. CALSET 2000 replaces two of the '70s vintage "expando" vans and a generator with one trailer that acts as a mobile laboratory, a new model tactical "quiet" generator, and

a Humvee with a rigid wall shelter also housing calibration equipment. The Humvee can deploy separately from the trailer laboratory and provide on-the-site calibration capabilities to soldiers in the field. The old system required the equipment to be brought to the vans. Race said that the Humvee performing the "split operations" will do about 70 percent of the work needed in the field with the soldiers.

"Our Army is transforming to a more flexible and mobile force, and that is exactly what CALSET 2000 is designed to support," he said.

One of the soldiers already familiar with CALSET 2000 is SFC Jerry Etheridge, the NCO-in-charge for test, measurement and diagnostic equipment systems training division of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, who teaches soldiers in the calibration occupational specialty how the calibration set is used. Etheridge has taken CALSET 2000 on five field exercises since last fall, and he praised the new system.

"It can be transported by C-5, C-17 and C-130 aircraft which makes it much easier to deploy than the old equipment," he said. "It gets you to the fight faster. The generator is also much quieter. You could hear the old one a half-mile away."

Having equipment housed in a Humvee makes a difference for the calibrators and the war fighters. "Calibrators can now go out to where the war fighters need them instead of them having to bring their equipment to us," Etheridge said.

Dodgen said CALSET 2000 was for the soldiers and sent a clear message to Spec. Justin Brown, the Army's Soldier of the Year and a calibrator for the 95th Maintenance Company. "It says we care by sending better equipment to the field."

The CALSET 2000 team included the Program Executive Officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support; Project Manager for Measurement, Electric Power and Protection; Product Manager for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment, AMCOM's Reuse Office, Acquisition Center, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office, Command Legal Counsel, Safety Office, Research Development and Engineering Center's Engineering Directorate, the Garrison, Redstone Technical Test Center, Combined Arms Support Command, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, 95th Maintenance Company, National Guard Bureau, 1241st Maintenance Detachment, Analytical Services Inc., CAS Inc., Dynetics Inc., General Products Inc., Macro Industries, and Science Applications International Corp.

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