

## IAAAP upgrades rail system infrastructure to meet future Warfighter needs

By Jane Pepin, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant

Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Iowa – The Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, part of the Joint Munitions Command's organic industrial base, has provided lethality that wins to the Warfighter since munitions production began in 1941. A key component to the ability of the plant to accomplish its critical mission is the 102 miles of internal, transload railroad system.

The railroad transloading system is often the unsung workhorse of the IAAAP and has received routine maintenance improvements over the past 77 years. Recently however, the IAAAP team, along with the Project Director Joint Services, Armament Retooling and Manufacturing Support (ARMS) Team, PDJS Production Based Support Program and JMC, coordinated a series of projects to provide improvements and upgrades ranging from increased safety, optimized warehousing and transloading operations, and increased support via the ARMS Program to promote commercial development.

Members of the ARMS team from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. and Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., visited the IAAAP to conduct a program review and commemorate the rail upgrade projects. Akin to Utah's celebration this year of the 150-year anniversary of the First Transcontinental Railroad, IAAAP held its own Golden Spike ceremony.

The ceremony commemorated the meeting point of the rail projects, as the upgrades were running concurrently from both the northern and southern ends of the track. The Golden Spike ceremony was held where the two new rail-lines will be completed.

The multi-phased project included replacing out-of-date track with new railroad track, cross ties, rail ballast, as well as numerous culverts and rail crossings. Completion is scheduled for Fall 2020 – at that time, 21 miles will be upgraded to new commercial standard 115 pound railroad track. These upgrades help ensure the viability of the transload rail system well into the future.

This effort took the dedication and ingenuity of the entire partnership to achieve the project success. "The ARMS Team is proud to be a part of the ongoing efforts at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant," said Jeremy Jackson, ARMS Project Officer at Headquarters JMC.

"Thanks for your and your teams support on the ARMS program," Debbie Hookway, ARMS Project Manager at Picatinny Arsenal, directed towards Lt. Col. Eric Schilling, IAAAP commander and his staff.

IAAAP is an inter-modal facility where about 90 percent of transportation on and off the installation are by truck with 10 percent by rail. Internal movements, however, are 90 percent by rail and 10 percent by truck.

“On this 29-square-mile installation, almost all heavy movements to the eight active yards and five active lines occur by rail. We are lucky to have had the previous investments here - the right people, infrastructure, space and equipment to produce and deliver large-caliber ammunition and warheads,” said Giff Haddock, deputy commander at IAAAP.

The effort to upgrade and modernize the IAAAP rail didn't end with the ceremonies' conclusion. In particular, the ARMS tenant, rail contractor Iowa Middletown Railway, has agreed to invest in the facilities that they use on a regular basis. IAAAP is one of 18 certified BNSF Railway sites in the United States as well as part of the State of Iowa certified sites program.

IAAAP was established in November 1940, as the Iowa Ordnance Plant and started production in 1941. Production was stopped in 1945, when World War II ended. The plant resumed its ammunition manufacturing mission in 1949. In 1950, in response to the Korean conflict, production increased dramatically. In 1975, the Army assumed responsibility for IAAAP.

IAAAP continues to modernize its transportation infrastructure and facilities in order to remain America's answer for reliable munitions which provide today's Warfighter with the lethality needed to win.



Pictured here, from the left: Adam Elmore, Administrative Contracting Officer, IAAAP; Lt. Col. Eric Schilling, commander, IAAAP; Brent Vanzuiden, Industrial Engineer, IAAAP; Debbie Hookway, ARMS Team Program Manager-PDJS; Jeremy Jackson, ARMS Team Project Officer, Headquarters JMC; David Fink, The Shenton Group; Brent Bennett, American Ordnance. Photo taken by: Jane Pepin