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# DUGWAY ENGINEER NAMED ASIAN AMERICAN ENGINEER OF 2017

By Al Vogel  
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Sipex Sun, project engineer and general engineer for Dugway's Test Support Division, was honored Feb. 25 as one of 10 Asian American Engineers of the Year for 2017 during a gala event in Bellevue, Wash.

Twenty Asian Americans were recognized for their contributions in various categories. Sun was the only engineer to represent the Department of Defense. He has been a Civil Service employee at Dugway, for the Army, since 2002.

The Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) award is held during National

found in his work ethic didn't come easily or cheaply. Born in 1966 in Cambodia, as the oldest child of eight, he finished 3rd grade when revolution broke out. After the communist dictator Pol Pot and his brutal Khmer Rouge followers took power in 1975, Sun was taken from his parents. Reunited with his family when North Vietnam overthrew Pol Pot in 1979, Sun and his family walked – through mine fields -- to a refugee camp in Thailand.

After two years in Thailand, the family was sponsored to the U.S. and settled in Logan, Utah. Mathematics is emphasized in Cambodia, Sun said, but newly arrived in

High School in 1985, earning his U.S. citizenship in 1988 after a major business refused to hire him as a summer intern without citizenship.

In 1990 Sun became the first

multiple levels and innovation were emphasized in recommendations from management, coworkers and command for this award.

He remains active in his



Sipex Sun, project engineer and general engineer at U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. During a Feb. 25 gala event at the Westin Hotel in Bellevue, Wash., Sun was recognized as one of 10 Asian American Engineers of the Year. A Civil Service employee for the Army, he was the only representative of the U.S. military selected for the honor. Photo courtesy AAEOY

Cambodian to graduate from Utah State University, earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

He worked in a variety of jobs related to engineering until hired in 2002 by Dugway. Sun worked on a wide variety of fixtures and instrumentation: SMARTMAN, to challenge gas masks and respirators with chemical or biological agents; SWATCH test of fabric and other materials for suits and gloves. He's designed test fixtures to challenge detectors and related defenses against chemical and biological agents and Jack Rabbit II, to release chlorine gas to learn how a tanker careful might affect the area around it.

Sun's expertise, communication abilities across

community, working with fellow newly arrived and long-established Cambodians, actively supports Cambodian community gatherings in northern Utah, and cares for his aging father (his mother passed away in 2001). Sun also travels to Cambodia to provide financial support and engineering advice on well digging for clean water, construction, crop irrigation and plumbing.

Quiet and modest, Sun agreed that his life had come far from the notoriously brutal "killing fields" of the Pol Pot regime. "From the farm to technology," he said, adding "I like to design something new, something challenging; always something new."

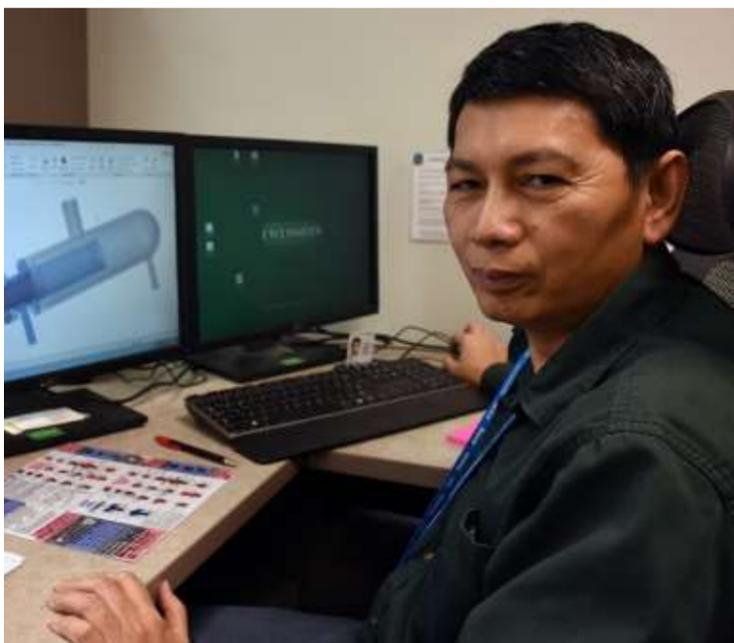


Photo by Al Vogel, Dugway Proving Ground Public Affairs

Engineers Week. It is the only national, annual award program to pay tribute to Asian engineers, scientists and corporate leaders each year.

A resident of Roy, 120 miles from Dugway, Sun commutes to his office four days a week. He and his wife have one 16-year-old son. Sun's devotion to engineering excellence led to his being nominated; various coworkers urged upper management to recommend him for the honor.

Sun's dogged determination

America at 15 he had barely a 4th grade education. Placed in an English as a Second Language class, he began to speak it better. His grades improved.

Noting Sun's math skills, his high school adviser suggested computer science, mathematics or engineering. Sun chose engineering, perhaps because it is a science that builds things, and he'd seen so much destruction.

He graduated from Logan

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ INSIDE YOUR DISPATCH

### HONOR BESTOWED



Innovative Dugway engineer receives prestigious national recognition.  
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### BUNDESWEHR SOLDIERS



Specialized German soldiers pave the way for future training.  
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### TOWN HALL AWARDS

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Mission and Mission Support Employees of the Year.  
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### BLACK HISTORY EVENT



Utah African-American educator shares her unique experience.  
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AND MUCH MORE



**USAG QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING**

The USAG Dugway Town Hall Meeting is available for viewing now at:

<https://youtu.be/O1Zp4ivhM14>

# GERMAN SOLDIERS HONE SKILLS IN WMD DEFENSE AT DUGWAY

By Al Vogel  
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Thirteen specialized soldiers from Germany recently honed their chemical and biological defense skills for two weeks at Dugway Proving Ground, and paved the way for more training in following years.

The Bundeswehr soldiers came from the CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Defense Battalion 750, based at Bruchsal in southwestern Germany. Lt. Col. Dirk Bludau headed the delegation, who visited Dugway last April with three other members of Germany's armed forces: two scientists and Lt. Col. Dirk Veeck, the German liaison officer at the U.S. Army Chemical School in Missouri. "It was a short visit to establish first contact, to get a guided tour of all the facilities on Dugway, to identify useful training opportunities for Germans," Bludau said. "We have discovered that you have some really very unique test and training facilities. We have some very special CBRN defense soldiers in Germany, the Special Reaction Platoon for sophisticated CBRN reconnaissance."

After the 2016 visit, the four concluded that periodic training at Dugway would

greatly benefit the 2,000 highly trained soldiers of Germany's CBRN Defense Command, within the Bundeswehr's Joint Service. The Bundeswehr is the unified armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Joint Service, Medical Service) of Germany, with approximately 178,000 in uniform.

The pilot course comprized one week with replicated chemical agent production using benign simulants, followed by a week of chemical dissemination with simulants.

Training was conducted by the Special Programs Division of Dugway's West Desert Test Center, and overseen by Project Managers Kurt Malcom and Wendell Williams, who earlier traveled to Germany to visit the CBRN Defence Battalion 750.

Williams managed the coordination, overall German program design, costs, chemical events and wrote much of the required paperwork. Malcom, who is fluent in German, was involved in course design and coordination, and all aspects of Homemade Explosives events at Dugway. Tony Kemp is deputy program manager.

Williams emphasized that there were many others from Dugway who made the pilot



German Bundeswehr soldiers from the CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Defence Battalion 750 use a chemical agent detector to identify a simulated chemical weapon agent in a mock illicit lab at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Dugway recently agreed to train Germany's specialized chemical and biological defense troops in the years ahead. Photo by Mario Sandoval, Dugway Optics

training program a success: the chemists and biologists at Special Programs Division, Explosives and Dissemination Division, Chemical Test Division, Meteorology Division and Optics Branch.

Creating the agreement required extraordinary effort and cooperation. Numerous documents had to be written and routed through the Pentagon, Department of Defense, Army Test and

Evaluation Command, diplomatic channels, German Ministry of Defense and the Bundeswehr CBRN School.

Joachim Ringer, a civilian scientist and chemist with the Bundeswehr CBRN Defence, Safety and Environmental Protection School in Bavaria, has overseen German chemical detection and facilities for 20 years. For him, the pilot course offered two goals: personally assess the

value of Dugway's scientific point of view to Germany, and ensure that the preparatory training soldiers receive in Germany is compatible with what Dugway will teach. "This is important," Ringer said. "We need to prepare the personnel to make the best of the limited time they have at Dugway."

Student training is greatly enhanced by learning in four

◆ German Soldiers Hone Skills. Page 3



U.S. ARMY DUGWAY PROVING GROUND

# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



MISSION



**MR. DUANE E. SHIELDS**

MISSION SUPPORT



**MS. CAROLANN J. UTTECH**

# GERMAN SOLDIERS HONE SKILLS ...



German Bundeswehr soldiers from the CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Defence Battalion 750 use a detector to identify a chemical process used in the production of chemical warfare agent, during training at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Dugway recently agreed to begin training Germany's specialized chemical and biological defense troops in the coming years. Photo by Mario Sandoval, Dugway Optics



A German Bundeswehr soldier from the CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Defence Battalion 750 measures a liquid in a protective hood, during February 2017 training at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. More of Germany's soldiers specially trained in CBRN defense are expected to train at Dugway in the coming years, per a recent arrangement. Photo by Crystal Bowen, Dugway Optics

Continued from Page 2.

in four settings: classroom, chemical and biological defense labs, technical demonstrations and learning the effects of an agent or explosive.

Many of the 13 soldiers said they were greatly impressed by the Homemade Explosives Course, where scientists explain and create explosive devices from everyday materials (chemical weapons may be disseminated by an explosion). "The homemade explosives facility and course was amazing," Staff Sgt. Alexander Opel said. He was also impressed by the Materiel Test Facility chamber – 50 feet long and wide, with 30-foot walls – big enough to test small aircraft in a chemical environment.

Time spent in labs, alongside scientists who frequently perform chemical and biological defense tests, was invaluable to the soldiers. They gained knowledge, asked questions and trained in nonconventional areas that

challenged their judgement and capabilities.

Separated into teams, one searched a cave-like labyrinth to find a series of threat replicated biological production labs. Another team, miles away, searched a narrow concrete tunnel for replicated chemical production labs. They photographed each lab for evidence, then took samples of its suspicious contents.

Encountering illicit labs in restricted space was a scenario they didn't anticipate, said Command Sgt. Maj. Ralf Oesterle, but the Germans adapted and performed well.

Staff Sgt. Sarah Obieglo has trained at the U.S. Army Chemical School in Missouri, but this marked her first visit to Dugway. She praised the quality of the training they received here, and the breadth of knowledge she'll take back to Germany. "If they gave me the opportunity, I would definitely come back," she said.

**EMPOWERING THE NATION'S DEFENDERS**



A soldier of the German Bundeswehr stands guard at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, while other specially trained German soldiers search out and sample replicated biological labs during an exercise. The nation's premiere center for testing defenses against biological and chemical weapons, Dugway plans to train the Bundeswehr soldiers at least annually. Photo by Al Vogel, Dugway Proving Ground Public Affairs

March Is

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Dugway joins the nation and the Army in honoring the sacrifices and accomplishments of women, Soldier and civilian, who not only shaped our service but also our country.



You are cordially invited to attend the Women's History Month Observance

Thursday, March 16, 2017  
1500 - 1630  
Dugway Community Club

Special guest speaker:

**Ms. Anne Marie Wallace**  
Executive Director,  
Salt Lake Chamber Women's Business Center

For more information contact: 435-831-2657



HONORING TRAILBLAZING WOMEN WHO HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH THE EYES OF UTAH'S FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRINCIPAL

By Bonnie A. Robinson  
bonnie.a.robinson.civ@mail.mil

February marks the 40th Anniversary observance of Black History Month. This year's theme is the Crisis in Black Education. It seemed a perfect fit that the speaker for the event was Dr. Joyce M. Gray, a Utah educator and the first Utah African-American teacher in Utah history to become a principal of an elementary school, an intermediate school and high school in Utah.

Dr. Gray's unique experience allowed the audience of more than 90 attendees at the Dugway Community Club Feb. 16 to view black student's education through a different lens and better appreciate the legacy black educators, like Gray, are leaving for future generations.

Gray noted, with concern, the achievement gap of young black males and the poverty rate that still threatens many African-American families. Gray said that often these student's families "lack the resources in their communities" that normally provide a "firm educational foundation."

Gray used staggering statistics of black male students' data including high dropout rates, low earning expectations, scores of schools closing or restructuring, and the loss of black educators to make her point that this is an on-going effort that "our state and nation must address."

"Ten of every 1,000 black teachers are leaving the educational field," she added woefully. "Additionally, many black students believe their outlook lacks opportunities for higher education. Only one third of male black students expect to be able to pursue a

college education in the foreseeable future.

A more disturbing statistic was that, "58 percent of black males are considered on a pipe line to prison," Gray said. "We absolutely must turn this around."

But along with these negative statistics came the

see faces like theirs," she said.

In a touching moment, Gray recalled one of her teachers, Joe Mackey, who taught the school choir when she was growing up. "I wanted to be in that choir so much it hurt, particularly in Girls Glee or Mixed Choir," she said, the

After graduating from college, Gray began her career as a music teacher in Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Later, feeling inspired to return to Utah, in 1984 she "broke the color barrier" in educational administration to become the first African-

In 1996, Gray was selected to be principal of West High School, also in the Salt Lake City School District. Her outstanding leadership skills there led her to become Utah Principal of the Year in 1999.

Gray said one of the "most important accomplishments she had as a principal was to encourage an openness between students, teachers and the community," of which she continues to champion. "It simply inspires future generations. That's what educators do."

To students on achievement: "It's easy if you remember this: Stay focused and commit to work before fun. It brings success," she counseled.

At the end of the presentation, Col. Sean Kirschner, Dugway's commander presented Dr. Gray with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Dugway coin shaped like the installation's borders, which she seemed especially pleased to receive.

"You have been an inspiration, sharing information that was hard to hear but helps us better understand. It was exactly what we need to hear," he said.

Kirschner added that the U.S. Army embraces diversity as a way to maximize individual talents, increase morale and greatly enhance effectiveness. "We are proud of the contributions of our African-American Soldiers. Thank you Dr. Gray for coming and helping us honor Black History Month," he said.

The event ended with a traditional food tasting table with chicken wings, fried okra, black-eyed peas, corn bread and pumpkin pie expertly prepared by the Dugway Community Club.



Col. Sean Kirschner, Dugway's commander, Dr. Joyce M. Gray, Utah's first African-American principal and Command Sgt. Major Joe Bonds with Dr. Gray's Certificate of Appreciation for speaking at the Black History Month observance Feb. 16 at the Community Club in English Village. Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson / Dugway Public Affairs

call of an educator who truly believes that, even with a negative forecast, teachers, parents and a community can manage a reversal. "Hold on to your seats, help is on the way. Dedicated teachers, educators and reformers are examining schools, and creating models to assist with higher education opportunities," she said. "Teachers are learning from one another with impressive results."

Gray noted the many great teachers who should be "applauded for going beyond the classroom into the communities to help families and students prepare for education. Students need to

passion still evident in her voice. "I believe God wanted me to become a music teacher."

With her mother's and Mr. Mackey's encouragement, Gray's dream came true as she broadened her pursuit and gained an education. "I am grateful that they help give the dream alive."

Gray received a scholarship to attend Virginia State University where she graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree. She went on to earn her Master of Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah.

American principal in the State of Utah. She served in the Arcadia Elementary School in the Granite School District, Taylorsville, Utah. "I believe God wanted me to stay in Utah."

After six years, Gray defied the odds when she was appointed Principal of Granite School District's Roosevelt Elementary School. Renowned for her achievement there, in 1992 Gray became Principal of Bryant Intermediate School, Salt Lake City School District where the school received one of the nation's top schools awards, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

If a disaster were to strike Dugway, would you know what to do?  
Prepare... Respond... Recover...



FREE TRAINING!

Dugway CERT will be hosting a two day FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Class. Training includes hands-on indoor and outdoor training. Course curriculum includes disaster preparedness, fire safety, controlling utilities, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, introduction to the incident command system, disaster psychology, and terrorism response.

NEXT CLASS:

**11 & 25 MAR 17**

7 am – 4 pm, both days

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
435-831-3447  
435-831-2515



The Nationally Certified FEMA Course is used to teach Dugway's CERT members how to perform essential life-saving functions while awaiting the arrival of professional emergency responders. This course is taught by a Certified CERT instructor. There is NO charge to participate.

## MilTax: Free Tax Services from Military OneSource

No need for service members to pay for outside tax assistance or risk missing specific military tax breaks. Soldiers--Active and Reserve Component--and their military families can use MilTax software and support services for free at Military OneSource to complete their taxes. Prepare and file taxes online with the easy-to-use software.

Register online at: [https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-and-legal/taxes?content\\_id=295240](https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-and-legal/taxes?content_id=295240).

For more information contact:



U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground  
Legal Office  
Legal Assistance Attorney  
435-831-3336

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Dugway EMS CPR Training - call for time West Desert Staff Meeting - 0800 Ditto Story Time & Crafts 1000 - Library	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Command Staff Meeting - 0830 - Kuddes Story Time & Crafts 1000 - Library	9	10 Wendover Trip	11
12	13	14 Newcomers Orientation 1330 - 1700 - Bldg. 5124 - Rm 239 Garrison Staff Meeting - 0800 - Rm 1202	15 Dugway EMS CPR Training - call for time West Desert Staff Meeting - 0800 Ditto	16 Women's History Month Observance - 1500 -1630 Community Club	17 Family Day Trip - Boondocks Amusement Center - Draper	18
19	20	21	22 ESC Meeting - 0900 - Ditto	23	24 Family Day Trip - HAFB Aerospace Museum	25
26	27	28 Garrison Staff Meeting - 0800 - Rm 1202	29	30	31	

# THE DISPATCH

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Currently playing on the Dugway YouTube Channel

- ATEC Town Hall/Awards
- Black History Month
- Garrison Town Hall Meeting
- Native American Heritage
- Innovation/Glovebox Update

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCPjFIEBY7j7ay6m7FouadqQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPjFIEBY7j7ay6m7FouadqQ)

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