ATC Divers Aid in Recovery of Drowning Victims

The ATC rescue dive team assisted in the recovery of the bodies of two men, Sept. 7, that had been missing since Sept. 5, after their boat was discovered beached on Carroll Island with the motor still running.

The body of Robert L. Kline, 44, Red Lion, Pa., was recovered at 7:30 a.m. and his brother, George F. Kline Jr., 48, Windsor, Pa., was recovered at 4:30 p.m. The Aberdeen Proving Ground Marine Police were dispatched Sept. 5 after an APG patrol boat was notified by other boaters in the area that the men were missing. After locating the missing boat but failing to locate the men, Special Agent Ralph Plummer of APG's Marine, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement Division contacted Gene Burchette II, rescue dive team supervisor, at home on Friday evening to activate the dive team on Saturday morning.

Two dive units were dispatched off the north side of Carroll Island to begin searching. Only government divers can search in the waters surrounding APG because of the risk of unexploded ordnance. "Unfortunately, the visibility is absolutely zero [in the water surrounding APG]," said Burchette. He explained that there is usually 1 to 2 feet of visibility in the water at best. "Because of the rain on Saturday, that visibility dropped to 6 to 8 inches until you hit the bottom where it is lights out," Burchette said.

Members of the APG Fire Department, Baltimore County Marine Unit, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland State Police, Coast Guard and Maryland Army National Guard conducted extensive searches of the Gunpowder River near Carroll Island, along with a team of search dogs from Baltimore County, MD that were used to pick up scents from the top of the water. The search was called off because of lightning.

The search resumed for the men early on Sunday. A commercial fisherman about a half a mile away from the accident scene found the first man's body in the morning. Shortly after the APG Marine Police called off the search on Sunday evening the second man's body floated to the surface.

"Evidently they were checking their crab pot lines and fell overboard for whatever reason," said Burchette, "Neither man was wearing a lifejacket and one could not swim."

The dive team was used to recover the located bodies, transferring them from the water onto the search and rescue boats and then onto the vehicles waiting on land.

The ATC rescue dive team is made up entirely of volunteers trained in search, recovery and rescue. ATC maintains the dive team because of the amphibious testing conducted at the test center.

Article provided by **Susan Hagan**, ATSS, ATC Public Affairs Office.

ATC Globe

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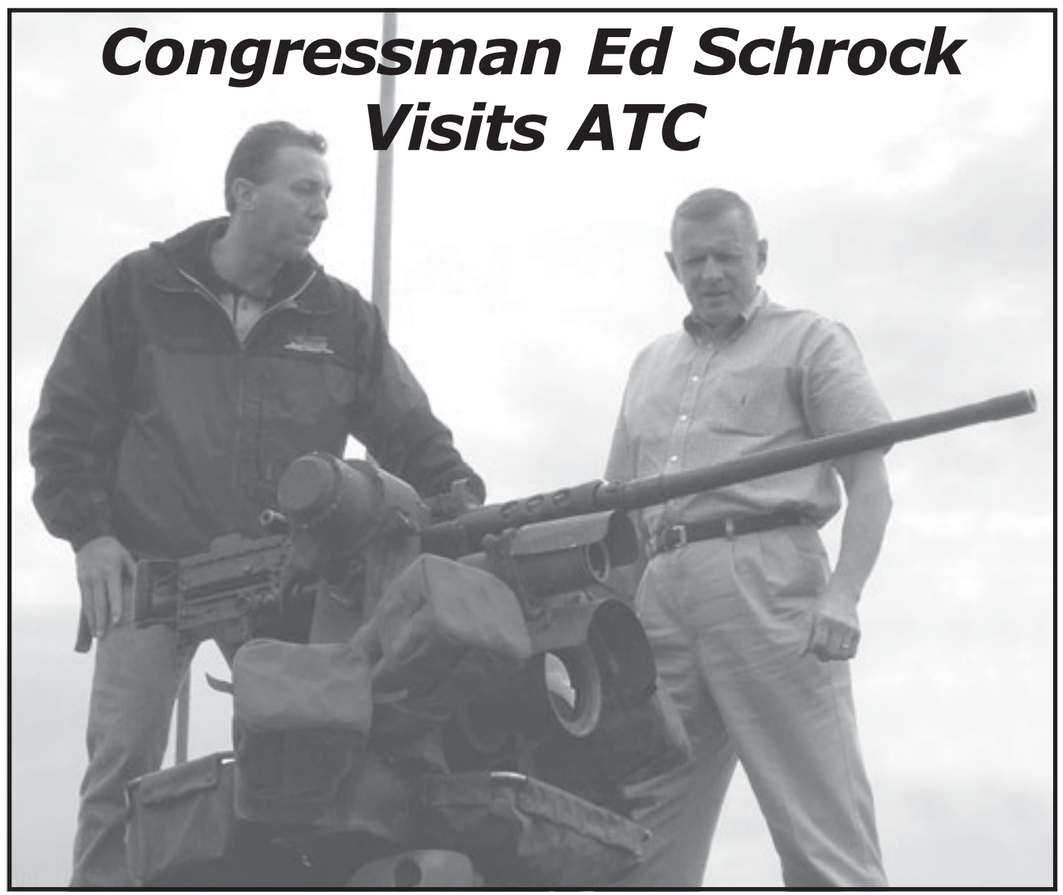

From the ATC Commander

by Colonel Mary Brown, Commander, Aberdeen Test Center

Col. Mary K. Brown

Safety is always my first priority at ATC. Accidents are never acceptable here. Even though one of our goals in testing is to find the limitations of the products we test, we plan our testing so that it can be done safely, protecting our workers and the customers' assets. Not only do accidents result in injuries to our employees, they can have a big impact on testing. When accidents occur, they can damage test items, cause delays, and sometimes result in data being lost. All of these are costs we don't want to incur.

All work performed at ATC is assessed for risk, and all activities are planned out so that they can be performed safely and efficiently. Planning for safe operations means we have an opportunity to stop potential problems from turning into accidents. This investment in planning pays for itself throughout testing, because it prevents the kind of costs we can't afford: injured workers, damaged test items, and missed milestones.

In order to improve on the safety of the workforce, ATC asked the Jacobs Corporate Health Safety and Environmental Department to conduct an evaluation of our safety management program. As a result of the evaluation, ATC will be implementing several of their recommendations in order to improve the overall safety program.

One of the most noticeable changes is that employees will be wearing hard hats throughout our industrial areas and ranges. Wearing the hats is a visible symbol of our commitment to a new culture of safety. Working safely isn't new here, but our extra emphasis on safety is, because we recognize safety as adding value to our customers' test and training programs.

When you come to visit us, we need to protect you, too, so don't be surprised if we give you a hard hat to wear. Whether you're here for a short tour or an extended test, we want you to get the maximum benefit from your visit, with minimum risk.

I ask you to join us in our commitment to provide quality test results, and support our effort in making ATC an incident free test center.

Technical Director's Corner

by Jim Fasig, Technical Director, Aberdeen Test Center

James W. Fasig

ATC is continuing to support our Soldiers at war. We're working two shifts a day, six-plus days a week on high priority tests in order to get the items fielded to our Soldiers as quickly as possible.

Because of the threat from Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), a critical need in Iraq right now is better armor protection for vehicles. ATC is testing armor kits for the High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), and Heavy Expanded Mobile Tactical Truck (HEMTT). Armor kits will provide the vehicles with perimeter, overhead blast, and underbody protection.

Vehicles fitted with the armor kits are undergoing a variety of automotive performance testing, transportability testing, endurance testing and safety testing. Vulnerability personnel are evaluating various armored panels, doors, and ballistic glass.

In November, the first Stryker Brigades were deployed from Ft. Lewis, Wash. Over 900 people worked nearly one million man hours at ATC to conduct Performance, Reliability and Maintainability, and Live Fire Vulnerability testing on 30 vehicles. Because of their efforts, the entire Stryker program, from selection of the prototype to fielding, was accomplished in just three years. Normally this acquisition process can take up to seven years. We also designed, fabricated, tested and put into production the Slat Armor for the Stryker in seven weeks. It was a great team effort between ATC, the Army Research Laboratory, Program Manager - Brigade Combat Team and General Dynamics Land Systems. The Slat Armor will provide the vehicles with additional protection against RPGs.

In order to support the commanders, platoon leaders and platoon sergeants of the 3rd Infantry division (3ID) an upgraded vehicle, the M1A1 Blue Force Tracker (BFT), was designed. A satellite based Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below (FBCB2) system was added to M1A1 vehicles to allow mutual situational awareness and FBCB2 messaging between vehicles.

The upgraded M1A1 Command Vehicle was designed to support the 1st Armored Division (1AD). Upgrades include two extra Single Channel Ground/Airborne Radio System radios, a BFT and a Harris Hi-Frequency/Satellite Communication radio. The upgraded command vehicles are used by the 1AD commander and 1st Brigade commander. This upgrade enables commanders to ride in a tank alongside their troops, something that has never been done before.

ATC is always in motion to improve our Soldiers safety; whether we design, fabricate, or test improvements to provide the most effective equipment possible.

ATC Forms Partnership with FEMSA

James Fasig (left), ATC technical director, and Gerald Halpin, President of FEMSA, formalize their partnership at a signing ceremony held at ATC.

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center (ATC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA), the trade association for the fire and emergency services industry, for the transfer of federal laboratory technology, application to fire-fighting apparatus design, and other related technology.

By entering into an MOU together, ATC and FEMSA are committed to cooperatively exploring opportunities where federal laboratory technologies can be applied to improve fire-fighting apparatus and other related fire-fighting issues.

"We're looking forward to the opportunity to use the technology you make available," said Gerald Halpin, FEMSA President. "Any firefighter in the country deserves

See "ATC Forms Partnership..." page 4

ATC Globe

On the Cover

John Hersey, lead test director on the Stryker program and recipient of the Commanders Award explains Strykers Remote Weapon Station to Virginia Representative Edward Schrock during his visit to Center in October. Photo by DANA FRITTS, ATSS

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Commander *COL Mary K. Brown*
Editor *Vonnie Hughey*
Technical Director *James W. Fasig*
Design *International Imaging Center*

("ATC Forms Partnership..."continued from page 3)

the best we can give them."

The primary objective of the MOU is to bring together the relevant expertise of each party to contribute to the development of fire-fighting apparatus design, testing and evaluation, and to address the commercial potential of federal technologies related thereto.

The primary objective of the MOU is to bring together the relevant expertise of each party to contribute to the development of fire-fighting apparatus design, testing and evaluation, and to address the commercial potential of federal technologies related thereto.

"If you want to be good then you need to partner," James Fasig, ATC's Technical Director said. "We believe that working with a team of partners … makes us stronger."

The MOU will be effective for two years, and may be extended if both ATC and FEMSA agree to do so.

Article provided by **Susan Hagan**, ATSS, ATC Public Affairs Office.

Commander of Aberdeen Test Center Earns Prestigious Acquisition Award

(Excerpted in part from an Army Acquisition Support Center press release)

Aberdeen Test Center Commander Col. Mary Brown (right) accepts the 2003 Secretary of the Army Award for Acquisition Command from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr.

Col. Mary Brown, commander of the Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, received the fiscal year 2003 Secretary of the Army Award for Acquisition Command during a ceremony Oct. 5 in Crystal City, Va. The award recognizes "outstanding contributions and achievements" by Army commanders who support the acquisition of military systems.

The Army's Acquisition Support Center at Fort Belvoir, Va., manages the awards program for people in the Army Acquisition Corps. The award presented to Brown is based on accomplishments in resource and manpower management; reforms and innovations that streamline the Army's acquisition program; the complexity of the assignment; and contributions to support the war fighter, the acquisition community and customer satisfaction.

As the ATC commander, Brown manages more than 60,000 acres of test ranges and 73 major test facilities, with an annual operational budget in excess of $150 million. She oversees operations involving nearly 1,600 military, civilian and contractor personnel and is responsible for developmental testing of combat and combat support systems; ammunition, including small rockets and missiles; and Navy ship structures. ATC is one of the Army's key centers for testing ground combat vehicles, and one system that ATC has played a key role in supporting is the Army's new Stryker family of vehicles. ATC testers have been working six days a week, in two 10-hour shifts per day, to complete testing on this system.

Brig. Gen. Keith McNamara, commander of the Developmental Test Command, nominated Brown for the award, and he cited several key accomplishments in the award citation.

"Her greatest contribution is her technical foresight and her determination that has postured ATC to acquire the necessary funding for construction of new test facilities such as the Roadway Simulator (RWS)," McNamara wrote. "The RWS is the world's largest, most powerful and most sophisticated automotive test simulator, valued at over $37 million. The RWS will have a significant impact on testing for years to come in supporting the transformation of the Army to a lighter, more agile, more rapidly deployable fighting force."

McNamara also cited ATC's accomplishments as the only Department of Defense Reinvention Laboratory on APG.

"This designation has permitted ATC to operate in a more flexible and efficient manner," McNamara wrote. "Col. Brown's leadership has been paramount in the Versatile Information System, Integrated ONline. Nationwide, that represents a leap-ahead technology for the acquisition and management of test data. This project places all sources of data into a system that in real time provides information – and a comprehensive record of vital information – to key decision makers.

McNamara also cited the establishment of an Objective Force Office under Brown's command, noting that this office "will play a pivotal role in Army Transformation."

Brown emphasized that the award she accepted during the 2003 Acquisition Corps Ball at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency hotel was really the result of a hard-working team at ATC.

"This is a team award," she said. "I am fortunate to work with dedicated civilians, military and contractor employees. They willingly worked long hours, to include weekends and holidays, in support of Army Transformation, the war effort, and homeland defense, as well as other ongoing tests. It takes many people, with a wide variety of skills, to perform a successful test. ATC's key strength is its people. We have a great team of test and support personnel. I am proud that their efforts were recognized by the acquisition leadership."

Claude Bolton Jr., the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, and his military deputy, Lt. Gen. John Caldwell Jr., presented a variety of awards to people who support the Army's acquisition program.

"These award winners have been selected from an elite group of nominees," Bolton said during the ceremony. "The challenges and complexities faced by these awardees in a year characterized by change, deployments, unit rotations and high operations tempo were truly amazing. It is a testament to both the Army and Acquisition Corps that so many excellent people and teams are nominated and recognized each year for remarkable service above and beyond the call of duty.

"This year's award winners are outstanding representatives of the Army acquisition workforce, whose collective expertise and abilities to research, manage, develop, test, evaluate, contract, field and sustain our war-fighting systems ensure that our soldiers have the materiel they need to fight with greater lethality, survivability and sustainability, regardless of where the battlefield or mission takes them."

CONGRESSMAN Ed Schrock VISITS ABERDEEN TEST CENTER

From left: Wayne Strine, Congressman Schrock

From left: Richard Kimball, Congressman Schrock

From left: Ken Looney, Congressman Schrock

From left: John Wallace, COL Brown, LTC Wason, Ann LeMay, Congressman Schrock, Frank Cristinzio, Chris Carron, MAJ Harden

From left: Ken Looney, Congressman Schrock, COL Brown

Congressman Ed Schrock (R-VA) recently visited Aberdeen Test Center for familiarization of Stryker, Abrams and Bradley hardware.

Accompanying Schrock was Frank Cristinzio, Military Legislative Assistant (MLA) for Schrock; Chris Carron, MLA for Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK); and Ann LeMay, MLA for Congressman John McHugh (R-NY).

At their first stop, the group received Acquisition and Test and Evaluation overviews on the Stryker. Information included Stryker's capabilities and information on developmental testing. All of the Stryker variants currently at ATC were also on display.

Todd Wagner, chief of the Army Transformation Technical Test Office, explained to the group, "We test more than the vehicle. We test the entire system that goes with that vehicle."

After viewing the variants, the group headed to Munson Test Course in the Stryker for a ride around the course. Following the ride, the group proceeded to Trench Warfare Firing Range to fire the Stryker Remote Weapon Station and view an M1A2 Abrams Tank and Bradley Fighting Vehicle (BFV) static display. Abrams tanks and BFV's have provided critical support to the War in Iraq.

To conclude the visit, the group received an overview and viewed a video on Stryker Live Fire testing, and received a briefing on SLAT Armor, designed to protect the Stryker from rocket propelled grenades (RPGs).

Article provided by *Susan Hagan*, ATSS, ATC Public Affairs Office.

Photos provided by *Dana Fritts*, ATSS.

ATC Participates in the Global War on Terrorism

In early September 2003, The Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia contacted ATC requesting assistance in the Georgian Train and Equip Program (GTEP). The ODC was looking for subject matter experts to conduct a technical inspection of Russian tanks and infantry fighting vehicles that were scheduled to support the GTEP. The inspection team, made up of Doug Mauzy, Mark Henry, William Morgan, Mark Raab and Donald Mauzy of ATC's OPFOR Technical Team, traveled to Georgia to accomplish the mission.

The GTEP Inspection Team (from left) Bill Morgan, Don Mauzy, Doug Mauzy, Mark Henry, Georgian Tank Crewman, Mark Raab, Translator and Driver

The GTEP began in May of 2002 at a cost of $65M to create light infantry battalions and mechanized/armor company teams for the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces to enhance their ability to participate in the Global War on Terrorism. Specifically, Georgian troops needed to be capable to meet the threat posed by possible international terrorists that were using the Pankisi Gorge in northeast Georgia as a haven. The GTEP has progressed through three battalions and has just started the fourth. The fifth and final phase, which involves training crews for T-72 and BMP-1 vehicles, is scheduled to begin in January 2004.

For the training to continue the Georgian Government is required to meet specific conditions. For example, the Georgian Ministry of Defense had to pay the Georgian personnel trained by US troops a substantial salary. Georgia has to provide adequate support and man each of the units to be trained at 100%, and for the final phase (Phase IIIE) they have to provide 10 functioning BMP and 10 functioning T-72 tanks. The final phase of GTEP will require US Marine Corps personnel to travel to Georgia to conduct training of the Georgian forces.

ATC's mission was to assess the support the last requirement by conducting a technical inspection of all available BMPs and tanks to assess the readiness state of the vehicles. The information gathered from this inspection was used by ODC to decide that the final GTEP phase would be conducted.

Russian BMP-1 Infantry Fighting Vehicles, Vazaini Military Base, Georgia

The inspection team arrived in country September 14, 2003 and inspected 85 armored vehicles at the Vazaini Military Base, near T'Bilis. Twenty six T-72 and 13 T-55 main battle tanks and 36 BMP-1 and ten BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles were inspected. Due to time constraints, the level of inspection of each vehicle varied from "Detailed" to "Visual Only". Detailed inspections included a full operational check out of the automotive and fire control systems.

Inspection Team Members with Georgian Soldiers

The trip was a positive experience for the ATC personnel. The local Georgian civilians were very friendly and seemed genuinely interested in learning something about Americans. The Georgian military was glad to host the inspection team and proved eager to participate in the activity.

The Georgian military was glad to host the inspection team and proved eager to participate in the activity.

The inspection team did encounter a few surprises. The T-72 tanks were uploaded with 125-mm combustible case ammunition. This fact limited autoloader check-out as the autoloader does not unload the main gun. Additionally, the T-72 tanks had a new Turkish radio system installed. The installation was poor at best as many wires were left hanging. This issue had to be addressed prior to any operations, since energizing the turret often resulted in the sparking of these wires. It was common practice for the Georgian Army to apply motor oil to the outside of the tanks and BMPs. It is unknown if this was for preservation or to make them look good (shine). It is known that this practice makes for a very hazardous work environment. As a lesson learned, ATC personnel must be prepared to address the safety hazards they might encounter in such foreign countries, where safety is not necessarily of primary concern.

Russian T-72 Tanks, Vazaini Military Base, Georgia

On several occasions U.S and Georgian representatives asked about ATC's knowledge of Russian equipment. They commented that "experts" had previously visited but could not even identify the equipment. The inspection team returned to the U.S. on September 20, 2003.

Prior to initiation of the Georgia mission, ATC was contacted by the U.S. Marine Corps to host a BMP and T-72 familiarization. This familiarization was designed to be a train the trainer exercise to support the final phase the GTEP. Twenty members of the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) spent the week of November 17, 2003 at Aberdeen Proving Ground receiving hands-on experience with BMP-1 and T-72 combat vehicles.

ATC's Mark Raab, Briefs Members of the II MEF on the 125mm, 2A46, T-72 Main Gun

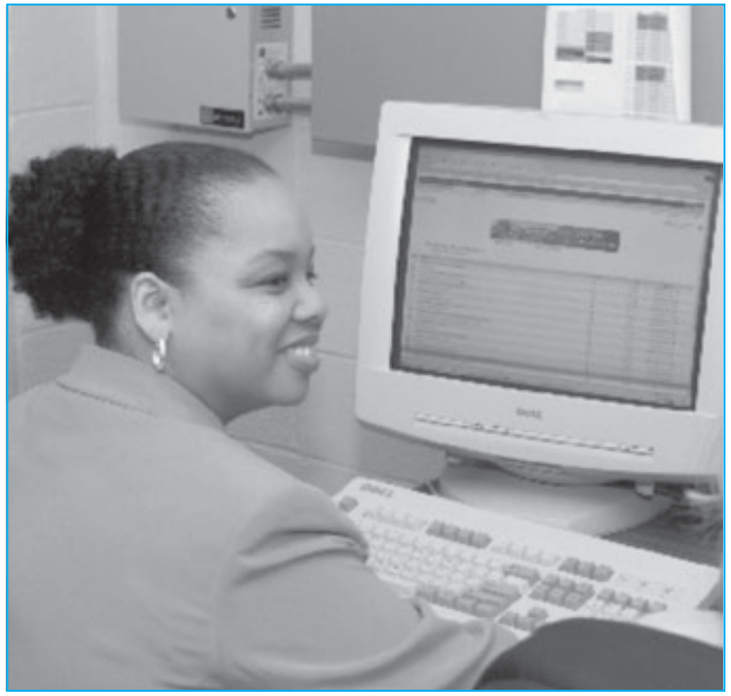
U.S. Marine Corps personnel received an intensive five-day course in vehicle operation and maintenance. Eric Hurtt, a member of ATC's OPFOR Technical Team, organized a program that provided information for Marine vehicle crews and communications and logistics personnel. The Marines were also able to gain some insight on what to expect upon arrival in country, since the team that went to Georgia also participated in the familiarization effort.

When the Marines left ATC on November 21, 2003 they were equipped with the knowledge required to operate and maintain the Russian BMP and T-72 combat vehicles. Additionally, they were loaded down with manuals, safety instructions and wiring and component schematics. ATC's efforts were greatly appreciated by the Marine Corps personnel

ATC's Doug Mauzy Briefs a Member of the USMC GTEP Team on the BMP-1

For more information contact ***Ralph Scutti*** *at DSN 298-3872, commercial 410-278-3872, email: Ralph.scutti@atc.army.mil.*

ATC Employee Receives 'Emerald Honor' for Technical Innovation



Thea Blunt-Henderson, an engineer at ATC, was selected to receive an Emerald Honor for Technical Innovation by Career Communications Group, Inc., publisher of US Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine, Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology magazine, and Women of Color Conference Magazine.

The award was presented to Blunt-Henderson during the Third Annual Women of Color Research Sciences and Technology Awards Conference, held in Nashville, Tenn., Sept.12-13. The conference celebrates the contributions of minority women in science and technology.

"Ms. Blunt-Henderson has done a fantastic job of leading the joint government and contractor team from concept to development of the VDL [VISION Digital Library]," said Col. Mary K. Brown, commander, ATC.

"Her ability to analyze, plan, develop, and implement solutions to challenging technology integration problems is a primary reason why the VDL is providing what our customers need in a timely manner."

A federal employee since 1990, Blunt-Henderson began her career at ATC as a test/quality engineer serving as the Information Systems Manager, Unix Systems Administrator and Database Administrator for the chemistry laboratory.

"It's always an honor to be recognized for your contributions," Blunt-Henderson said, "but this is special because it highlights notable women of color in non-traditional careers. Hopefully my recognition will inspire a little girl somewhere to dream and know she too can excel."

Currently, Blunt-Henderson is the Project Manager for ATC's Versatile Information Systems Integrated On-line (VISION) Digital Library (VDL).

The VDL project was established to create a central information management system for test programs. It provides over 3,000 users with real time access to data and project information including test incident reports, safety data, environmental data, digital photos, video data, and financial data.

Customers are able to access information within VDL from anywhere in the world via the Internet.

Article provided by **Susan Hagan**, ATSS, ATC Public Affairs Office.

Schultz Receives Award for Test and Evaluation Excellence

Dr. Gregory Schultz, a General Engineer at ATC, was presented the Third Annual Dr. Marion R. Bryson Award for Test and Evaluation (T&E) Excellence at the Army T&E Days 2003 Conference in Huntsville, Alabama in June.

An ATC employee since 1988, Schultz's most recent and noteworthy accomplishment is the conceptualization and development of the Roadway Simulator. The Roadway Simulator is the world's largest automotive simulator, designed to fully test the performance of wheeled vehicles ranging from 5,000 to 80,000 pounds at speeds of up to 120 mph. Using a robotic driver, a heavily instrumented test vehicle can be taken to its physical stability limit on the Roadway Simulator while all deflections, stresses, vibrations, forces, and torques are measured dynamically. The data can then be used to validate vehicle dynamics and performance models, refine system designs, and improve efficiency, reliability, performance and safety.

Many years of effort were put into developing the simulator. Schultz has managed the project from the planning and execution of the initial technical feasibility study in fiscal year 1995, all the way to the ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the facility in April of 2003.

Schultz has also worked with other high profile projects at ATC such as the development of the Trench Warfare I and II firing ranges and instrumentation.

In his nomination, Schultz is described as "a brilliant, high-energy individual whose cooperative spirit, professionalism, and devotion to duty stretch far beyond all expectations."

The Dr. Marion R. Bryson Award for T&E Excellence is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the T&E and Acquisition communities. Criteria for award nominees includes: having a minimum of 10 years experience in Army T&E, having developed and promoted innovative techniques and visionary approaches with broad applicability to T&E processes throughout his or her career, and evidence of contributions in the form of solutions to real world T&E problems resulting in measurable benefits to supported acquisition programs.

Article provided by **Susan Hagan**, ATSS, ATC Public Affairs Office.