

# WARRIOR COUNCIL

VOLUME 57 No. 1

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Warrior-Citizen, 1st Place  
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Keith L. Ware Award  
(Category C)

Setting the stage for the future of the Total Force is no easy task. As our leaders work to implement solutions that address today's ongoing challenges, Army Reserve Soldiers continue to provide essential, flexible and transferable capabilities in a complex national environment.

Brig. Gen. Young's "From the Top" message on Page 4 addresses the Army Reserve's latest initiative to help Soldiers—Continuum of Service. Building upon the skills Soldiers have developed over the past decade, Continuum of Service is intended to enable Soldiers to meet the needs of their Nation, their Families, and the civilian workforce. The purpose of this initiative is to help Soldiers with impending life transitions and achieve personal ambitions throughout their lifetime.

For Generations of Service, read "The Legacy" on Page 24 and learn about the tremendous courage and sacrifice of our recent Congressional Gold Medal recipients, the 100th Battalion's "Go for Broke" Soldiers.

A special thanks to Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene, whose Page 12 feature provides a look inside the life of one of our World Class Athlete Program Soldiers, Spc. Megan Henry, an 854th Engineer Battalion Soldier who is sliding her way towards the Olympics at breakneck speed.

For a look at what Army Reserve Soldiers are doing around the world to assist countries in need, turn to Page 38 and check out the work that the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) is doing to help the staff at Hospital Escuela in Honduras.

Across the Army Reserve, Soldiers are making a difference. Sharing your stories allows us to showcase the very best of a diverse and remarkable force. As leaders step forward on our behalf, your stories help put a face to the incredible achievements taking place every day in the Army Reserve. Please share your stories with me at warrior-citizen@usar.army.mil and online at www.armyreserve.army.mil.

*Melissa Russell*

Melissa Russell  
Editor-in-Chief

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## 16 **TRAINED + READY** OPERATION: HAWAII FIVE-O

Known in Hawaiian culture as “The Gathering Place,” Bellows Air Station boasts state of the art training facilities with detailed re-creations of Iraqi and Afghan villages. Perfect for the Soldiers who gathered there for a unique training mission.

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MARTY A. COLLINS, 108TH TRAINING COMMAND (IET) PUBLIC AFFAIRS



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MARTY A. COLLINS, 108TH TRAINING COMMAND (IET) PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MARTY A. COLLINS, 108TH TRAINING COMMAND (IET) PUBLIC AFFAIRS

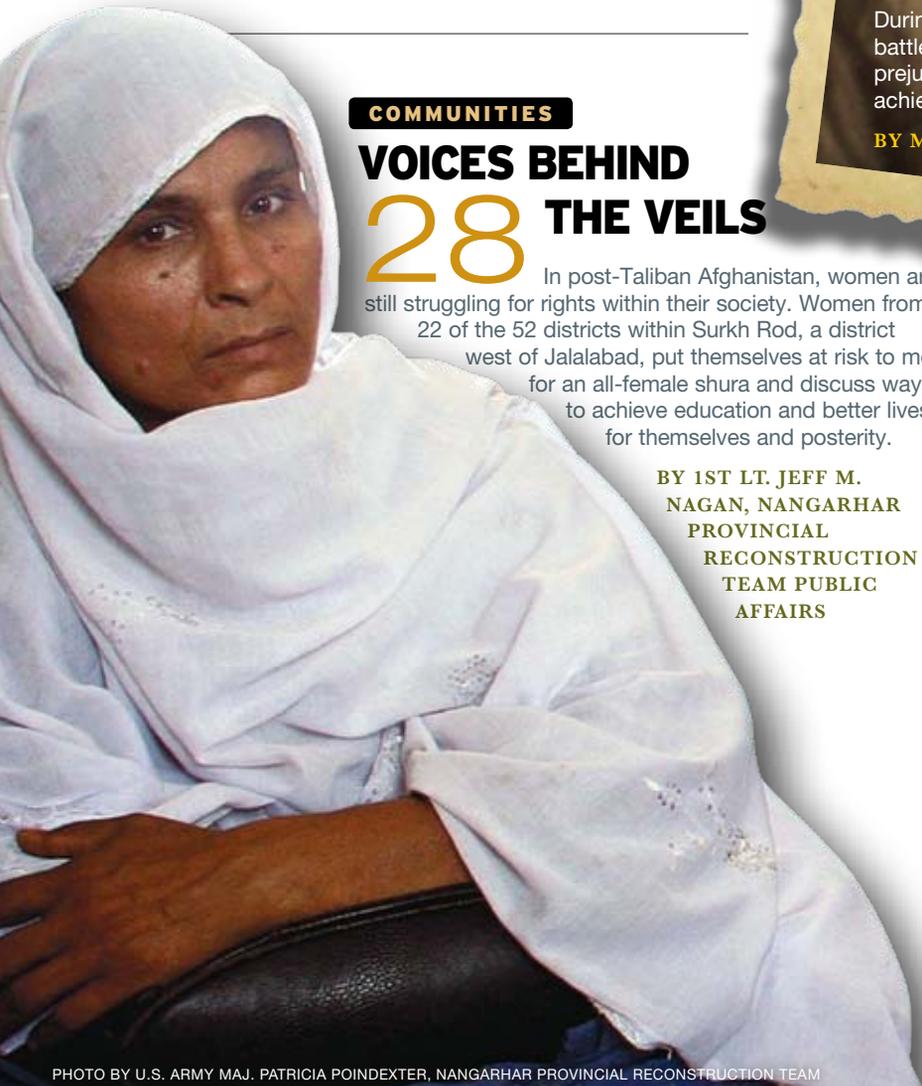
Sgt. Jorge Gonzalez provides guidance as Sgt. Cao Xiao, Bravo Co., 2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET), pulls 360 security during the react to roadside bombs while mounted lane at the battalion field training exercise, Operation Hawaii Five-O at Bellows Air Force Base, Hawaii.



## 22 PEOPLE RETURNING TO THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Cpl. Kwami Koto was born in the Republic of Togo in West Africa. In the wake of a military coup d'état and cultural turmoil nearly 10 years ago, he and his wife fled their homeland as political refugees to seek asylum in the U.S. Today, he helps the Army Reserve build long-term, positive relationships with villages and government leaders throughout the Horn of Africa. This is his story.

BY SENIOR AIRMAN JARAD DENTON, 28TH BOMB WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



## COMMUNITIES VOICES BEHIND 28 THE VEILS

In post-Taliban Afghanistan, women are still struggling for rights within their society. Women from 22 of the 52 districts within Surkh Rod, a district west of Jalalabad, put themselves at risk to meet for an all-female shura and discuss ways to achieve education and better lives for themselves and posterity.

BY 1ST LT. JEFF M. NAGAN, NANGARHAR PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY MAJ. PATRICIA POINDEXTER, NANGARHAR PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

## 24 PEOPLE THE LEGACY

During WWII Japanese-American Soldiers fought two battles—one against the enemy abroad, the other against prejudice at home. In the end, they won both battles and achieved a proud legacy.

BY MELISSA RUSSELL, ARMY RESERVE COMMUNICATIONS



PHOTO COURTESY TAMMY KUBO

## 32 TRAINED + READY THE TUNNEL

It's not exactly Disneyland, but to the Soldiers of the 300th Chemical Company (CBRN Recon/Search and Extraction), the old West Virginia Memorial Tunnel—now an emergency training facility—is truly a first responder's fantasyland.

BY LT. COL. JEFF WEIR, ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

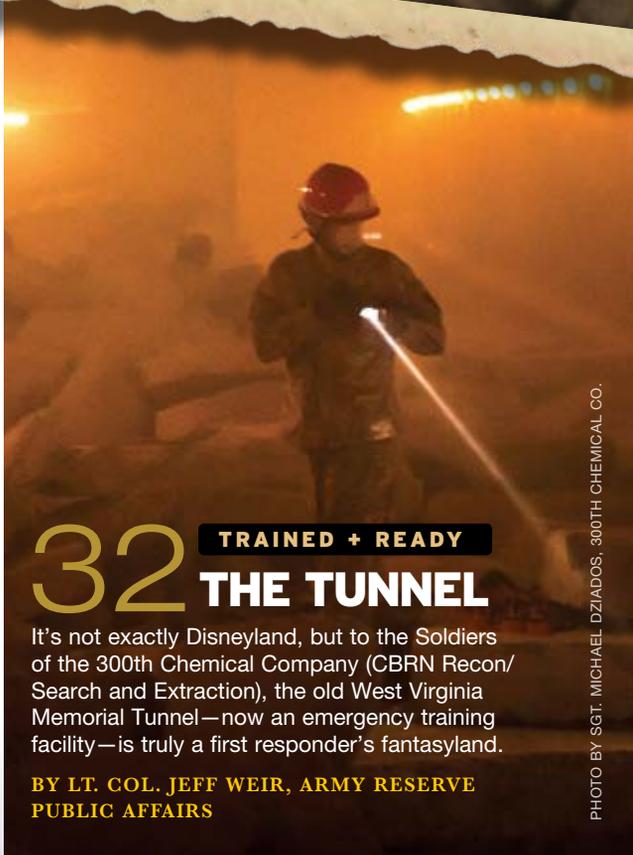


PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL DZIADOS, 300TH CHEMICAL CO.



BY BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES V. YOUNG, JR., DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE

RIGHT: Army Reserve Best Warrior Sgt. Christopher Couchot attends the Land Navigation course at a recent DA Best Warrior competition. Continuum of Service would facilitate retaining the skills acquired by battle-tested Soldiers like Couchot.

“Establishing a CoS that enables Soldiers to meet the needs of serving their Nation, their Families and their civilian careers is paramount.”

— BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES V. YOUNG, JR., DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE

## continuum of service:

**KAISERLAUTERN, Germany** — As the new Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, I am responsible for the Human Capital Core Enterprise. As the organization’s chief human resources executive, my core mission is to help shape the Army Reserve force now and for the future.



PHOTO BY SGT. ADAM TURNER, 335TH SIG. COMM. (T) PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### WHAT IS CONTINUUM OF SERVICE?

One of the key initiatives Lt. Gen. Stultz has asked me to help the Army embrace is making Continuum of Service (CoS) a reality for Soldiers in all components. Continuum of Service is essentially a philosophy—supported by systems, policies and initiatives—that enhance the Total Force. It provides Soldiers alternative career paths, combining periods of Active, Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve duty to accommodate life challenges, achieve personal ambitions, and maintain a commitment of service to the Nation throughout a lifetime.

### THE BUREAUCRATIC CHALLENGES

More than 20 different status definitions between Active and Reserve duty as defined by the Commission on National Guard and Reserve Report, and a myriad of stove-piped systems—are an impediment to retaining the best and brightest over the course of that Soldier’s military career.

Establishing a CoS that enables Soldiers to meet the needs of serving their Nation, their Families and their civilian careers is paramount. Their dedicated service to the Nation should never be hindered by outmoded bureaucratic complexity. We need to think in terms of being a “Soldier for Life,” to retain the

# Soldier for life

quality, highly experienced Soldiers needed to sustain the Army Reserve as an enduring operational force.

## THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Key elements of this CoS are the current Active Component to Army Reserve transition mission and the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces program which is powered by the Army Reserve. With the impending downsizing of the Force in the coming years, the Army Reserve will focus on retaining mid-grade enlisted and officers in key specialties required by the Army Reserve. We will seek to increase our presence at Active Component transition points and reach out to Soldiers well before they are due to transition to help them recognize the value of continued service to their Nation in the Army Reserve.

Over time, we will expand the Army Reserve managed Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces program for transitioning Active Component Soldiers, leveraging the program as a tool to develop the careers of Soldiers through extensive internship and externship programs with key organizations. A great example of this is the Army Reserve's partnership with GE Healthcare to provide civilian training and certification of our Army Reserve X-ray Technicians. We see this part of the program expanding as we move to share training and resources with our industry partners to our mutual benefit. This year we are likely to modify and enhance the program's web portal and potentially merge it into a broader DoD platform.

Our goal is to inspire Soldiers to a lifetime of military service, which includes seamless transitions between active and reserve statuses, as well as between reserve categories and civilian service, providing variable and flexible service options and levels of participation consistent with DoD manpower requirements. With proper execution, the Continuum of Service initiative will provide Soldiers and Families the opportunity to grow and make a lasting impact in their communities, and in their country. 🇺🇸

“Our goal is to inspire Soldiers to a lifetime of military service.”

— BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES V. YOUNG, JR., DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE



RIGHT: The 303rd Military Police Future Soldier for Life: DA Best Warrior competitor Cpl. Ryan Barger competes in the Evaluate a Casualty event at the 2011 DA Best Warrior.

PHOTO BY SPC. CLIFFORD COY, 364TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OPERATIONS CENTER

# blogs + websites

The Web offers many free, interactive resources to help Warrior-Citizens and their Families make informed decisions regarding their health, finances, career and education. Here are some of the latest new and useful online tools for Soldiers.



## WWW.USAR.ARMY.MIL



**THE NEW ARMY RESERVE WEBSITE IS COMING SOON!** A comprehensive new look to the Army Reserve's web home! The Army Reserve launches its new on-line home in the fall of 2012 with a site that's focused on you, the user! Resources you need, news that's relevant and engaging and a site that gives you a voice through its social media connections! The Army Reserve website gives Soldiers, Family members, veterans and civilians an unprecedented connection to the Army Reserve.



## WWW.EMPLOYERPARTNERSHIP.ORG

**THE EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP** was created as a way to provide America's employers with a direct link to some of America's finest employees—Service members and their Families. Through the partnership, Service members can leverage their military training and experience for career opportunities in today's civilian job market with national, regional and local Employer Partners.



## WWW.GIBILL.VA.GOV/BENEFITS/ POST\_911\_GIBILL/INDEX.HTML

**THE POST-9/11 GI BILL** provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.



## WWW.GOARMY.COM

**WHETHER YOU'RE NEARING THE END OF YOUR CURRENT ENLISTMENT OR LOOKING TO RETURN TO SERVICE**, the Army Reserve provides an excellent way to make the most of what the military and civilian worlds have to offer. As an Army Reserve Soldier, you are entitled to many of the same benefits as an active Army Soldier. Yet you're also free to start a new career, continue your education or pursue any other goal while enjoying a civilian lifestyle. The Army Reserve has long been vital to our nation's security and defense. By joining, you become part of a force rich in skills and ready to serve when called—a force which is important to our nation, now more than ever.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
CAPT. FRANKLIN HUFFMAN,  
USAR, DEPUTY PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS OFFICER, 7TH CIVIL  
SUPPORT COMMAND

# from Bucharest to the beltway

## How a Romanian Girl Became a Top U.S. Scientist and Army Officer



The civilian skills possessed and leveraged by Soldiers like Maj. Dana Perkins bring a depth and breadth of experience that are an invaluable resource and value added to the total force.

take on their Foreign Consequence Management mission. FCM is the assistance provided by the U.S. Government to a requesting host nation, with the Department of State as the lead Federal agency, to mitigate the effects of a deliberate or inadvertent chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack or event, and to restore essential operations and services.



“My career... shows...the multitude of approaches the U.S. is taking to protect and preserve the global security.”

— MAJ. DANA PERKINS,  
7TH CIVIL SUPPORT COMMAND

**KAISERLAUTERN, Germany** – In an ever-changing global security environment with new threats emerging around the globe, Army Reserve Soldiers with specialized skill sets are valuable combat multipliers. One such capability can be found in the 7th Civil Support Command in Germany.

Maj. Dana Perkins currently serves as the 7th Civil Support Command Surgeon in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Joining the Army in December 2003, the world-renowned scientist has already completed 35 Army training courses, the Captain’s Career Course and certifications as a Senior and Master Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Consequence Management Specialist.

The courses enhance her civilian skills and training, and make her an ideal fit for the 7th CSC as they

Fluent in four languages (her native Romanian, English, Italian and French) she is a graduate of the University of Bucharest (Bachelor of Science –Biochemistry/Immunology and Masters of Science–Biochemistry/Virology) and the University of Maryland–Baltimore, earning her doctorate in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics/ Neurovirology. As for a civilian career, she serves as Chief, Biological Weapons Nonproliferation & Counterterrorism Branch, Office of Policy & Planning, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.

“(I am most proud of) the life path that took me from a small town in Transylvania to Washington, D.C., to being an officer in the U.S. Army and to representing the United States at the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva,” said Perkins. “My career not only shows the diversity of jobs a scientist can have, but also the multitude of

approaches the U.S. is taking to protect and preserve the global security.

"It was my mother (who pushed her into a science career). I spent a lot of time doing my homework in her medical office while waiting for her to finish her duties each day," added the winner of the National Collegiate Inventors Competition in 2001. "I got to see a lot of the patient cases that came through, including terrible traumas and chronic diseases (and) my mother would explain the cases to me just like I was a medical student. That's how I became interested. The old Chinese proverb (applies). If you enjoy your job, you'll never work a day in your life. That's how I feel."

Coming to America in 1995, she began working with a biotech company in Baltimore, but quickly decided to resume her education.

"I needed to go back to school to improve my knowledge of molecular biology," said Perkins. "Science advances fast and one can't keep being relevant in his/her field without a commitment to lifelong learning. So I quit my job and went to the University of Maryland to get a Ph.D."

While her civilian career was continuing, the call to service in the Army Reserve has put the 46-year old in several important positions in the Army. Including assignments as a Microbiologist/Chief of Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Services at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. (two stints); Category II Translator/Interpreter in Counterintelligence; Microbiologist at the US Army Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa; Chief of Clinical Immunology and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratories at Fort Lewis, Washington; and CBRN Threat Instructor at Fort Lewis, along with other assignments.

Perkins brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and contacts to her duties in the Office of the Surgeon for the 7th CSC, including efforts to keep microorganisms that can be engineered for lethal purposes or even synthesized chemically from scratch out of the wrong hands. As a former citizen of an Eastern-bloc country, she naturally has ties to scientists and former government officials that may not be open to others. Her ability to understand what makes germs do what they do and

how we can treat the diseases they cause is a force-enabler for the 7th CSC locally and the Army as a whole.

Historical biological weapons programs pursued by countries such as the former Soviet Union, as well as the anthrax attacks by mail of 2001, highlight the ever present and clear danger of biological threats and challenges that may pose a threat to our national security and our ability to respond effectively to protect the public health of Americans, as well as friends and allies—a mission ideally suited for the 7th CSC and Perkins.

Her civilian expertise in international nonproliferation regimes, global health security, and public health preparedness and response to WMD events, is critical in the current operational environment when the 7th CSC is taking on its FCM mission. Perkins, like other U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, has dual careers which complement each other, an added value to the Army. To counter the existing and future challenges, the 7th CSC is drawing on such human resources to increase its versatility and effectiveness and develop a sophisticated understanding of the current international security environment to meet national defense objectives and accomplish its mission throughout the range of military operations.

During her time in the Army, Perkins has published, or co-published, sixteen scientific articles in a host of military and military-related journals and publications, including: Joint Combined Microbiology Training in Support of New and Emerging Bio-Warfighting Capabilities, USAR Consequence Management Unit: Relevant and Ready, Biological Risk Management Overhaul, International Mechanisms for Investigation of Alleged Use of Biological Weapons, and Biological Weapons Convention: A Primer for Armed Forces Medical Laboratory Scientists, among many others.

Perkins is just one of the of Warrior-Citizens in the Army Reserve with unique and specialized skills, knowledge and abilities that enhance the Army Reserve and the 7th Civic Support Command's operational force capabilities to secure our homeland and strengthen our nation. 🇺🇸

"If you enjoy your job, you'll never work a day in your life. That's how I feel."

— MAJ. DANA PERKINS,  
7TH CIVIL SUPPORT COMMAND

Maj. Dana Perkins analyses biological samples at MAMC Medical Army Center during a recent mobilization tour at Fort Lewis, Wash.



BY SPC. DEVIN M. WOOD,  
412 THEATER ENGINEER  
COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RIGHT: Capt. Brien Durkee after receiving the Purple Heart medal during a ceremony on November 6, 2011. Durkee was injured in Afghanistan after a 107 mm rocket landed 40 feet away from him.

# owner of a purple heart

**FT. DEVEN, Mass.** – Capt. Brien Durkee woke up at 3 a.m. and went to the Bagram Airfield Military Police station to call his Family back home in Massachusetts before starting the workday on Sept. 11, 2010.

PHOTO COURTESY 99TH RSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS



“I’m not a hero, I’m not anyone special. I’m a guy who walked down the street and got blown up.”

— CAPT. BRIEN DURKEE, 342ND MP DETACHMENT



United States Purple Heart military decoration awarded to Soldiers who are wounded or killed.

Durkee made an effort to call his wife Michelle and their two children William and Brielle every two weeks.

“I couldn’t call every day because I was out on missions a lot,” said Durkee.

That morning he spoke with his Family for a few minutes and talked to one of the agents on duty.

“I left out of the MP station and walked 100 feet down Disney Drive, and a 107 mm rocket came in and blew up 40 feet away from me,” said Durkee. “All I heard was a swoosh sound and that was it, then lights out. When I figured out what was going on it was all over with.”

Durkee said he woke up seeing stars. His head was pounding, his heart was racing, and he was confused and disoriented.

Medical authorities gave him the opportunity to leave Afghanistan for further treatment, but as the commander of the 342nd MP Detachment (Law and Order), Durkee elected to stay. He was responsible for 70 Soldiers, several of whom had been in major firefights and were wounded.

“I didn’t see a replacement,” Durkee said. “I’m proud of my guys, they defended several

forward operating bases when it wasn’t their mission. They did it because we are MPs and that’s how we trained.”

An airman brought a recovered fragment of the rocket to Durkee who showed it to the Soldiers who replaced the 342nd MP Det., as a reminder to be aware of their surroundings.

Durkee says that Soldiers shouldn’t dwell on the possibility of being attacked, because there’s no way of knowing when or where rockets will hit.

“Respect the sirens and alarms when they go off,” Durkee said.

On November 6, 2011, Brig. Gen. David W. Puster, commander of the 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, presented Durkee with the Purple Heart at Fort Devens, Mass.

“I’m not a hero, I’m not anyone special,” Durkee said. “I’m a guy who walked down the street and got blown up.”

Durkee says he hopes to continue service with the 302nd MEB if he’s medically cleared. ❏

Fragment of a 107 mm rocket that injured Capt. Brien Durkee during an attack in Afghanistan.



PHOTO BY CAPT. BRIEN DURKEE, 342ND MP DETACHMENT

# No Excuses!

Recent changes to the Army Reserve Selected Reserve Incentive Program may put Soldiers with unexcused absences at risk of losing their bonuses.

According to the Army Reserve G-1 Manning Division Incentives Team, "Termination and Recoupment of Incentive Payments for Unsatisfactory Participants" began Nov. 1, 2011. Any Soldier with an unexcused absence from Battle Assembly who remains unexcused for more than 90 days will have his or her SRIP incentives terminated.

#### SRIP incentives covered by this policy include:

- Non Prior Service Enlistment Bonus
- Prior Service Enlistment Bonus
- Reenlistment Bonus
- Enlisted Affiliation Bonus
- Officer Accession/Affiliation Bonus
- Warrant Officer Accession/Affiliation Bonus
- Student Loan Repayment
- Montgomery GI Bill Kicker Incentive

AR 601-210 Operational Change requires termination and recoupment of any unearned portion of incentives for Soldiers accruing one or more unexcused absences. The effective date of the termination is the date of the first unexcused absence.

Commanders must ensure Battle Assembly attendance codes are correctly documented. Service contracts and incentive agreements contain the conditions for termination and recoupment of incentives; however, Soldiers will be counseled immediately on financial and other consequences when they receive their first unexcused absence.

For assistance or additional information, please contact the Army Reserve Incentives Team at: [USARC\\_Incentives@usar.army.mil](mailto:USARC_Incentives@usar.army.mil). ☒

## SOLDIERS TOWN HALL

WITH COMMAND SGT. MAJ.  
MICHAEL SCHULTZ



### Elections are around the corner, how involved can I be in supporting the candidate of my choice?

With political campaigning underway, it's important for military and Defense Department civilians to have a clear understanding of the rules and regulations they are subject to in terms of their involvement in political activities.

The Army Reserve encourages all of its Soldiers and civilian personnel, as well as eligible Family members to register and vote, but it is important to remember that while you are in uniform, you are a Soldier first and must conduct yourself accordingly. Participation by military members or federal civilian employees must not appear to imply official sponsorship, approval or endorsement.

DoD policies and procedures (DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces) specifies the types of political activities Soldiers may participate in and in what manner—nothing in the guidance prohibits free discussion about political issues or candidates—as long as the individual is not speaking in an official capacity and is not in uniform.

Voting is the embodiment of the spirit of democracy—and a right that Soldiers have fought and died for. But as a Soldier, you are held to the highest standard of conduct, and voting your conscience while adhering to DoD policy is the best way to make a difference while demonstrating Army Values.

**For more information on this topic visit:**

**<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf>**

For the full Q&A from the Soldiers Town Hall, visit the Army Reserve site at [www.usar.army.mil/arweb/soldiers/Pages/townhall.aspx](http://www.usar.army.mil/arweb/soldiers/Pages/townhall.aspx).

go

STORY BY SGT. 1ST. CLASS  
PHILLIP EUGENE, 412TH TEC  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# world class slider

## Spc. Megan Henry takes a shot at the Olympics



PHOTO COURTESY USBSF

Spc. Megan Henry,  
854th Engineer Battalion

**LAKE PLACID, N.Y.** – It's not your everyday sleigh ride. According to Specialist Megan Henry, sliding headfirst down an icy trail ice at speeds exceeding 80 mph is 'like jumping out of an airplane without leaving the ground.'

The HHC, 854th Engineer Battalion intelligence analyst would know. At 24, she is an accomplished skydiver training for the opportunity to compete with

the U.S. Skeleton team in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

Though Skeleton sledding has been around for more than a century and is considered one of the world's oldest competitive sports, it only recently regained popularity. Competitors, outfitted in the bare minimum, wear spiked shoes to maintain traction pushing off and skintight suits to minimize drag.



New Skeleton recruits run a 15-meter, a 30-meter and a 45-meter sprint, followed by a shot-put throw from between their legs forward, a broad jump, and a squat test with weights.

PHOTO COURTESY PAT HENDRICK PHOTOGRAPHY © 2011

“She’s always been an adrenaline junkie. When she was little, she always loved the fastest ride at the carnivals; she always loved roller coasters.”

— BARBARA HENRY

The sleds are nicknamed ‘skeleton’ because of their resemblance to a human skeleton—a fiberglass pod with two steel runners made of 1-inch round tubing and two grooves aid in steering. A helmet with chin guard is the sole safety gear, preventing facial injuries as the racer skims inches above the trail at maximum speed.

“She’s always been an adrenaline junkie,” said her mother, Barbara. “When she was little, she always loved the fastest ride at the carnivals; she always loved roller coasters.”

Henry first jumped out of an airplane at age 18 after seeing video of her father freefalling.

After learning the basics of downhill sliding at a “sliding school” in Lake Placid, NY, Henry quickly earned a spot in the Army World Class Athlete Program—an elite program for exceptional Soldier-athletes training for national and international competitions leading to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. “It would be rewarding to wear two uniforms to represent our country,” said Henry.

Henry’s journey to the WCAP began in April 2010, when her former college strength coach suggested she try out for the U.S. Bobsled team.

Henry impressed the Olympic officials during the tryout, but they told her she would need to gain at least 30 pounds if she wanted to compete in Bobsledding.

Meeting the Bobsled team’s weight requirement would have meant exceeding the Army standard.

“I’m short in stature,” said Henry who stands at 5-foot-3-inches. “My obligation to the Army requires a height and weight standard that I never would’ve passed.”

Based on her start times and overall athleticism, officials suggested that Henry try out for Skeleton. Determined to give it a shot, Henry discussed the option with her Family.

“I didn’t know Skeleton from a bunch of bones in the doctor’s office,” said Henry’s father Craig, a former high school All-American in football and track. “But she’s very disciplined, [and] once she commits to something, she’ll see it all the way through.”



PHOTO COURTESY PAT HENDRICK PHOTOGRAPHY © 2011

A fast start is critical. Athletes are required to sprint as fast as they can in an awkward bent position while holding on to the sled.

“...she’s very disciplined,  
[and] once she commits  
to something, she’ll see it  
all the way through.”

— CRAIG HENRY



A fast start can help compensate for slight errors on the way down. According to head coach Tuffy Latour, athletes who start slow tend to try and make up for it on the way down and end up slowing themselves down.



Henry gets back into competition mode in the Push Event with team members at the beginning of the Skeleton season.

In September 2010, Henry competed in a more comprehensive event that tested her speed, strength and agility. With a score of 693—well beyond the 600 required minimum—she placed third overall, and first among women.

Her performance caught the attention of Tuffy Latour, head coach of the United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation. Latour, a staff sergeant in the National Guard, noticed the Army logo on Henry’s apparel.

Latour suggested the WCAP to Henry, and she pitched the idea to her chain of command.

“It made no sense, her being in the Army Reserve and not applying for this great program,” said Latour. Henry’s commander agreed.

“She demonstrated the right motivation and commitment, plus an astronomical PT score,” said Capt. Aaron Perry.

Henry’s Army Physical Fitness Test scores have consistently exceeded 300, with 406 being the highest. Her Basic Training APFT score was highest in her battalion at 386. She earned the Golden Strategic Army Corp award for achieving academic excellence and a 398 APFT score during Advanced Individual Training at Fort Huachuca. During AIT, she also earned a gold award for completing the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition.

The German military established the GAFPB in the early 1960s to measure their Soldiers’ physical fitness. Fort Huachuca is one of 17 installations where U.S. Soldiers can earn the award.

“She’s just a great athlete, she meets the athletic skills that we’re looking for,” said Latour. “She’s progressively made the moves forward to make a run at the national team.”

Henry is quick to credit the Army Reserve for the chance to compete, something she says she doesn’t take for granted. “I’m still very excited and very grateful for the opportunity to compete at this level while representing the Army and my unit,” said Henry. ✪



Henry navigates the obstacle course during basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

“She’s just a great athlete. She meets the athletic skills that we’re looking for. She’s progressively made the moves forward to make a run at the national team.”

— TUFFY LATOUR, HEAD COACH OF THE U.S. BOBSLED AND SKELETON FEDERATION AND STAFF SERGEANT IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

# On the windward side of Oahu

lies an air station known in Hawaiian culture as “The Gathering Place.” But this is no ordinary air station. On its grounds are state of the art training facilities with detailed re-creations of Iraqi and Afghan villages, complete with sniper fire and roadside bombs. Perfect for the Soldiers who gathered there for a unique training mission...



The Delta Company guidon rests at Waimanalo Beach as Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET) gathered here to receive the competition results of exercise Operation Hawaii-Five 0.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



# OPERATION: Hawaii Five-O

**Story and Photos By  
Sgt. 1st Class Marty A. Collins**  
108th Training Command (IET) Public Affairs

“The training facilities here are second to none; the [military operations on urban] terrain sites they just finished building are state of the art and represent Iraqi and Afghan villages and are so detailed.”

— CAPT. SATOMI MACK, BATTALION S-3, 2/413TH REGIMENT

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Sgt. Fernando Padilla, Sgt. Shane Wilson and Sgt. Jorge Gonzalez — B Co 2/413th, react to direct and indirect fire at Bellows Air Station, Hawaii during the battalion field training exercise, Operation Hawaii Five-O.

# HONOLULU, Hawaii

A large, stylized letter 'S' graphic, rendered in a brown, textured font that resembles a leaf or bark. It is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the text area.

oldiers from Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta Companies of the 2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET) took a five and one half hour flight across the Pacific to the 50th state in order to participate in a field training exercise at Bellows Air Station, with their sister unit, Echo Company, located in Honolulu.

The air station is located on the windward side of Oahu, known as “The Gathering Place” in Hawaiian culture. It’s within a stone’s throw of Waimanalo Beach and a short drive to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, situated near Kaneohe Bay. Some may question sending Soldiers to train in Hawaii, but Capt. Satomi Mack, battalion S-3, 2/413th, said it made perfect sense.

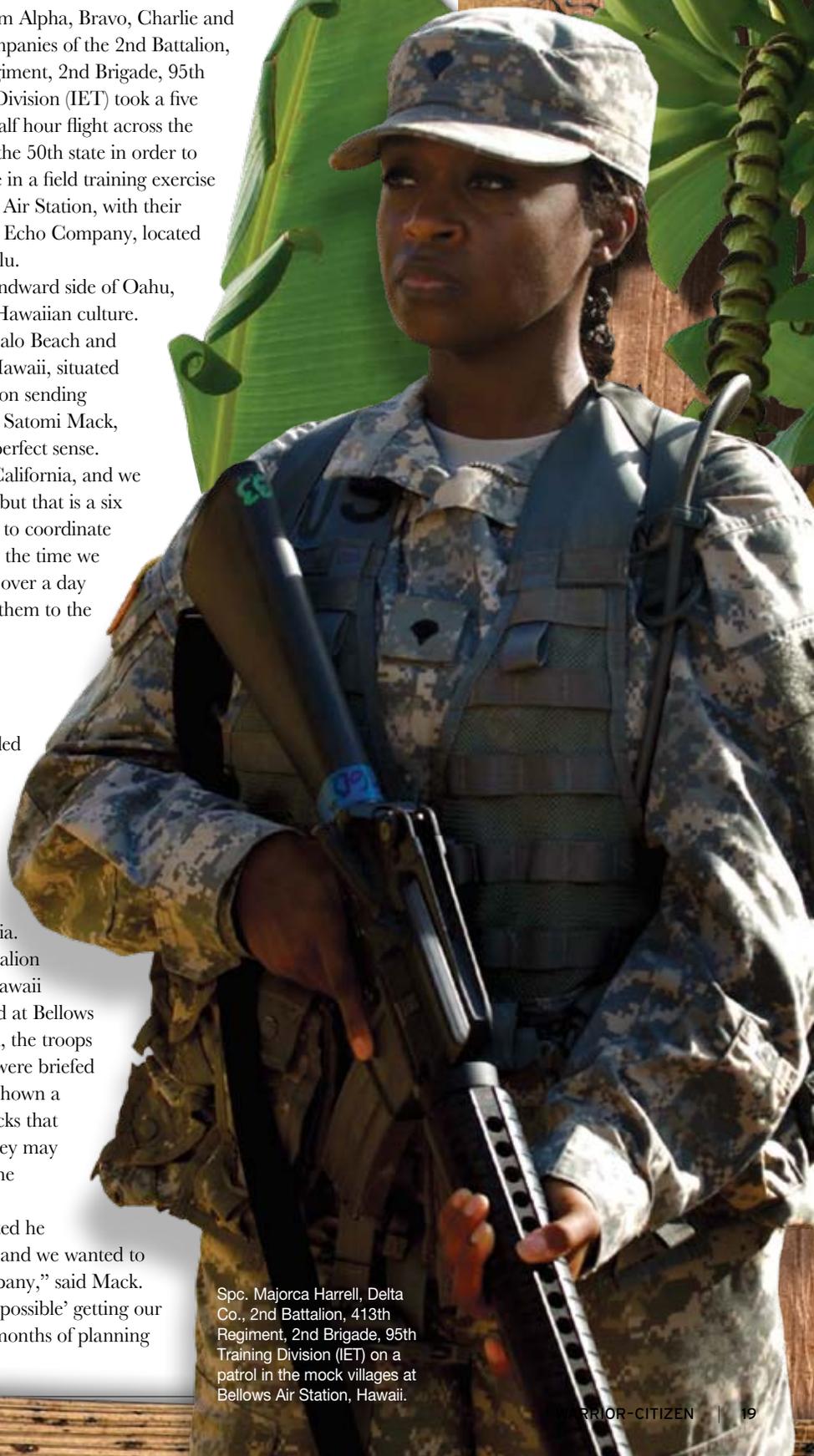
“Our unit is located at Riverside, California, and we typically train at Fort Hunter Liggett but that is a six hour road trip,” said Mack. “We had to coordinate the acquisition of a lot of vans and by the time we transported our Soldiers there it took over a day and a half of training time just to get them to the ranges and back home.”

## Hitting the ground running

Mack, a full-time film student at the University of Southern California, added that the unit was also limited on the number of days they can train at Fort Hunter Liggett, based on time constraints. But in Hawaii they were able to hit the ground running with planning and did rehearsals the same day the Soldiers arrived from California.

After landing in Honolulu, the battalion Soldiers were shuttled to the 298th Hawaii National Guard compound co-located at Bellows where they were billeted. As night fell, the troops filed into the auditorium where they were briefed on the mission plan. They were also shown a video of different roadside bomb attacks that had been recorded in war zones as they may “encounter” this scenario on one of the Squad Tactical Exercise lanes.

“Our battalion commander indicated he wanted to do a field training exercise and we wanted to come here and train with Echo Company,” said Mack. “At first it seemed to be a ‘mission impossible’ getting our entire battalion here but after many months of planning became ‘mission possible’.”

A photograph of a female soldier in full combat uniform, including a camouflage cap and tactical vest. She is holding an M4-style rifle and looking off to the side with a serious expression. The background shows tropical foliage, including banana leaves.

Spc. Majorca Harrell, Delta Co., 2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET) on a patrol in the mock villages at Bellows Air Station, Hawaii.



ABOVE: Sgt. Ray Mata, Delta Co., 2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET), on a patrol in the mock villages at Bellows Air Station, Hawaii. Mata graduated from the USAR Drill Sgt. School at Fort Jackson in March 2010. He said he thrives being able to teach Soldiers.

RIGHT: Sgt. Gustavo Orozco Gomez, Bravo Co., 2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET), takes cover during the react to direct and indirect fire lane during the battalion field training exercise, Operation Hawaii Five-O.

The unit wanted to create a fictitious but believable scenario. The training grounds at Bellows were used to simulate villages near Kabul, Afghanistan. The advance party set up three STX lanes, which were to react to direct and indirect fire, react to sniper fire and react to roadside bombs while mounted.

Additionally, Soldiers were tested on day land navigation, night land navigation, and assaulting an insurgent headquarters. The mission was to go in and prevent any insurgent sleeper cells and to report any suspicious activity.

“The training facilities here are second to none; the MOUT sites they just finished building are state of the art and represent Iraqi and Afghan villages and are so detailed,” said Mack. “They do not have MOUT sites at Fort Hunter Liggett but here we were able to use the old MOUT sites at Bellows Air Station to create training lanes.”

### Getting the job done

Drill sergeants were positioned at each lane and scored each company on how well they reacted and responded to the different scenarios. The payoff was the winner of each lane would be awarded a streamer for their company guidon at the end of the exercise.

“When they said they were going to give banners for the winners of the lanes, we were on it, we thrive in competition,” said Sgt. Ray Mata, Delta Company. “I was squad leader for all three lanes. When it comes down to it we all know what we have to do and we’ll get the job done.”



The San Jose, Calif., native, full-time student and part-time volleyball coach said for him personally the most challenging lane was the night land navigation course.

“The first thing you have to do when you join the Army is learn your basic infantry skills. So that’s what we’re doing here is practicing our basic infantry skills,” said Mata “It’s stuff we might not do on a day-to-day basis in our jobs but it’s stuff we need to be able to teach as drill sergeants.”

It took many hours of coordination with other military organizations in Hawaii to make the training exercise a success and truly a purple operation.



Sgt. Cao Xiao, Bravo Co.,  
2nd Battalion, 413th Regiment,  
2nd Brigade, 95th Training Division (IET), pulls  
360 security during the react to roadside  
bombs while mounted lane at the battalion  
field training exercise, Operation Hawaii  
Five-O at Bellows Air Force Base, Hawaii.

“At first it seemed to be a ‘mission impossible’ getting our entire battalion here but after many months of planning became ‘mission possible.’”

— CAPT. SATOMI MACK, BATTALION S-3, 2/413TH REGIMENT

“We worked with a lot of agencies in Hawaii to get the mission accomplished but one of the biggest obstacles was the coordination of getting our Soldiers here, within budget, as well as scheduling the training areas, meals on the ground and reaching out to other units and seeing how we could be supported,” said Mack.

The 4960th USAR, 9th MSC, provided training aids and personnel support in issuing weapons, and the 1984th USAR Hospital Unit in Honolulu provided medical support during the training exercise. The 3rd and 4th Marine RECON Company supported the 2nd Bn., 413th Regt. with drivers so Soldiers didn’t have to worry about driving Humvees on the lanes, which enabled them to stay mission-focused.

The culmination of the field training exercise occurred at Waimanalo Beach where the battalion Soldiers were treated to a Hawaiian luau, and the winners of the STX lanes were announced.

Charlie Company captured the day and night land navigation streamer. Delta Company was named the overall winner in the STX competition and proudly attached their streamer to their company guidon as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean, officially ending the exercise.

Mack said morale was high and she was extremely proud of the 2nd Bn., 413th Regt. for making the mission happen and making it realistic.

“There is a misconception that you are going to fly the whole battalion to Hawaii but as far as training missions goes it has been one of the best we have ever conducted,” said Mack. “Just the amount of the things we were able to accomplish here and the facilities at Bellows are amazing, we’re ready to do it again!”

Aloha! 🇺🇸

# Returning to the Land of Opportunity

Story and Photo By Senior Airman Jarad Denton, 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti

It was during a recent civil affairs mission through Djibouti, Africa, that Army Reserve Corporal Kwami Koto was able to truly articulate his connection to this continent and its people.

"You see those kids playing soccer, barefoot," the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa Civil Affairs team 4902 information manager said to his team chief as their vehicle passed by children running around on a dirt field. "That used to be me."

Koto, a resident of Denton, Texas, was born in the Republic of Togo in West Africa. In the wake of a military coup d'état and cultural turmoil nearly 10 years ago, he and his wife fled their homeland as political refugees to seek asylum in the U.S.

"Human rights in Togo were being systematically violated," he said. "As a journalist, I started writing about it—denouncing the military regime's abuses."

Koto and his Family began to receive threats against their lives. He weighed his options carefully: stay in Togo and likely be killed while reporting on the unfolding situation or flee to America.

"I chose the latter."

After coming to the United States, Koto went to work as a program manager for a marketing company. He attended graduate school in his free time, earning his master's degree in journalism in the spring of 2005. Four years ago Koto decided to demonstrate his pride for his adoptive country; he became a Soldier in the Army Reserve.

"It is a pride not only for myself, but for my Family—my parents and my entire hometown back in Togo," he said. "They are all proud to have a son who serves in the most prestigious, and by far the best, Army in the world."

The Army Reserve decided Koto was best suited to build relationships with villages and government leaders throughout the Horn of Africa. To him, the journey has been an astonishing one.

"Thirty-five years ago I was playing here as a kid—kicking an orange because we couldn't afford a soccer ball," he said as a proud smile grew on his face. "Now I wear the uniform of an Army Soldier. I never could have imagined it years ago. It's indescribable, the feeling I get when I travel to African villages and help bring about change."

As an Army civil affairs Soldier, Koto said returning to Africa has been a life-changing event for him.

"I had seen Americans before, when I was in Togo," he said. "I learned English from a Peace Corps teacher. I never forgot those lessons or the interactions I had with the Americans. I make sure to treat the people I meet now the way I want them to remember me."

Army civil affairs is responsible for assessing and engaging local leaders at both the village and government level. They build relationships with the people through a spirit of cooperation facilitated by African leaders.

Army Reserve Capt. Justin Lev, CJTF-HOA CAT 4902 chief, said having Koto on the team in Africa has been invaluable.

"From day one, he's been working with us on understanding the African people," said Lev. "The reason we are able to work so well with them is because of Koto."

Lev said Koto brings a unique perspective to their mission, and expresses his perspective on Africa's potential.

"The African people are very resilient to live the way they live. They are happy with what they have," said Koto. "However, I constantly wrestle with the way some of

the African people accept their situation without trying to improve it. Every living thing has to grow and evolve. Africa, after 50 years of independence, is ready to move to the next stage of its development."

Koto said African development must first begin with its people. An infrastructure cannot be built if the citizens are living in squalor. He said the first step is to build long-term, positive relationships with the people of Africa. Whether meeting with a village elder, partnering with locals to construct buildings or playing soccer with the children of Djibouti, Koto explained he would love for people in the United States to see Africa the way he sees it.

"This is a land of opportunity," he said. "Africa presents people with both an opportunity to help and an opportunity to learn. Just like all the opportunities we have in the United States—the ones here should not be taken for granted."

Lev said working in civil affairs with Koto and seeing those opportunities presented on a daily basis has changed the way he views the world.

"When we travel to these villages, we see real examples of people living in extreme poverty," he said. "All of the standards we have in the United States don't apply here, but the people are happy. It really shows that happiness is achievable no matter what you have or where you are."

With another smile, Koto acknowledged what his commander had said. As an American who earned his citizenship in February 2009, he has strong and passionate feelings for both his home and adopted countries.

"I love Africa," he said. "I love it in the same way I love the United States—with my whole heart." ★



Cpl. Kwami Koto, Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa Civil Affairs team 4902 information manager, is a native of the Republic of Togo, Africa, and uses his experiences to engage with the people of Djibouti. Nearly 10 years ago, Koto and his wife fled their Togo home and came to the U.S. as political refugees. Koto, now an American citizen living in Denton, Texas, is currently deployed as a corporal in the Army Reserve.



THIS PAGE: Pfc. Louis Horikawa, Military Intelligence Service of 100-442 Infantry.

UPPER RIGHT: Paul Nakahara, Spc. William Lurpe's uncle, volunteered for service after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star and Purple Heart after serving with the 442nd Infantry in Italy and France.

LOWER RIGHT: Sgt. Francis Katsuki Yano, 442-2Bn HQ. March 25, 1943.

PHOTO COURTESY MAJ. KEITH HORIKAWA, 100TH BATTALION, 442ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

**The following instructions must be observed:**  
1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A.M. and 15:00 P.M. on Monday, May 11, 1942.  
Signature for the Assembly

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

“You fought the enemy  
abroad and you fought  
prejudice at home  
and you won.”

— PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN

PHOTO COURTESY TAMMY KUBO

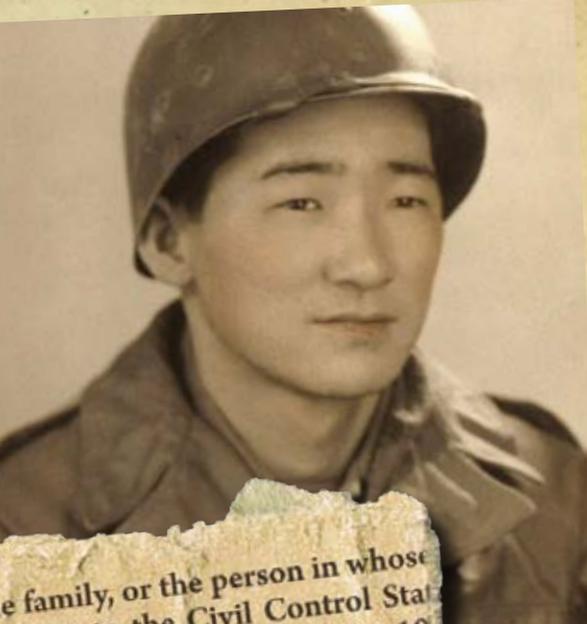


# The Legacy

By **Melissa Russell**  
ARMY RESERVE COMMUNICATIONS

The heroic actions and circumstances that define the Army Reserve’s legendary 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment ripple across generations and history. More than a half-century has passed since the world first learned of their courageous acts—more than 18,000 individual awards for valor—giving the 442nd Regimental Combat Team the distinction of being the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army.

PHOTO COURTESY TAMMY KUBO



...e family, or the person in whose  
report to the Civil Control Sta  
...d 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 10  
...  
Center, the following property:  
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President Barack Obama and his guests applaud after signing a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II, in the Oval Office, October 5, 2010.

OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA

Horikawa said his father, Pfc. Louis Horikawa, part of the Military Intelligence Service, made it clear that he was proud of his service. “When you think about it,” he said, “they were originally segregated. They fought... to prove their loyalty and, as a result, helped open the door for equality in the military.”

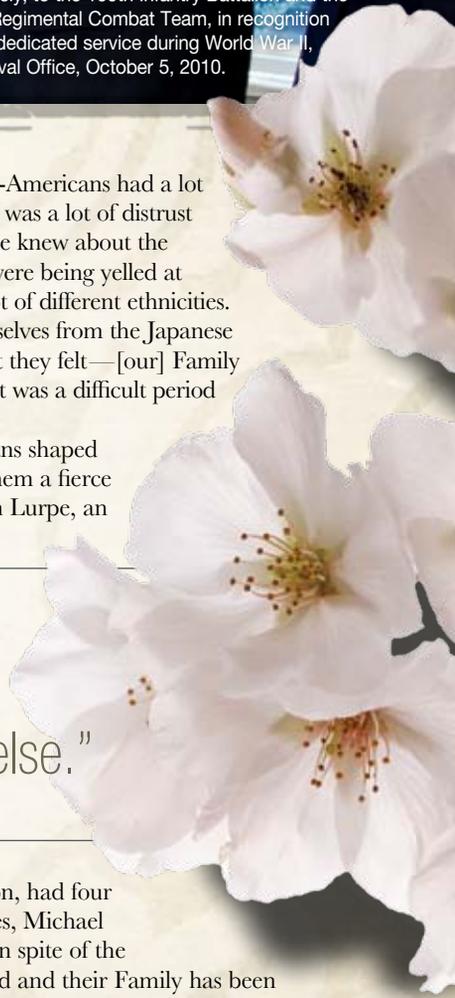
“It’s awesome. Hard to fathom,” said Horikawa. “This [recognition] is all for the veterans. And it’s a huge honor for us, what they accomplished during the war not only for Japanese-Americans, but for equality as a whole. What was once a segregated unit is now one of the most racially diverse units in the military. What these World War II heroes fought for opened the doors for everyone to serve.”

According to Horikawa, Japanese-Americans had a lot to prove. “After Pearl Harbor, there was a lot of distrust of the Japanese-Americans. Everyone knew about the mass-internments. Whole Families were being yelled at or spit at. Hawaii is a big melting pot of different ethnicities. People were trying to distance themselves from the Japanese and there was a lot of alienation that they felt—[our] Family was shunned and looked down on. It was a difficult period for [my] Family.”

The sacrifices made by the veterans shaped future generations and instilled in them a fierce pride in their ancestry. Spc. William Lurpe, an

“They felt that they really had a mission—to fight as Americans but also to prove that they as Japanese-Americans were just as loyal as anybody else.”

— MAJ. KEITH HORIKAWA, 100TH BATTALION, 442ND INFANTRY REGIMENT



Sgt. Francis Katsuki Yano, 442-2Bn HQ. March 25, 1943.

PHOTO COURTESY TAMMY KUBO

Iraq veteran with the 100th Battalion, had four uncles who served. Two of his uncles, Michael and John Matsudaira, volunteered in spite of the fact that their home was being seized and their Family has been interned.

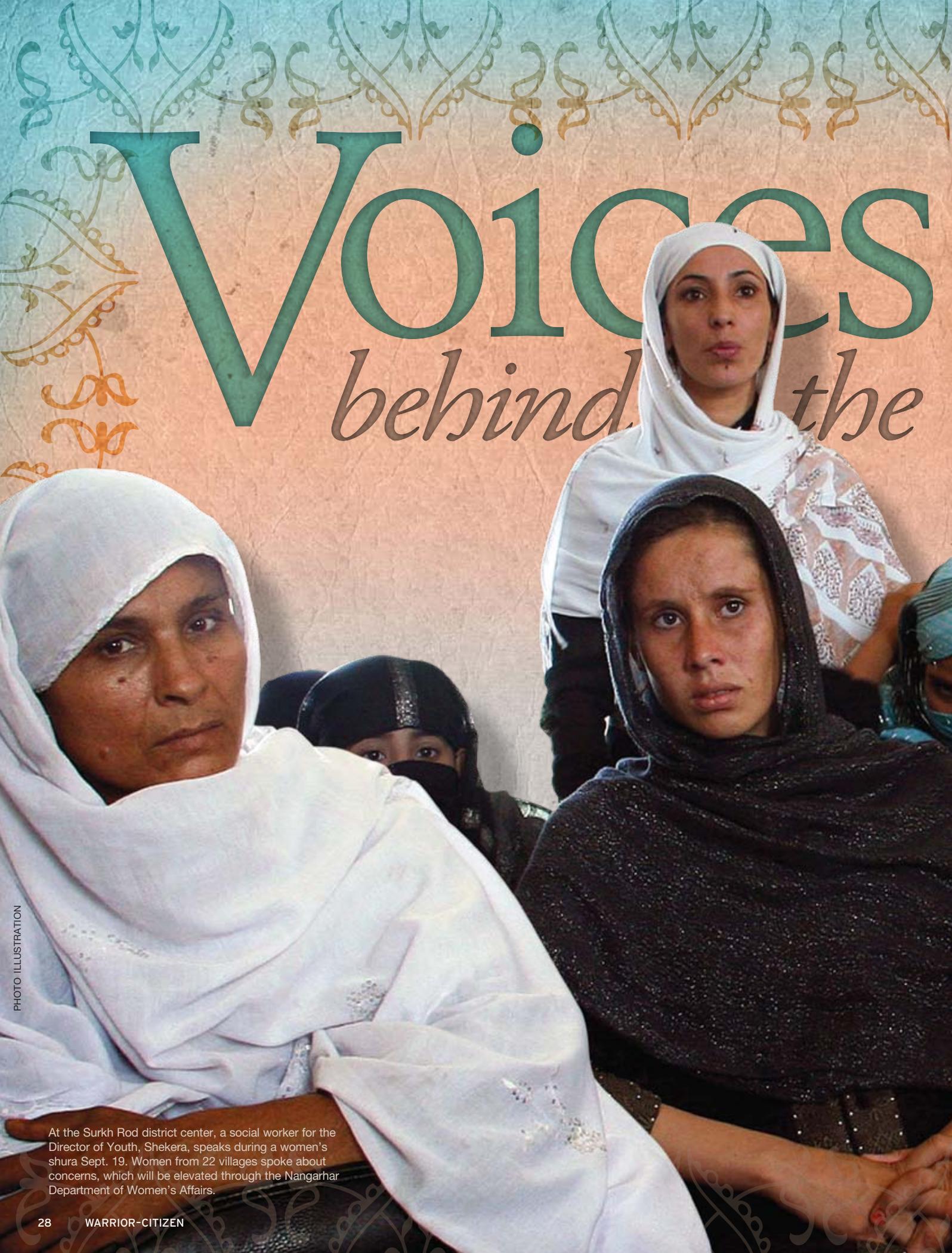
“It teaches us a lesson in character,” said Lurpe. “It shows what kind of Americans [the Soldiers] were. My Family inspired me to join the Army Reserve, and I’m so proud to be part of this unit—we’re the only ones who can wear this patch on our shoulder.”

“We talk about creating a Continuum of Service,” said Brig. Gen. James Young, Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve. “What these veterans have passed on goes beyond a ‘Soldier for Life.’ I can’t think of a better example of generations of Soldiers, living the Army Values.”

“I can’t picture what I would be doing if it weren’t for the Army,” said Lurpe. “We’re all very proud of what the veterans did and we all we have a legacy to carry on.” ❖

**EDITORS NOTE:** BRIAN MELANEPHY, 9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

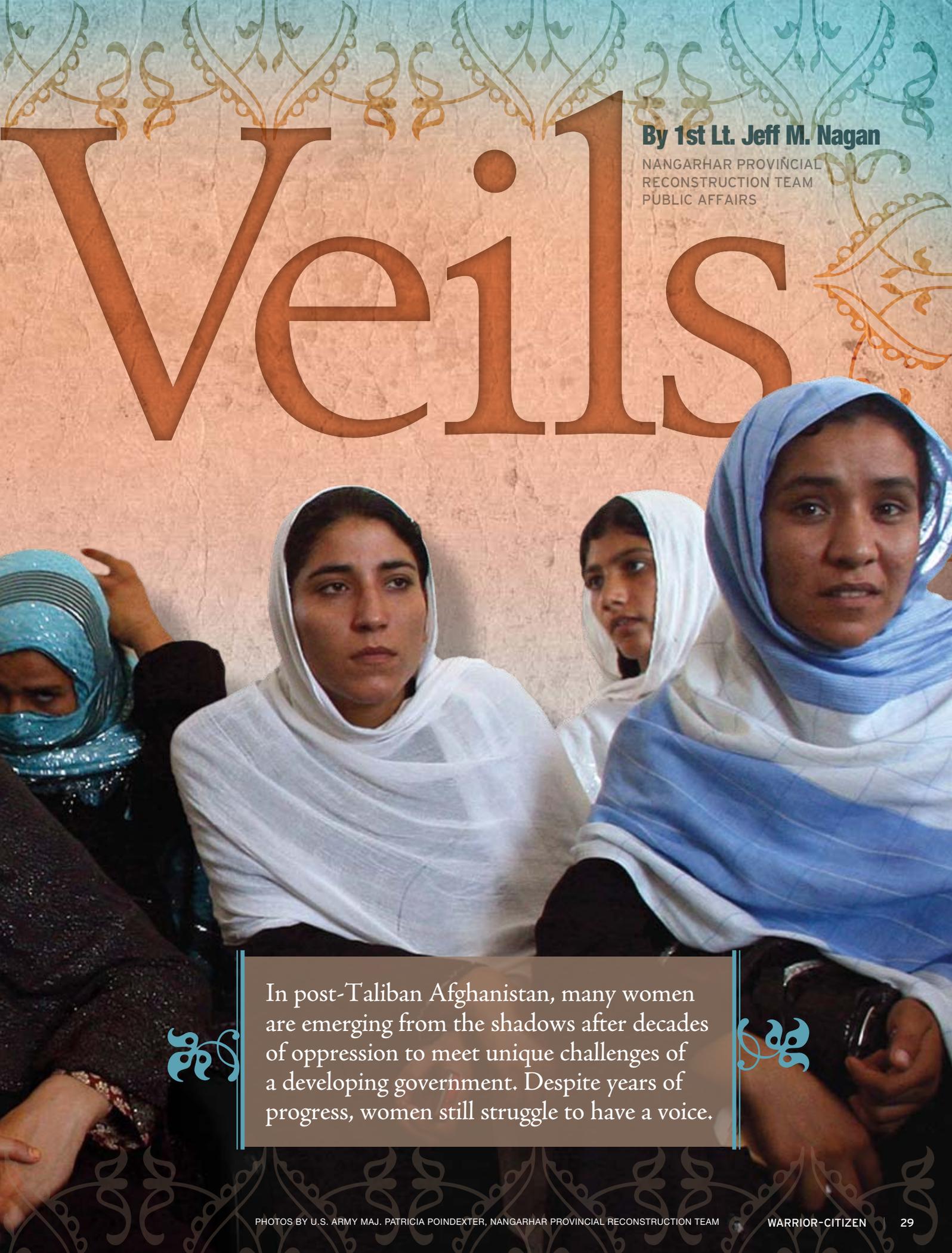


# Voices

*behind the*

At the Surkh Rod district center, a social worker for the Director of Youth, Shekera, speaks during a women's shura Sept. 19. Women from 22 villages spoke about concerns, which will be elevated through the Nangarhar Department of Women's Affairs.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



**By 1st Lt. Jeff M. Nagan**

NANGARHAR PROVINCIAL  
RECONSTRUCTION TEAM  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# Veils

In post-Taliban Afghanistan, many women are emerging from the shadows after decades of oppression to meet unique challenges of a developing government. Despite years of progress, women still struggle to have a voice.

*“There were several younger girls at the shura. When asked why they were there, they said that the older women were too fearful of traveling.”*

— SGT. KRISTIN GOEHLER, NANGARHAR  
PRT FEMALE ENGAGEMENT TEAM MEMBER



## NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan

In an effort to strengthen communication between women living in the villages of Surkh Rod, a district just west of Jalalabad, and the Department of Women’s Affairs, community leaders held an all-female shura (consultative council) at the district center Sept. 19.

In addition to female representatives from 22 of the 52 villages within Surkh Rod, the assistant director of the DOWA, assistant director of female youth and the social worker for the director of youth attended the assembly.

“We want to get communication flowing between the districts and the provincial line directors,” said Maj. Patricia Poindexter, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team female engagement team leader, “and that’s exactly what happened here.”

The DOWA ties directly into the Ministry of Women’s Affairs in Kabul, added Poindexter, who hails from Las Vegas, Nev. The DOWA can escalate concerns brought up during the shura that cannot be solved at the provincial level.

“A lot of what we discussed was education

Women from 22 of the 52 districts within Surkh Rod, a district west of Jalalabad, meet for an all-female shura Sept. 19. The women discussed a variety of concerns but focused primarily on education.



Women from 22 of the 52 districts within Surkh Rod, just west of Jalalabad, met for an all-female shura Sept. 19. Joining the village representatives was also the assistant director of the DOWA, assistant director of female youth and the social worker for the director of youth.

related,” said Sgt. Kristin Gochler, Nangarhar PRT female engagement team member. “The DOWA was able to immediately identify education concerns. Having the DOWA there to have a dialogue with was huge. The DOWA made a commitment to the people.”

The women desire education, added Gochler, a Milwaukee, Wis., native. One of the long-term goals of the DOWA, which is shared by members of the shura, is to educate and train women so they can potentially learn a trade, earn a living and contribute to their households.

Members of the shura explained that they are making efforts to improve education. In many of the outlying areas, girls are unable to attend school for a variety of reasons. Many of the girls are unable to travel to the nearest schools, many of which are nearly 31 miles away.

“The assistant director for the DOWA recommended setting up temporary girls’ schools using tents, shade or anything else,” said Poindexter, who is an elementary teacher in addition to serving in the U.S. Army Reserve. “That is exactly what needs to be done.”

### Risking Personal Safety

Additionally, shura members spoke about how security concerns impact education. Throughout Afghanistan many girls are targeted for trying to advance themselves, said Poindexter. Under the Taliban, women were not allowed to get an education. Although the regime has been largely ousted, some of the ideology remains.

Lastly, the women spoke of the lack of female secondary teachers. As recently as May, a male head teacher in Logar Province, just outside Kabul, was killed by Taliban insurgents after he ignored numerous threats urging him to stop teaching girls. However, terrorists continue to target women.

“There were several younger girls at the shura,” said Gochler. “When asked why they were there, they said that the older women were too fearful of traveling.”

Despite the risk, the women donned their chadri, a garment that covers them entirely, and came to the shura, said Poindexter.

Once inside in the company of just women, they exposed their faces. However, upon leaving, the women disappeared anonymously under the veils of their chadri.

“It requires great courage for these women to come to events like this shura,” said Poindexter. “They risk being targeted with harassment and threats. Yet, this was the largest female shura that we have attended, which just shows how important these events are.” ❏



Members of the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team and Task Force Black Scarves female engagement teams met with the head of education and assistant director for the Nangarhar Department of Women’s Affairs during a female shura in Surkh Rod, Sept 19. The official assembly enabled female representatives to bring their concerns to the provincial line directors who can elevate them in order to find the best solution.



Sgt. Michael Haines (left) and Spc. Andrea Dembeck search for victims in a toxic environment following a simulated Weapon of Mass Destruction attack.

**You are crawling on your belly, past fire  
and through blood, oil and grime,  
while trying to extract a disaster victim  
from under an 1,800-pound block  
of reinforced concrete  
before your air tank runs out.**

**Welcome to...**

# **The Tunnel**

**By Lt. Col. Jeff Weir, Army  
Reserve Public Affairs**



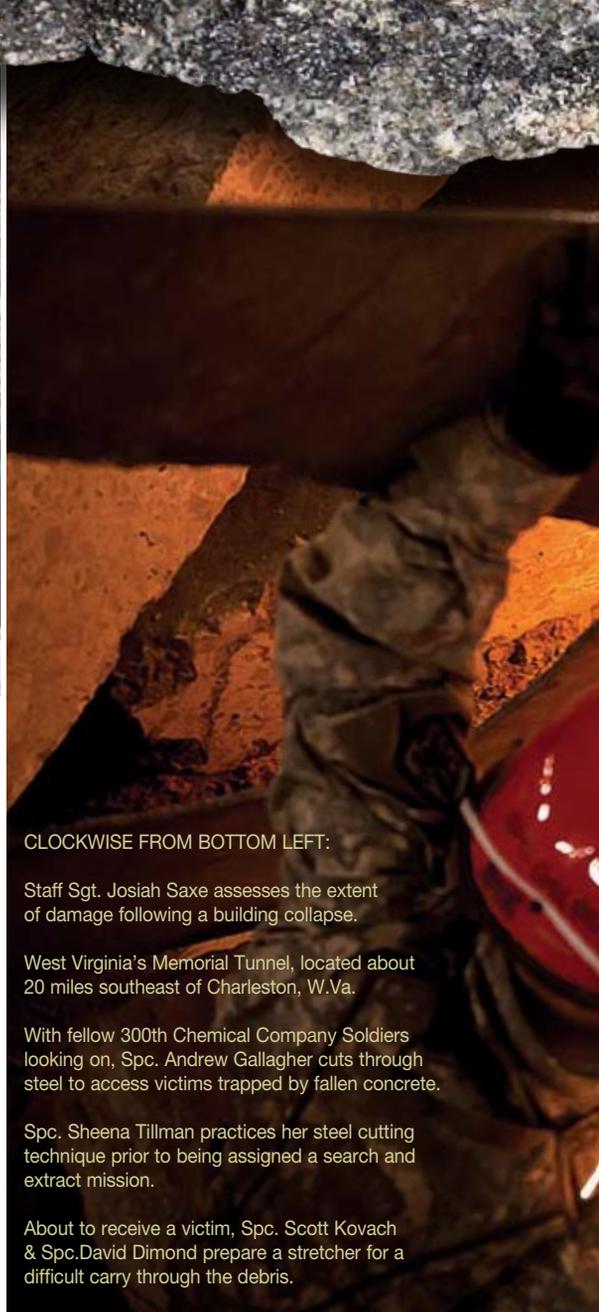
## It's not exactly Disneyland, but to the Soldiers of the 300th Chemical Company (CBRN Recon/Search and Extraction), it truly is a first responder's fantasyland.



**T**he Morgantown Army Reserve unit didn't have to fly too long when fellow Reserve Soldiers of the 11th Theater Aviation Command transported them via CH-47 Chinooks from their home station to

West Virginia's Memorial Tunnel, located about 20 miles southeast of Charleston, W.Va. They quickly unloaded 68 Soldiers and a full kit of new equipment to conduct the most thorough and realistic rescue training found anywhere in the world. Among them were nine Soldiers whose civilian employment is EMT, nurse, firefighter or similar position.

Why is a chemical unit doing this mission? Unknown to most people outside the Chemical Corps, a transition has been occurring for about 10 years. The original wartime mission of chemical units is still to conduct reconnaissance and decontamination missions in support of U.S. and allied military in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environment.



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT:

Staff Sgt. Josiah Saxe assesses the extent of damage following a building collapse.

West Virginia's Memorial Tunnel, located about 20 miles southeast of Charleston, W.Va.

With fellow 300th Chemical Company Soldiers looking on, Spc. Andrew Gallagher cuts through steel to access victims trapped by fallen concrete.

Spc. Sheena Tillman practices her steel cutting technique prior to being assigned a search and extract mission.

About to receive a victim, Spc. Scott Kovach & Spc. David Dimond prepare a stretcher for a difficult carry through the debris.

However, threats of terrorist attacks are a reality and the Army Reserve is missioned as a secondary response force to a CBRN event within the U.S.

According to Lt. Col. Charles Jones, 485th Chemical Battalion Commander, he expects more units to follow. "Our green mission is still there, the original wartime mission, but Homeland Operations in the Army Reserve is transforming our mission. Army Reserve assets are prepared to respond to attacks, natural disasters or industrial accidents when called upon, and the 300th is part of that plan," he said.

Capt. Whinston Antion, 300th Chemical Company Commander, jumped at the chance to bring more of his Soldiers to the "Tunnel." He had first come in October 2010 and was very impressed at the ability of the staff to create over a dozen different scenarios that could all be tailored to specific situations reflecting the 300th's core competencies.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



# TUNNEL FACTS

Opened in 1954 as part of the West Virginia Turnpike, The tunnel was a \$5 million two-lane tunnel that was referred to as an “engineering achievement of heroic proportions.”

The 2800-foot-long two-lane tunnel sits nearly 300 feet beneath the mountain it pierces.

At 28 feet wide and 25 feet high, with a four-degree slope, the tunnel eliminated 26 miles of existing roads.

In 1987, the tunnel was bypassed by an “open cut” (now I-64 and 77) that displaced earth from a 371-foot cut in the mountain to a 311-foot-deep fill in the adjacent valley. It replaced the Sergeant Stanley Bender Bridge, named for a West Virginia Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, that had projected from the south entrance to the tunnel.

This cut also yielded about 300,000 tons of coal from the mountain.

From 1990 to 1997, the Federal Highway Administration extensively modified the tunnel and conducted the Memorial Tunnel Fire Ventilation Test Program. From 1993-1995, fires were set in the tunnel to test ventilation designs for Boston’s Central Artery and Tunnel (Big Dig) project.

In 2001, The West Virginia Parkways Authority leased the tunnel to the West Virginia National Guard for 50 years.

It is an emergency training facility for military, police, fire, FBI, K9, hazmat and other emergency response personnel to respond to disasters or terrorist attacks.

Special operations personnel have trained in a cave complex that was constructed to specific standards to match caves in Afghanistan, complete with booby traps and weapons of mass destruction.

The facility can be vented (if smoke or other obscurants are used) in about 60 seconds and adjust the lighting to any level.

It is unaffected by weather and maintains a constant 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

**“Homeland Operations in the Army Reserve is transforming our mission. Army Reserve assets are prepared to respond to attacks, natural disasters or industrial accidents when called upon, and the 300th is part of that plan.”**

— LT. COL. CHARLES JONES, 485TH  
CHEMICAL BATTALION COMMANDER



Spc. Edward Dalbow of the 485th CBRN Battalion directs fellow searchers as they try to identify victim locations.



Physical training clothes help the Soldiers of the 300th Chemical Company stay cooler under their hazmat gear.

“All of my Soldiers are eager to do this mission. They love the search and extraction mission, and the various scenarios in this facility are truly motivating,” said Antion. Some of his Soldiers were nearby practicing cutting through car roofs in a simulated 10-car pileup. What they didn’t know was that an 18-wheeler in the center of the accident scene contained a simulated chemical dispersion sprayer and two 250-gallon tanks of an unknown agent. Such are the things that make responders’ jobs more difficult.

According to Dave Underwood, Senior Training Analyst on site, the scenarios are created at different levels of complexity, with the first scenario being the least complicated and each follow-on scenario gradually becoming more sophisticated. “There are several fully complete labs where ‘terrorists’ have developed various chemical and biological agents. We have meth labs and even have one simulating toxins made from extracts of snake venom (rubber snakes included).” Beyond those is a full subway station with tracks and real

subway cars formerly used in Boston, to simulate what terrorists did in London and Tokyo.

The largest area, known as the Rubble Room, is several hundred feet long. It creates a collapsed building scenario where Soldiers were put to the test using all their skills to rescue victims from under huge chunks of reinforced concrete and even automobiles.

Only days before, they were practicing cutting through twisted metal and breaching concrete with their new tools. Now they were moving diligently through the dark, scraping knees and bruising elbows extracting victim after victim.

“This is so relevant, and, unfortunately, the threat is here to stay so we’ve got to be ready. And you know what? I haven’t received one complaint from any of my Soldiers about this new mission,” said Jones. ★



Catching some much needed rest, Spc. James Zink, Spc. Chad Murray and Sgt. Daniel Nichols (left to right) await the order to suit up in full hazmat gear once again.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION



Customers of Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, wait in line to enter the pharmacy. This line, photographed at 8 a.m., grows throughout the day, as do many of the crowded areas of the hospital.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
MAJ. MATTHEW LAWRENCE, ARMY  
RESERVE COMMUNICATIONS

## helping to fix Hospital Escuela



Spc. Robert Grey of Santa Fe, N.M., shows biomedical technicians from Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, how to fuse two batteries together to repair an infusion pump. Grey was part of a three-week mission to the hospital to train their biomed repairmen and help repair equipment.

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras** — The scene at Hospital Escuela is crowded. People stuff themselves into the lobbies and hallways of the hospital, waiting to see medical professionals for problems from earaches to gunshot wounds. The emergency room is packed with patients waiting to be seen, family members and even a disoriented patient holding his own IV bag. Hospital employees scurry about the crowds, quickly doing what they can to process everyone through. It is hard to see the order through the chaos. This is where the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) biomedical repair team has decided to help make a difference.

This 1,200-bed public hospital has a lot of equipment—most of it donated from hospitals and countries around the world. The problem is, a lot of it doesn't work, and Hospital Escuela doesn't have the money or the training to repair it all. The yearly budget for repair parts at the hospital is \$20,000, less than is needed to fix a bulb on an X-ray

machine—and the hospital has several inoperative X-rays alone.

"We could spend a year here with this team of 10 repairmen, and still not be done [fixing everything]," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fred Hodges, Senior Biomedical Repair Technician for the 807th MDSC.

Donations to this public hospital are plentiful, so it has been easier in the past for the doctors and biomedical repair technicians to push the inoperative systems aside and start using a new one.

There are several rooms full of broken equipment throughout the hospital as well as storage containers outside. And for a hospital this large, space is at a premium.

"The E.R. has two full closets of equipment that is either broken, or they don't have the proper manuals to fix them or the manuals to even operate them," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Saunders from Westminster, Calif.



The age of much of the equipment is also an issue. The average age of medical equipment in the hospital is 15 to 20 years, which often makes repairs difficult.

“The majority of them [machines] are old equipment, and some of them are even obsolete. We call the vendor, and they don’t provide any more service or parts for that type of equipment,” said Capt. Nahum Reyesperez, the team’s chief translator and coordinator.

While the hospital employs 10 equipment technicians (plenty for a hospital this size), they have very few tools to do their job, and the little electronics they do possess are not well maintained. The technicians, when the 807th MDSC first arrived in July, would only attempt to fix the critical equipment that was broken. The situation —is critical.

“I was surprised of the fact that the biomedics didn’t have any tools, not a screwdriver of any kind, and they were just working with what they had— what was left over, borrowed stuff, and things they brought from home,” said Saunders. “They were still trying to maintain a 1,200 bed hospital with barely anything.”

The 807th MDSC sent a survey team to Hospital Escuela in July to examine the equipment the hospital had and order parts to fix the most critical items. They also did an assessment of the hospital’s maintenance team and their processes, which were all but non-existent.

“There is no maintenance program,” said Reyesperez.

“...the biomedics didn’t have any tools...and they were just working with...borrowed stuff, and things they brought from home.”

— SGT. 1ST CLASS ANTHONY SAUNDERS, 807TH MDSC

But the story of Hospital Escuela is not of a third-world hospital that cannot give quality care to anyone. It is an inspiration to see how much the hospital’s nearly 1,700 medical employees can accomplish with what they have for so many people. And in the maintenance department, one man is making a drastic improvement. In the short time he has been there, his leadership has made a difference.

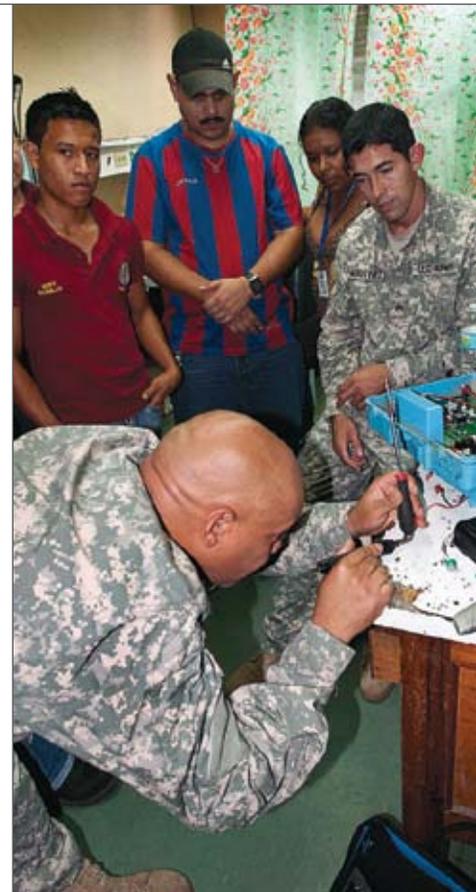
Samuel Medina-Aguilar is a portly, energetic man with a dark complexion. He arrived at Hospital Escuela in late August and immediately went to work. There is no mistake; he is a maintenance and logistics professional, well-versed in the fundamentals of the trade. His formidable task is to establish order where there is none.

“The main problem is the lack of preventive maintenance. It’s just not being done,” said Medina through a translator, agreeing with the U.S. Soldiers’ assessment.

The importance of Medina’s presence is not lost on the U.S. Soldiers here.

“Now there’s somebody in charge, whereas before, nobody wanted to take responsibility for the department,” said Saunders. “There’s more of an attitude of wanting to do good work for the hospital... They’re more visible in the hospital now.”

The 807th MDSC biomed repair team hopes that they can return in three to six months to monitor the progress of the maintenance team at the hospital. For the moment, the future looks promising, but only time will tell if new leadership and some training from U.S. Soldiers make a lasting improvement at Hospital Escuela. 🇺🇸



Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Saunders from Westminster, Calif., shows a technician the internals of a broken C-Arm X-ray machine. The 807th MDSC technicians were in Honduras on a three week mission to train and repair at Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAFF SGT. JAMYN PATTERSON

LT. COL. WILLIAM D. RITTER,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF  
RECRUITING COMMUNICATIONS

## preserving our Soldier heroes

**ARLINGTON, Va.** — What do an ammunition specialist, an indirect fire infantryman and an Army Ranger have in common? They are all current Army Reserve Soldiers nominated by their commands to participate in the All-American Bowl as Soldier Heroes.

And while these job skills are not ones found in today's Army Reserve inventory of career proficiencies, they are examples of how jobs in the Active Component continue into careers in the Army Reserve—presenting the Soldier a variety of options throughout their service to our nation and allowing the military to preserve hard-won Soldier skills by retaining the best qualified troops.

It is also an example of the Continuum of Service proposal that Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, is trying to enact.

Continuum of Service is a proposed management system that facilitates the transparent movement of individuals between components and civilian service, providing variable and flexible service

options and levels of participation, which are consistent with Department of Defense manpower requirements and benefit both individual Soldiers and the Army.

According to one All-American Bowl Soldier Hero, Sgt. 1st Class Panini Aliilua, service in the Active Component made it easier for him to perform well in the Army Reserve.

“Being an infantryman, I learned how to listen and communicate effectively with my superiors and learned how to be a better problem-solver,” he said. Aliilua is a member of the 9th Mission Support Command, Fort Shafter Flats, Hawaii.

Capt. Jason Molnar, another Soldier Hero, spent more than four years on active duty and has been in an Army Reserve unit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, for a year and a half. He said the leadership skills he learned in the Army have made him a valuable employee.

“My leadership experience as a combat arms officer has made me an asset for companies

**ABOVE:** Staff Sgt. Jamyn Patterson, 319th Psychological Operations Company (POC), Arden Hills, Minnesota, poses with two children in Afghanistan. Patterson, a Psychological Operations Specialist from New Richmond, Wis., deployed as a Tactical Psychological Operations Team Leader three times in 10 years. Patterson joined the Army Reserve because he wanted to be part of something larger than himself. The 34-year old works as a contractor, specializing in carpentry and cites many of the skills he learned in the Army Reserve as a valuable asset to his civilian work.

seeking proven, young leaders in corporate America,” he stated. “My intelligence experience as a Reservist directly contributed to the job I currently hold.”

The intent of CoS is to allow Soldiers the opportunity to continue serving the Army while preserving the Army’s investment and allowing for varying levels of participation to meet each individual’s ability to serve over the course of a lifetime of service.

Simply stated, CoS would keep a trained Soldier in the Army system, and give that Soldier flexibility over the course of their career to move between the AC, RC and civilian workforces when they desire or need a change.

of who CoS could help. In addition to now serving in the Army Reserve, the former Active Component Soldier is a military technical in the Army’s civilian workforce.

The proposal would benefit the Army by permitting it to recruit one force, reform Soldier duty statuses and transform the transition procedures—all with the potential for significant cost savings.

If enacted, Soldiers like Chambers will have an easier time moving between the military components and job statuses.

Stultz’s CoS proposal is just that, however, a proposal. And while it is a cost-saving, efficient personnel management paradigm for the Army, it

## “Continuum of Service is essential to preserving our nation’s investment in trained and ready Soldiers, leaders and civilians.”

— LT. GEN. JACK C. STULTZ, CHIEF OF THE ARMY RESERVE

Currently unemployed as a civilian, Aliilua is on a long tour as a Warrior and Family Assistance Center sponsor. He is just one example of how a CoS would aid Soldiers at different stages of their lives and careers.

Another Soldier Hero, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Chambers, was out of the Army when he rejoined the Army Reserve.

“The idea of being able to continue full time school while still serving my country really appealed to me,” he said.

Chambers, a Soldier Hero from the 533rd Brigade Support Battalion, Fort Totten, N.Y., is a prime example

requires the involvement of Senior Army Leaders and is still being discussed and planned.

In a memo to Army Reserve leaders, dated July 7, the CAR thanked all those who have worked towards the goal of enacting a CoS.

Calling the CoS “essential to preserving our nation’s investment in trained and ready Soldiers, leaders and civilians” he highlighted there are still considerable obstacles to overcome before his proposal would go into effect.

“My intent is to renew Army Reserve efforts in establishing Continuum of Service,” said Stultz. “I request your support to the direction provided by the Human Capital Core Enterprises on this important issue,” he said.

Many stories were shared at this year’s All-American Bowl. Some will be about war; some of Family; and many of careers. If Stultz has his way, they will be able discuss options for moving about the Army and Army Reserve, as the CoS paves the way for smoother transitions between components. ☒



PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. JONATHAN D. MERCK

PHOTO COURTESY OF SGT. 1ST CLASS PANINI ALIILUA

**TOP:** Sgt. Jonathan D. Merck, an Army Reserve Military Police Officer with the 805th Military Police Company pauses for a photo before heading out on a convoy security mission in Iraq. The All-American Bowl Soldier Hero possessed an attraction towards the military since a very young age. His upbringing in a Family laced with patriotism and military service contributed a great deal to his enlistment into the Army Reserve at the age of 17.

**ABOVE:** Sgt. 1st Class Panini Aliilua, an Army Reserve All-American Bowl Soldier Hero, mingles with a group of Iraqi children during his 2005 deployment. While going out on daily patrols, Aliilua had the opportunity to see first-hand how the local people in Iraq live, act and behaved. He cites his experience in Iraq as the catalyst to help him appreciate life and everything that he has more than ever, stating that we as Americans, are so fortunate with the freedoms that we have.

**LEFT:** Capt. Jason Molnar, a Reserve Soldier Hero at the All-American Bowl, poses with a puppy he rescued in Al-Busayefi, Iraq. The puppy had just lost his mom and siblings who triggered the anti-personnel IED while walking across the road. Molnar, an Air Traffic Control Equipment Repairer from Milford, Ohio picked up the puppy and transported him back to his patrol base in order to give him to the British Rangers who had been looking for a dog and were allowed to keep pets. Molnar joined the Army after watching the events of 9/11 unfold on TV during high school. He choose to serve to honor his grandfather and the sacrifices he and his generation made during WWII.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPT. JASON MOLNAR

## trained, ready, action!

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MARK BELL, 200TH MILITARY POLICE COMMAND

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** – As Army Reserve Soldiers barreled down a busy downtown street in several Humvees, they fired their crew-served weapons and dumped thousands of rounds of ammunition and grenade casings onto an already littered pavement.

It was scene straight out of a Hollywood movie—literally.

Twenty-five Soldiers assigned to the Columbus, Ohio-based 391st Military Police Battalion were battling bad guys with Captain America and his Avengers superheroes during an intensive battle scene that will soon play out in movie theaters worldwide in 2012.

The Soldiers, who fall under the Fort Meade, Md.-based 200th Military Police Command, recently spent a week with Hollywood cast members and an Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, Ca., military liaison officer to give more realism to the movie role of the military police.



Army Reserve Soldier and Dayton, Ohio-native Staff Sgt. Michael T. Landis, a military policeman assigned to the Columbus, Ohio-based 391st Military Police Battalion, stands on the set of the new Avengers movie set for worldwide release in 2012. The 391st MP Bn. is assigned to the 200th Military Police Command at Fort Meade, Md.

PHOTO COURTESY U.S. ARMY RESERVE

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

“The combat scenes had great realism,” said Lt. Col. John Clearwater, deputy director for OCPA-LA. “It’s a tribute to the U.S. Army Reserve and the veteran 391st MP Battalion. They rocked the streets of Cleveland with their .50 caliber machine guns and Mark-19’s. The film crew was blown away by their firepower and teamwork.”

Staff Sgt. Michael T. Landis, a Dayton, Ohio native, said he hopes the Army Reserve brought realism to the set and moviegoers get a sense that all Armed Forces Service members are heroes, not just those in the Army.

Landis said for the director to use actual Soldiers in a movie is a winning experience for everyone involved.

“It’s easy for us to make on-the-spot corrections to tactics and uniforms,” he said. “The director actually took our recommendation on one scene and let us all engage the enemy as opposed to only the gunners in the trucks engaging.”

Landis said it made the scene more realistic and helped portray the Army in a more positive light.

Spc. Michael Eiring said it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play a driver and foot Soldier during the scenes.

“Our participation not only brought life and excitement to the movie but (will give) moviegoers a look at Army Reserve Soldiers and who we represent,” Eiring said.

One Soldier fighting aliens and saving innocent civilian lives was Spc. Felicia Scarbro.

She said moviegoers will watch the movie and see that Army Reserve Soldiers are highly trained, prepared and ready to deploy in support of operations around the world.

Scarbro said it’s time to end the “weekend warrior” caption

placed on Reserve Component Soldiers.

“We may meet as a unit one weekend a month, but every day we do things to strengthen not only our civilian skills but our military tactics and



PHOTOS COURTESY U.S. ARMY RESERVE

techniques,” she said. “We consolidate what our active-duty counterparts do in a month into a single weekend battle assembly.”

“We know our mission and give our all into completing that mission,” she said. “When it comes to completing a difficult or new task, we don’t waste time complaining or making excuses. Instead, we jump into the mission and complete it with nothing less than complete success.”

Spc. Steven Sargent said he hopes the movie will help build new-found respect for the Warrior-Citizen. From the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, hundreds of Army Reserve Soldiers have lost their lives during combat operations.

Although no lives were lost during the magic of movie making, Sargent said it’s important to never forget Soldiers mobilized overseas are in harm’s way.

“We put our lives on the line for our country,” he said. “We really appreciate the opportunity to take a break from life [overseas] and have the chance to be able to do something fun like making a movie.”

“We took on this challenge the same way we would take on any military task,” he said. “We were punctual, professional and always prepared.”

Army Reserve Soldiers assigned to the Columbus, Ohio-based 391st Military Police Battalion wait for the next scene to film during the Avengers movie set. The 391st MP Bn. is assigned to the 200th Military Police Command at Fort Meade, Md.

“(The 391st MP Battalion) rocked the streets of Cleveland with their .50 caliber machine guns and Mark-19’s. The film crew was blown away by their firepower and teamwork.”

— LT. COL. JOHN CLEARWATER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OCPA-LA

BY CAPT. VANESSA LI, 322ND  
CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE

PHOTO BY CAPT. CLARENCE TENORIO,  
3302ND MOBILIZATION SUPPORT BATTALION

# the first ever maneuver enhancement brigade academy

Soldiers of the 303rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade participate in a roundtable discussion, here, Sept. 17, with Tommy Simmons, a capability manager from the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Training and Doctrine Command.



“[We decided] the best way to do that was to engage the MEB subject matter experts at Fort Leonard Wood. [And] that’s exactly what we did,” said Hart.

A month after standing up the brigade, Hart and key 303rd MEB staff members traveled to visit MEB experts in Missouri. From the initial visit spawned the academy.

Hart praised Maj. Stacey Goodman, 303rd MEB executive officer and academy “brain child” for paving the way by presenting the academy concept to key leaders at the MSCoE.

“When Goodman presented the academy concept... they were more than just pleasantly surprised on what she had conceptualized,” said Hart. “Her academy concept melded perfectly with what the MSCoE was in the midst of planning. Hence one of the main reasons the MSCoE chose the 303rd as the MEB to implement the academy.”

Now, just months later, this locally hosted course will help the recently activated brigade train its Reserve Soldiers quickly.

Lt. Col. Michael Lockwood, 303rd MEB deputy commander, said he fully supports and believes in the ability of the MEB Academy to train the unit’s Soldiers in the functions and tasks of a MEB.

The brigade command sergeant major agreed.

“It [the academy] gives our Soldiers training, from-the-ground-up, on how to do their jobs doctrinally,” said 303rd Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Harr. “We want everyone, of all ranks, to know what a MEB is and how to run it successfully.”

This weekend’s activities were just the beginning. The Army Reserve-focused academy will continue throughout the year ahead. It will primarily be conducted during select battle assemblies (weekend drills) and supplemented by individual self study.

The academy will incorporate real-world experience from active duty, National Guard and Reserve MEBs into practical exercises, using diverse training venues and products that provide unit members with guidance on MEB functions, capabilities and doctrine.

Training efforts will culminate in a capstone event that is scheduled for August 2012 during extended combat training at the MSCoE. ❏

**FORT SHAFTER FLATS, Hawaii** – The 9th Mission Support Command’s 303rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade recently kicked off the first-ever U.S. Army Reserve MEB Academy.

During the two-day event, leaders of the 303rd MEB teamed with instructors from the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Training and Doctrine Command, to train nearly 100 leaders and staff members on MEB roles and responsibilities.

The visiting TRADOC instructors and MEB subject-matter experts shared credible, up-to-date, operational and strategic information from leaders in the field via roundtable discussions, breakout sessions and other forums.

Soldiers seemed to appreciate the focus on training. 2nd Lt. John Pinpin, military intelligence officer, 303rd MEB, said the training “has given me a clear picture of what is expected. [The instructors] have so much knowledge; I just want to pick their brains.”

This academy was the 303rd MEB’s homegrown answer to the challenge of seeking operational capability within the next two years while having the title of the Army’s newest MEB.

Col. Randy Hart, brigade commander, said the brigade’s focus since activation has been learning and meeting MEB doctrinal objectives.

Maneuver Enhancement Brigades provide a wide spectrum of capabilities to address a myriad of missions such as nation building, peace keeping, and domestic response.

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