

Radford transfers land for veterans' cemetery

By Joy Case
Radford AAP Public Affairs

RADFORD, Va. -- A transfer of honor took place Sept. 22, as 80 acres of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant were transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the creation and operation of a veterans' cemetery.

The property was a portion of Radford's New River Unit in Dublin, Va.

The ceremony was attended by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine; Congressman Rick Boucher; William Tuerk, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs; State Senator John Edwards; Radford's Commander Lt. Col. Jon Drushal; Jyuji Hewitt, deputy to the commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, as well as state and local municipal leaders and veteran groups.

Boucher presented the deed to the property to Governor Kaine, which will create the third veterans' cemetery in Virginia. Cemetery construction will begin in early 2009 with an opening date scheduled for late 2010.



U.S. Army photo by Joy Case

Radford Army Ammunition Plant Commander Lt. Col. Jon R. Drushal addresses the crowd during the land transfer ceremony on Sept. 22. The land, located in Dublin, Va., will become Virginia's third veterans' cemetery.

JMC Safety: mission first--safety always

By Laura Walker
JMC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. -- "Safety has no rank, everyone is involved."

Those are the words of Bruce Elliot, director of safety for the Joint Munitions Command. With Elliot it's always, "mission first, safety always."

Elliot is in charge of JMC's safety program, including its 13 ammunition plants and five depots. Elliot joined JMC in 2007 after retiring as Col. Elliott, then commander of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center on the arsenal.

Along with his safety duties, Elliot also is the director of the command's Low-Level Radioactive Waste directorate.

In trying to provide the safest command possible, Elliot's department keeps a database that shows an upward trend in reducing accidents.

Elliot credits this decrease to changing the culture of how people perceive accidents and moving from a strictly compliance-based philosophy to a behavioral-based program.

That is, individuals take on a responsibility for their own safety and look around in their own environment to

avoid accidents. Each person becomes a safety officer. "Thus, if there is a deficiency identified, we need to correct it," he said.

Working for Elliot is Tim Gallagher, division safety chief, who collects data and looks over the accident records. The records are called lagging indicators. This data is collected after the accident.

"We look at past failures in equipment and operators and come up with solutions to fix it. This information is used to see how we can prevent accidents in the future. We look at the time of day, weather condition, the speed of automobiles, alcohol consumption, and other factors in lagging indicators to develop safety precautions," Gallagher said.

If there is an accident, the safety office investigates it.

"The safety office produced a video last March that addresses the safety issues in JMC," Elliot said.

On his responsibilities for safety, Elliot said, "Everything we do in accident prevention affects our Soldiers. We all make a difference."

Elliot likes the military life and wants to continue helping Soldiers fighting the war.

"You can take the boy out of the Army, but you can't take the Army out of the boy," he said.



Bruce Elliot