



THE

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BRIDGE



Always Ready
TEC Soldiers Stay on Top of Theater Operations

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Maj. Mary L. Olodun, Editor-in-Chief

16 April 2012

Dear Readers,

This is the final quarterly mass print issue of The Bridge magazine. Like so many of our Army's flagship publications, we too must say good-bye to the old way of doing business and hello to our online format for massive readership called the new "E-Bridge."

I encourage you to fan the 416th Theater Engineer Command on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/416thTEC> to keep up with daily command activities, in addition, bookmark our E-Bridge webpage:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/142/the-bridge>

It is my expectation that this transition will assist the Army Reserve's message expansion so that Soldiers, Civilians and Families can share the Army Reserve stories with an ever-emergent audience.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Olodun
MAJ, PAO
Editor-in-Chief





Public Affairs Media Tips

- Always check with your PAO/UPAR prior to speaking with the media, via your CoC.
- NEVER speak in uniform unless you are requested by your CoC or PAO to speak on behalf of the USAR.
- When on duty status, it is required that all Soldiers receive their PAO's clearance prior to engaging with the media (416th TEC PAO holds release authority on all public messages).
- Army Regulation 360-1 is your Public Affairs Regulation—please check it out!



(Please cut out the card below and carry as a reminder)

P.A.O.

P: Public Speaking

A: Required Action

O: Seek your PA Officer

Speaking Tips

- Focus on your expertise. Talk about what you know and avoid issues that are outside of your responsibility.
- Be honest. Never lie to the media. If there is something you can't or don't want to say, don't say it.
- Control the interview.
- Take every opportunity to tell your story. Don't speculate or answer hypothetical questions.

bend here

COMMAND NOTES

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall

In this, my final contribution to The Bridge magazine, I would like to express my profound gratitude and respect to all members of the 416th Theater Engineer Command family. It has been a joy to serve with you. The activities highlighted in this issue are just a small sample of the outstanding accomplishments of this command around the globe. Your professionalism and devotion to our Nation and each of us as “family” members, refreshes the spirit and makes us Army Strong!



Gaby and I will soon be moving on to our next Army assignment with the Essayons spirit and hopeful anticipation that is characteristic of the “Army life”. We look forward to seeing you along the trail and in future encounters when we can reminisce about the times we’ve shared. It has been the greatest privilege to serve as Commander; one I never imagined would be mine. I hope that I have served you well and have been worthy of your trust. As Brig. Gen. Martin steps forward into the commander’s position, I know you will extend to him your loyalty and passion to serve our Nation.

I will always remember your friendship and shared service.

With every good wish and God’s blessings,

Farewell!

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall during the 416th TEC Change of Command on April 20 held in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.



THE BRIDGE

Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command

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FRONT COVER:
MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan –Sgt. Andrew Velasquez, HHC, 980th Engineer Battalion and a medic for the Personal Security Detail (PSD) takes a moment to pose on top of FOB Masum Ghar on Jan. 19. The PSD team received coins from their Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery after one of their mission in which they encountered a suicide vehicle born improvised explosive device (S-VBIED). See page 28 for more on this story. (Photo by Spc. Valerie Willhoite, 980th EN BN, UPAR)

BACK COVER:
WHITE HOUSE, Wash. D.C. – 1st Lt. Paul Gonzalez, 401st EN CO, and wife (3rd and 4th person on President's right), Johanna, sits across from our Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama, during a special dinner at the White House honoring veterans of the Iraq War. Gonzalez was selected (one of three reserve soldiers) along with other servicemembers who were awarded for their acts of valor and heroism. (Courtesy Photo)

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Command Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Reeve

Final Salute

This summer, my tenure with the 416th Theater Engineer Command will come to a close. I can only say it has been an honor and privilege to serve with the remarkable Soldiers of the 416th TEC for the past four years.

On July 31, I will also retire from the Reserve, as I did not choose to seek a follow on assignment. After 35 years of service to our Nation, I can only say I have been blessed to serve with many outstanding Soldiers at many different levels. I started my career in the military as a private in 1977 and have served as a team leader, squad leader, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and command sergeant major. The experiences in each of these positions allowed me to have a better understanding of our Soldier's needs. Basic soldiering responsibilities have never changed and never will. There are numerous reasons why Soldiers sign a contract, but for the most part, it is mainly due to the loyalty we have for our Nation.

During the time I have served as the Command Sergeant Major of the 416th TEC, two of my top goals were to ensure communication and information was filtered down to the Company level so all Soldiers stayed informed; and to provide First-Line Leaders with the tools they needed to do their job effectively. With support from great Officers and NCO's in the Command, we have made great strides in that direction. We have grown as an organization coming together from several Regional Support Commands to a size of over 12,000 Soldiers. I feel extremely accomplished in reaching my most important goals during my term as your CSM.

Since 9/11, the Army Reserve has changed and improved to a degree that is almost unbelievable. The level of experience and dedication our Soldiers have in today's Army Reserve is like no other time in history. To have our Nation at war for this length of time has required our Active Duty, Army Reserve and National Guard forces to come together and work as one. This is a positive thing that needed to occur and we are a better equipped Nation because of it. The reason our Nation can now rely on our Reserve force to step up and fill-in the role of a combat Soldier at any grade level or MOS can only be attributed to outstanding **leadership** and great **training**.

I have tried my best to live by the following three principles during my career: 1.) Always treat others the way you want to be treated, 2.) Do not make a promise you cannot keep and 3.) Always tell the truth. I am a firm believer those who violate these three principles will fail, as I have witnessed it on more than one occasion over my 35 years in service. Soldiers look to leaders to be competent, confident and trustworthy. The Army Reserve will continue to improve and change at a pace we have never seen before, as we are constantly making improvements in areas such as weaponry, technology, and how we communicate.

Lastly, I challenge each and every Soldier in the 416th TEC, Officers and Enlisted, to be the best you can for yourself, your family and our Nation. I am proud to have served with you and can only hope I have done my part in service to *you*.

Thanks for all you do
CSM Reeve





Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Reever talks to Soldiers of the 367th Engineer Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to their deployment to Iraq in 2010. After 35 years of service, Reever plans on retiring this summer. (Photo by Spc. Angela Cadriel, 367th EN BN)

Chaplain (COL) Bruce Fredrickson

Army Strong Bonds — Pathway to Resiliency

By Chaplain (Col.) Bruce Fredrickson and 1st Lt. Cavett Ishihara

Our personal and family frustrations most often occur when we compare life's current situations to the happiest and most joyful moments of the past. By comparing the best and worst, we create tension in our lives that can spin out of control when not resolved.

To help ease this tension in our lives the Army Strong Bonds program provides excellent training and tools to single soldiers, married soldiers, and families. Soldiers attend in a paid status and all expenses are covered by the Strong Bonds Program.

In most cases, Strong Bonds events are chaplain-led, multi-day training opportunities that include hotel accommodations, meals and time to bond. So how do you know if you should attend?

Reports back from Strong Bonds events often include comments like:

“After returning home from downrange, we had trouble reconnecting. After the training, we applied the teachings last night and discovered that we truly are on the same page.”

“As a single parent I was skeptical that I would learn anything here, but I learned more about myself. That made the trip worth it!”

“We liked the relaxed environment. We enjoy the time together, but most of all we appreciate seeing that others struggle just like us.”

“My husband has been a soldier for 16 years and this is the first time I was invited to an event that was focused on improving our marriage...they even provided childcare.”

Impact studies on Strong Bonds Couples Program demonstrate that couples who apply the training show marked improvement in skills and habits that lead to increased marriage satisfaction, resiliency, and survival. Additionally, couples who attended Strong Bonds retreats report significant increases in their connection to the Army community and confidence that their marriage cannot only survive, but thrive. More than 90 percent of those who participate in Strong Bonds report that the program was helpful and much appreciated.

Because Army Strong Bonds events can help us live the Army Values, leaders are especially encouraged to attend as well as refer their Soldiers for attendance. Seats fill up fast so sign-up early! Soldiers need approval from their commander to attend. We encourage leaders to check the Strong Bond website regularly for the most up to date information. For questions, see your unit chaplain.

Event and registration information is available online at www.strongbonds.org.



#	63 rd RSC Event Date	Type	Location	Enrollment
APRIL 2012				
19	19-22 Apr	Family	Anaheim	OPEN
21	20-22 Apr	Couples	Anaheim	OPEN
23	20-22 Apr	Singles	Anaheim	OPEN
MAY 2012				
26	4-6 May	Couples	Arrlington, TX	OPEN
28	4-6 May	Singles	Arrlington, TX	OPEN
JUNE 2012				
29	8-10 June	Couples	Southern California	OPEN
32	8-10 June	Singles	Southern California	OPEN
JULY 2012				
35	19-22 Jul	Family	Arrlington, TX	OPEN
36	19-22 Jul	Couples	Arrlington, TX	OPEN
37	19-22 Jul	Singles	Arrlington, TX	OPEN
August 2012				
38	9-12 Aug	Family	Anaheim	OPEN
40	10-12 Aug	Couples	Anaheim	OPEN
41	10-12 Aug	Singles	Anaheim	OPEN

Soldier must live within the 88th RSC, and attend the event that is closest to their residence.

Primary mode of travel will be POV or rental car. Soldier should be within 350 miles of event location.

Soldier must be legally married to attend a couples retreat, spouse enrolled in DEERS.

Soldiers MUST be enrolled into DTS "Defense Travel System" in order to attend an event.

Soldiers wishing to attend a Family Retreat MUST have at least one child that is at least seven years old

88th RSC Event Dates	Location	Type of Retreat	Childcare	Registration Deadline
MAY 4-6	KANSAS CITY	MARRIED	NO	04 APR 12
JUN 8-10	SEATTLE	SINGLE/MARRIED	NO	08 MAY 12
JUN 22-24	DENVER	SINGLE/MARRIED/FAMILY	YES/family	21 MAY 12
JUL 13-15	CHICAGO	SINGLE/MARRIED	NO	13 JUN 12
JUL 20-22	CHICAGO	SINGLE/MARRIED/FAMILY	YES/family	02 JUL 12
AUG 17-19	SEATTLE	SINGLE/MARRIED/FAMILY	YES/family	16 JUL 12
AUG 24-26	ST LOUIS	FAMILY	YES	23 JUL 12

Building a Self-sustaining Engineer Force

Story and Photos by Sgt. Joseph Koltan, 980th Engineer Battalion

TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan—As the 2014 drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan approaches, the role of U.S. and coalition forces is moving towards helping the Afghan troops defend their country. It's because of the evolving mission that three soldiers from the 980th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), an Army Reserve battalion from Dallas, Texas, were chosen to work alongside the Australian Army to train and mentor Afghan National Army (ANA) engineer soldiers.

The six-week engineer course in Tarin Kowt trains 13 to 20 ANA soldiers per class cycle. They learn the fundamentals of operating heavy construction equipment—specifically backhoe loaders, compactors, Bobcats and front-end loaders.

British and Australian Army veteran Sgt. Taft Hall, member of Australia's Mentoring Task Force 3, began the course in September 2011. Taft saw a need to train the ANA soldiers because they lacked the basic engineering skills necessary to maintain and sustain their own patrol bases.

"[Australian] rotations before us never focused on mentoring ANA in construction engineering," explained Taft. "But now that two classes have gone through, their skills are tenfold and they've been given the confidence to operate."

Currently the 980th soldiers are assisting the Australians, but when February approaches and the Australians begin reducing their troop numbers, Sgt. Frank Singer, Spc.

Kenny Adams, and Spc. Anthony Hartigan will assume full management of the construction course. They are the first American troops to train ANA engineers at Tarin Kowt.

"It was an eye opener to see their eagerness to learn," said Singer, a native of San Antonio, Texas, currently serving his 10th year in the Army and third tour overseas. "They really want Americans training them. They tell us all the time."

Abdul Sabur, a member of the most recent construction class, was thrilled to see the Americans arrive to teach.

"Absolutely we need [U.S. soldiers] to come here and train us," Sabur said through the interpreter. "We've learned a lot of things [from them]."

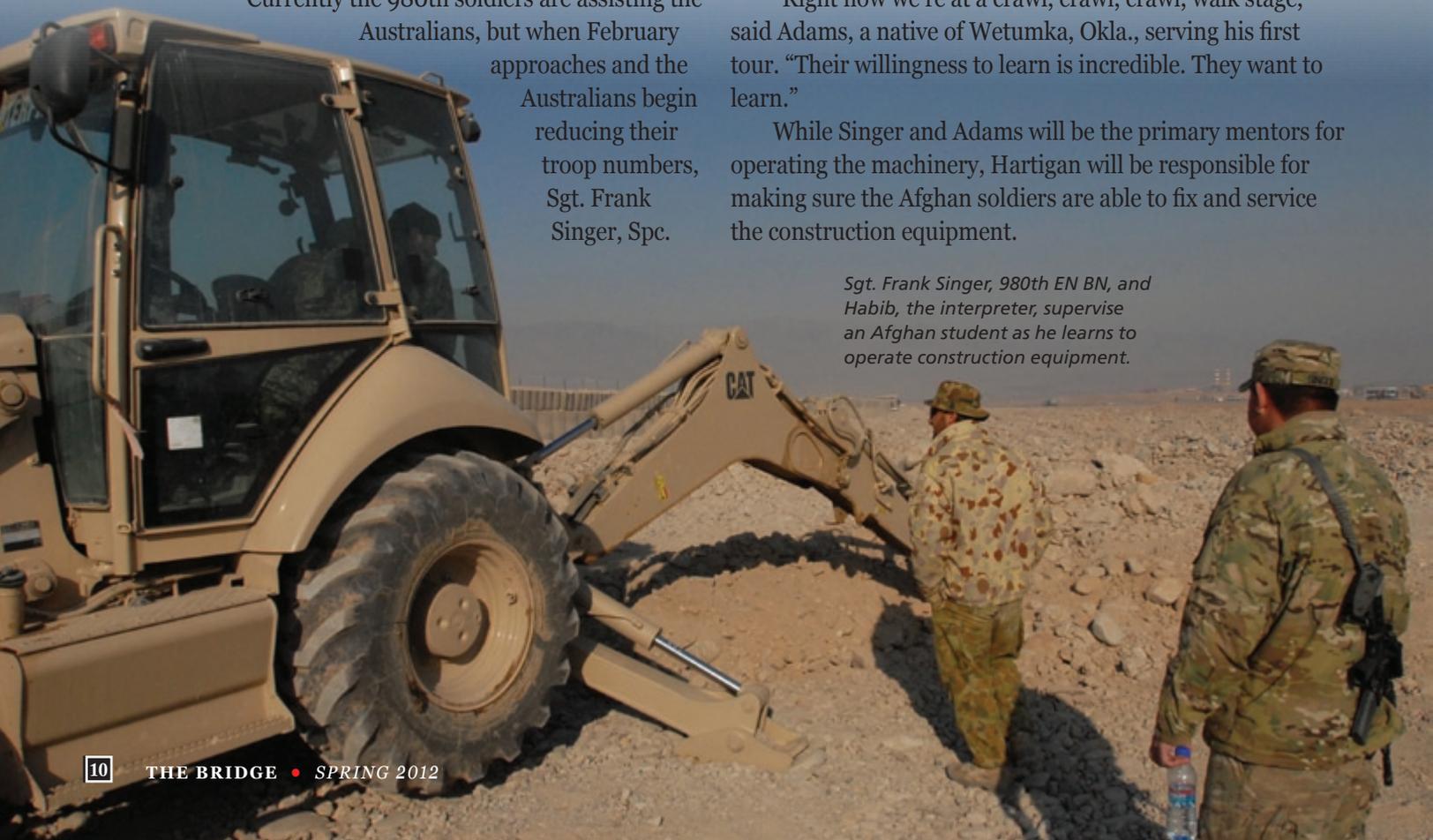
The central mission for the 980th soldiers will be to continue what Taft envisioned for the course—act as mentors and then slowly step back to the point where the Afghans are in full control of the course and ready to execute construction missions without the help of coalition forces.

Even though most of the Afghan soldiers have little education and cannot read or write, Spc. Adams has high expectations the hands-on training will be successful.

"Right now we're at a crawl, crawl, crawl, walk stage," said Adams, a native of Wetumka, Okla., serving his first tour. "Their willingness to learn is incredible. They want to learn."

While Singer and Adams will be the primary mentors for operating the machinery, Hartigan will be responsible for making sure the Afghan soldiers are able to fix and service the construction equipment.

Sgt. Frank Singer, 980th EN BN, and Habib, the interpreter, supervise an Afghan student as he learns to operate construction equipment.



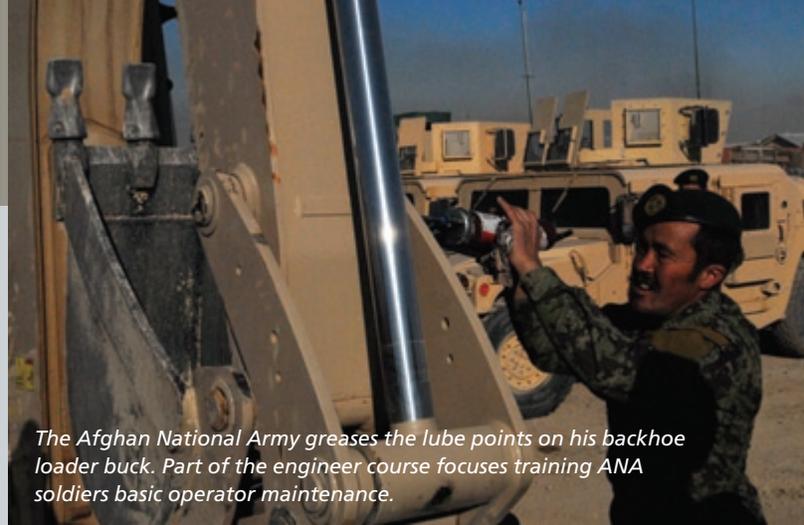
“[The goal] I want to achieve is for the ANA to recognize different parts of the machines and what needs fixing,” explained Hartigan, a diesel mechanic from Forked River, N.J., serving his first tour.

In only a couple of weeks, Hartigan has already seen success with his teaching.

“When we first got here, they hopped in the equipment and went to work. Now they are taking the time to check fluids and do a 360 inspection before operating.”

The Afghan soldiers have already started playing a larger role in training their soldiers. The most recent engineer class is led by a class non-commissioned officer and two well-trained senior NCO operators. The class NCO ensures all the necessary training takes place, while the two senior NCOs do most of the training.

Once Afghan engineers graduate from the engineer course, they are assigned to the ANA 4th Kandak BN where



The Afghan National Army greases the lube points on his backhoe loader bucket. Part of the engineer course focuses training ANA soldiers basic operator maintenance.

they receive further hands-on training and begin patrol base maintenance.

Support for the school is gaining more ground, and new equipment should arrive soon. Adams expects to see bulldozer, tractor-trailer, and road grader training and maintenance added to the course. The 980th EN BN would also like to add another mechanic and two operator instructors to the course.

The most recent engineer class of 13 ANA soldiers graduated on Jan. 24. Singer, Adams and Hartigan will take over responsibility of future courses. 🇺🇸

(From left to right) Spc. Kenny Adams, Spc. Anthony Hartigan, and Sgt. Frank Singer, members of the 980th Engineer Battalion, Dallas, are the first American soldiers to train Afghan engineer students at Tarin Kowt. The three soldiers will take full control of the engineer course from the Australian army.



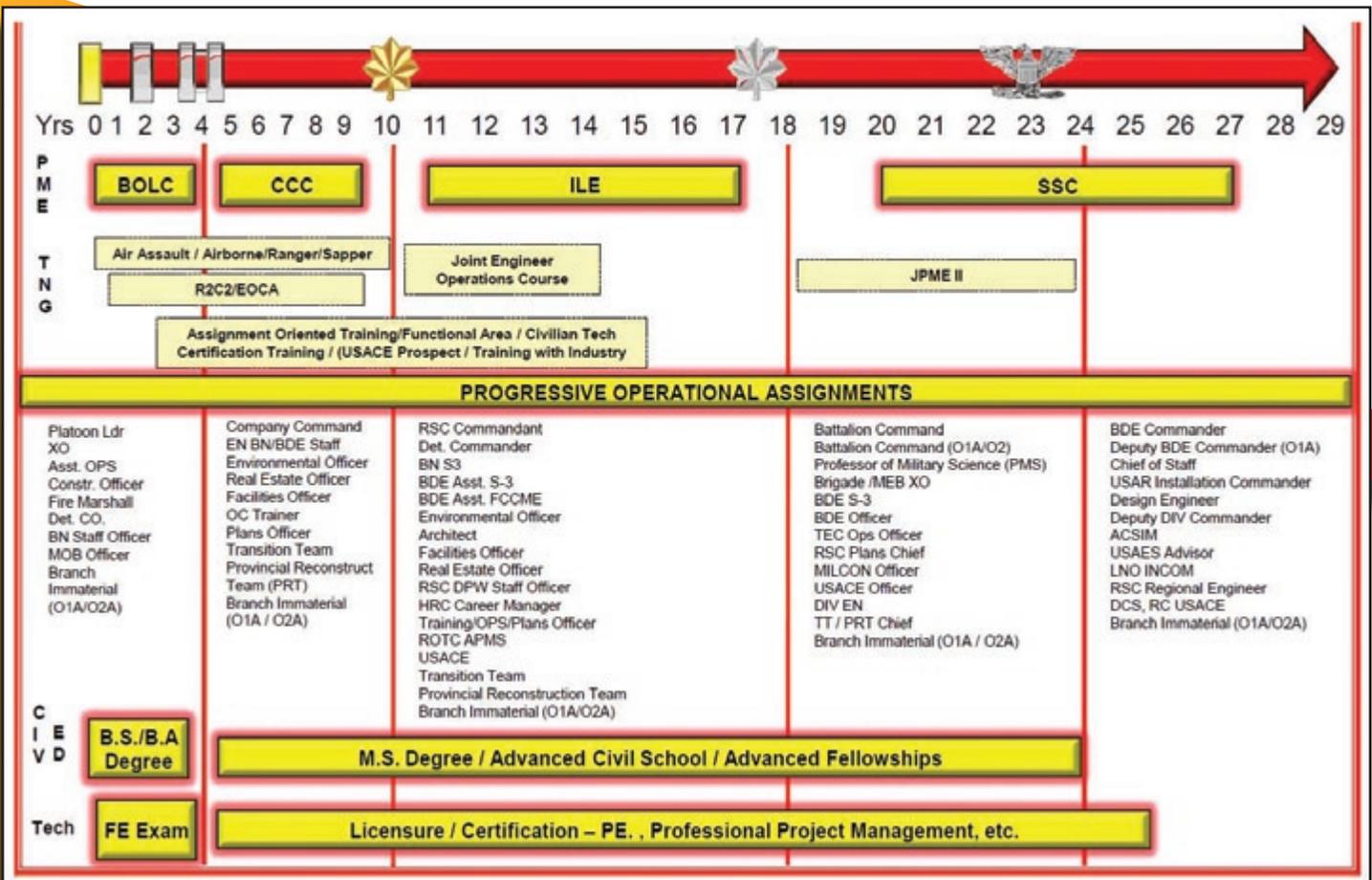


Are you following the right career path?

Engineer Enlisted Career Map

RANK	PVT-SPC		SERGEANT		STAFF SERGEANT	SERGEANT FIRST CLASS	FIRST SERGEANT MASTER SERGEANT	COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SERGEANT MAJOR		
YEARS OF SERVICE	1-3		4-6		7-9	10-15	16-19	20-30		
KEY LEADERSHIP ASSIGNMENTS	12B, 12C, 12K, 12M, 12N, 12P, 12R, 12T, 12V, 12W, 12Y		Team Leader, *		Squad Leader, Section Leader, Construction Section Leader, Station Chief, *	Platoon Sergeant, Operation Sergeant, Senior Construction Supervisor, Fire Chief, *	First Sergeant	Command Sergeant Major		
GENERATING FORCE ASSIGNMENTS	Combat Engineer, Bridge Crewman, Boat Operator, Vehicle Driver, Plumber/Pipefitter, Firefighter, Horizontal Construction, Interior Electrician, Concrete/Asphalt Equipment Operator, Carpentry/Masonry Specialist, Geospatial Engineer, *		Operations Sergeant Asst Operations Sergeant Recruiter Drill Sergeant		Observer/Controller Drill Sergeant Recruiter Retention NCO IG SSG (F) Instructor/Writer Small Group Leader	Drill Sergeant Platoon Sergeant Operation NCO Senior Small Group Leader Retention NCO Recruiter Career Management NCO Instructor/Writer Observer Controller Trainer Operations Sergeant Asst Operations Sergeant	First Sergeant Training Developmental NCO ANCO/BNCO Course Chief Senior Instructor/Writer Senior Career Manager Senior Career Advisor EO NCO	Senior Instructor/Writer OPS/TRN/IRS/SQM USASMA Instructor (SGL) Senior Enlisted Advisor QA Sergeant Major Intel Sergeant Major		
NCOES	IET	SSD I	WLC	SSD II Common Core / ALC	SSD III	SLC	SSD IV		SMA	SSD V
RECOMMENDED OPERATIONAL COURSES	Cross Cultural Psychology, Interpersonal Conflict Solution, Social Psychology, Applied Behavior Analysis, Robotics, Microsoft Project, Languages (Arabic, Pashto, Dari, etc.)									
RECOMMENDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES	Sapper Leader Course	R2C2-Sapper R2C2-Operator Sapper Leader Course Urban Mobility Breaching Course EOCA Introduction to Computers		Sapper Leader Course R2C2-Leader R2C2-Sapper R2C2-Operator Urban Mobility Breaching Course E-EOCA Principles of Management	Intermediate Search Course Counter Explosive Hazards-Hazmat Course Mechanized Leader Course Organizational Behavior Area Clearance course (ACC) Explosive Hazard Unit Trainer (E-HUT)	Human Resource Management Organizational Management Principles of Supervision				
FUNCTIONAL TRAINING ASI/ SQI	<p align="center">COMMON ASI/SQI</p> <p>ASI: 2B - Battle Staff, E8 - Explosive Ordnance Clearing Agent, F7- Pathfinder, B6 - Combat Engineer Heavy Track, 2B-Air Assault, D3-Bradley Fighting Vehicle Operations and Maintenance, C4-Crane Operator, E5- Instrument Maintenance, 2S- Mechanical Equipment Maintenance, S3- Electrical Equipment Maintenance, U4- Power Line Distribution, G3-Lithographer, *</p> <p>SQI: 2 - Training Developer, 4 - Non-Career Recruiter, 8 - Instructor, M - First Sergeant, Q - Equal Opportunity Advisor, X - Drill Sergeant</p>									
RECOMMENDED CMF-RELATED CERTIFICATION OR DEGREE GOAL	<p align="center">NATIONAL TRADE/PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION:</p> <p>Certified Professional Construction Supervisor, Certified Construction Manager, Project Management Degree, Bridge Safety Inspector, Certified Demolition Specialist, Firefighter I, II, etc., HAZMAT Awareness/Operations</p> <p>AA/AS in: Engineering Technology; General Studies</p> <p>BA/BS in: Engineering Management; Business Management; Construction Management; Communication</p>									

Engineer Officer Career Map



*Check HRC website for specifics on all different Engineer MOS

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/enlisted/CMF%202012%20Professional%20Career%20Map>

Two TECs, One Voice

Story and Photos by Spc. Devin M. Wood, 412th TEC Public Affairs

VICKSBURG, Miss.--History was made when the only two theater engineer commands in the United States military came together for the first time in a joint workshop February 3-5, 2012.

Senior leaders from the Army Reserve's 412th and 416th Theater Engineer Commands got together to discuss issues facing both organizations, and to find ways of synchronizing the "way ahead" for both commands.

"Our desired relationship is to speak with one voice in all our strategic efforts," said Col. Miyako Schanely, 416th TEC Chief of Staff.

"That way we don't have two separate engineer commands saying two different things," said Lt. Col. Mark Leighton, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, 412th TEC.

"We understand the global environment, we agree what our role is and we pursue that role while not being at odds with each other," said, Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, commander, 412th TEC.

Though many of the participants communicate electronically with their counterparts, many of them had never met. The workshop afforded the two commanders and their staffs an opportunity for face to face interaction.

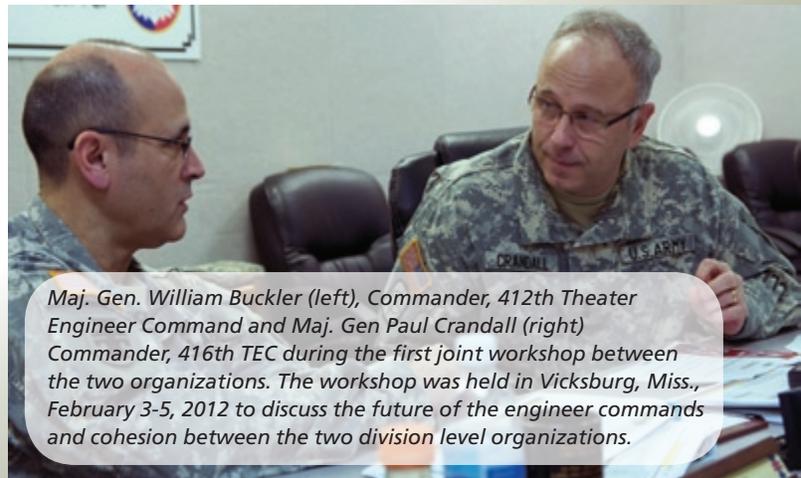
"We brought up different issues, we talked about them, and we provided some common guidance and it gave the staffs some opportunity to hash out different things...but the real benefit was that general Crandall, [the 416th TEC commander] and I provided our vision," said Buckler.

Both sides seem to agree that the workshop was a step in the right direction, and there's discussion of a second workshop.

"By the end of the first day...we already were seeing benefits that made it worthwhile," said Buckler.

"This time we only had the HQ's staff in our workshop, but the next meeting, whether VTC or in person, we need to involve appropriate staff representatives from our down-trace units as well," said Schanely.

The two division level headquarters changed from engineer commands to theater engineer commands when the Army Reserve transformed from the Regional Support Structure to the current Functional Command Structure in Oct. 2009. The 412th TEC currently governs all Army Reserve engineer, and engineer-support units east of the Mississippi River, and the 416th manages the ones to the west. 



Maj. Gen. William Buckler (left), Commander, 412th Theater Engineer Command and Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall (right) Commander, 416th TEC during the first joint workshop between the two organizations. The workshop was held in Vicksburg, Miss., February 3-5, 2012 to discuss the future of the engineer commands and cohesion between the two division level organizations.

Col. Charles Carson (left) 412th Theater Engineer Command Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Affairs, and his 416th TEC counterpart, Col. Matthew Russo (front/right) discuss issues facing both organizations during the first workshop between the two organizations. The purpose of the meeting which took place February 3-5, 2012, was to address the future of the engineer commands and cohesion between both organizations.



Veterans listen closely to a speaker during the United Veterans Legislative Council of Minnesota on March 7.

Veterans Attend Important Brief

Story and Photos by Spc. Lindsey Schulte, 364TH Public Affairs Operation Center (PAOC)

FORT SNELLING, Minn. - The United Veterans Legislative Council of Minnesota including veteran organizations and government officials, discussed issues currently affecting veterans and how they are being addressed at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System on March 7.

It provides us the opportunity to collaborate on joint values, said Maj. Gen. Glenn J. Lesniak, the Commanding General of the 88th Regional Support Command.

The main points addressed during the briefing were providing veterans with jobs and housing.

Air Force Lt. Col. Sandy L. Best, the Director of Government Relations for the Department of Military Affairs, spoke about the Employment Resource Team who conducted Employment Skills Readiness Training to deployed troops to prepare them for jobs when they return home.

Barb S. O'Reilly, the Director of Women Veterans and Employment Initiatives for the Minnesota VA, described how troops and veteran friendly employers can use websites like www.positivelyminnesota.com/ veterans to reach each other and conduct virtual interviews.

A phone or Skype interview can lead to a hire, conditional upon a second interview when they return home, said O'Reilly

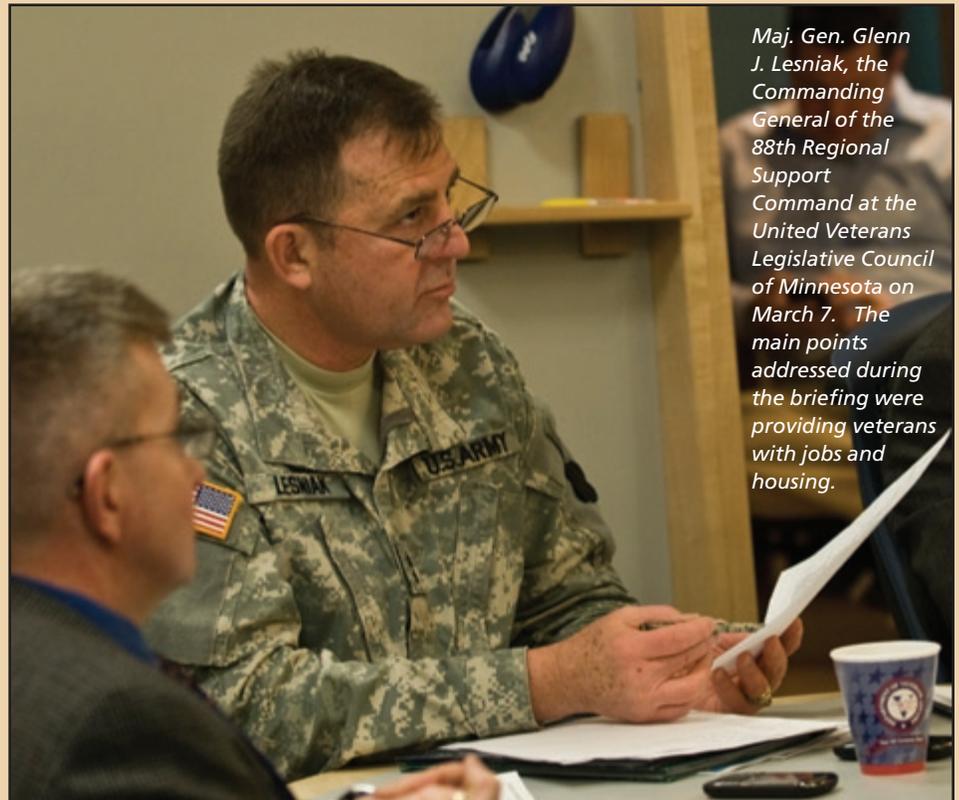
The financial adjustment veterans must make when they return home leave some unable to afford their houses even with new civilian jobs. Connie Haddeland, who stood in for Rep. Betty McCollum, discussed how the plans for housing appropriations and the Service Member Civil Rights Act may help veterans avoid foreclosure and homelessness.

For veterans suffering from homelessness, Kathy Vitalis, with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, announced the progress for

developing a 24 month transitional home up to code for women veterans with children to live in while they get on their feet.

The information shared at these meetings help keep government representatives and organization policy makers aware of the needs of veterans in Minnesota and how to address those needs.

"Everybody in that room is focused on how to make [Minnesota] a state that is veteran friendly," said Best. 🇺🇸



Maj. Gen. Glenn J. Lesniak, the Commanding General of the 88th Regional Support Command at the United Veterans Legislative Council of Minnesota on March 7. The main points addressed during the briefing were providing veterans with jobs and housing.



Sgt. 1st Class Steve V. Kimsey II, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), prepares for the coin toss as Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Army chief of staff, looks on in the background just prior to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl game at the Alamodome on Jan. 7.

Army Reserve marks exciting time in its history during All-American Bowl

Story and Photos by 1st Sgt. Robert R. Ramon, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SAN ANTONIO (January 9, 2012) – Twenty-five Army Reserve Warrior Citizens, to include 1st Lt. Paul Gonzalez, 401st EN CO, were among the 90 Soldier Heroes and 90 top high school football players from around the country who

participated in the 12th annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome Jan. 7.

Participating Soldier Heroes are veterans of either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and recipients of an Army

Commendation Medal with V device or higher. Many have received the Purple Heart or Bronze Star medals.

Despite impending Army-wide budget cuts, the Army Reserve looks to become better than ever and the All-American Bowl proved a perfect venue to spread this message. “This is a great time for the Army Reserve,” said Maj. Gen. Keith Thurgood, U.S. Army Reserve deputy chief.

“During the All-American Bowl, our Soldier Heroes get to talk to people about what the Army Reserve is about,” said Thurgood. “It’s a great chance for us to highlight everything that’s good about the Army as



U.S. Army All-American Bowl football players stand with Soldier Heroes before the start of the game at the Alamodome on Jan. 7.



the nation's premiere institute for leadership."

Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Palmer, a Soldier Hero and the 2011 U.S. Army Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year, said he was excited to tell the Army Reserve story during All-American Bowl week.

"It was a great decision to continue my service in the Army Reserve," said Palmer who transitioned from the active Army to the Army Reserve in 2000. "I didn't want to raise a family and be gone all the time. The Army Reserve was a good fit that allowed me to continue to wear the uniform and serve my country, yet still be there for my wife and children."

Army Reserve leaders are exploring ways to make it easier for active duty soldiers to transition to the Reserve through an initiative known as Continuum of Service, or COS, stated Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Schultz, Army Reserve command sergeant major.

"As the active duty looks to draw down, we're looking to bring some of those soldiers into the Army Reserve," said Schultz. "We need that kind of leadership in the Army Reserve and we're looking across the entire force for the best and the brightest."

COS will allow soldiers to move between active, reserve and civilian components while preserving the Army's investment in training and education, said Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson, the Army Reserve deputy chief (Individual Mobilization Augmentee).

"We're trying to create a way for soldiers to seamlessly transition between the various statuses whether you're going from active to reserve, reserve to active, or any other combinations," said Anderson.

The Army Reserve has much to offer whether it's the great health benefits, educational opportunities, or family-friendly flexibility, she said.

"Ultimately we need to retain skills that we've gained since 9-11," added Anderson. "We want to provide an

environment that is soldier and family-friendly that allows us to retain this investment we've made in people and also to provide our soldiers with a reason to stay in."

Schultz said, "the Army Reserve already has some of the best soldiers within its ranks and "we're always looking to improve the foxhole." This means current reserve soldiers have nothing to fear from the active duty draw down, unless they're among those who are not meeting standards.

"Those soldiers who aren't meeting that benchmark, the standards that we have in place, they may not have a seat at the table," said Schultz. "The cream is rising to the top and that's the direction we're moving into. It's challenging, but exciting times for us."

The excitement was palpable as the Army Reserve Soldier Heroes gathered together on the eve of the All-American Bowl contest. Like a good football coach does with his players before a big game, Thurgood rallied the troops.

"We're going to deliver the best capabilities that we can, given the resources our nation will give us," said Thurgood. "As the active Army shrinks down, the nation still needs the most decisive land force in the world. When the nation says 'go' we have to be ready to deliver those capabilities on call. This is a time for us to make a difference." 🇺🇸

Editor's Note: Additional photos taken by several U.S. Army photographers during the All-American Bowl week can be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/goarmyphotos>

A March to Remember

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, 416th TEC PAO

7o years ago on April 9th, during World War II over 12,000 American and 60,000 Filipino prisoners of war were forced to march an estimated seventy miles through the jungles of the Philippines, by the Imperial Japanese Army after American's largest military surrender in history. Thousands died in what today is known as the Bataan Death March.

On March 25, a group of soldiers from the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) took part in the 23rd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March held in White Sands, N.M. The event recognizes the sacrifice by the young American and Filipino men who suffered the grueling and deadly forced march as prisoners of war through the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines.

The 416th's team made up of Maj. William Beltran, Master Sgt. Jose King, Master Sgt. Rochelle Lindsey, Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, and Sgt. 1st Class (P) Carlos Walker came in 4th overall in the

Co-Ed Military Light category, less than a second from 3rd place in the 26.2-mile march considered one of the toughest marathon courses.

The course known for its gradual uphill, infamous "Sand Pit" and miles and miles of nothing but desert will take a toll on even the most experienced marathoners.

"The Bataan Memorial Death March tests your character, inner strength, heart and will," said Lindsey.

"The toughest part [of the march] was the never ending hills and sand pit," added Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Allen, who completed the march in the individual military light category.

From the 94th Training Division's Inspector General office, Walker originally signed up to do the Bataan Memorial Death March in the individual category, but when the 416th TEC team asked him at the last minute to be part of their team, he willingly volunteered.

A group of soldiers in military gear are marching along a paved road that stretches into the distance. The landscape is arid with sparse vegetation and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The soldiers are in various stages of the march, some in the foreground and others further down the road.

We're the battling bastards of Bataan;
No mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam.
No aunts, no uncles, no cousins, no nieces,
No pills, no planes, no artillery pieces.
And nobody gives a damn.
Nobody gives a damn.*



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, Master Sgt. Rochelle Lindsey, Sgt. 1st Class (P) Carlos Walker and Maj. William Beltran along with former Bataan Prisoner of War, Lawrence Henderson. Henderson, who lives in Las Cruces, N.M., is one of 61 remaining Bataan survivors according to a New Mexico Department of Veteran's Services newsletter. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Julius Lindsey, Minneapolis Recruiting Company)



(L to R) Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, Master Sgt. Jose King, Master Sgt. Rochelle Lindsey, Maj. William Beltran, and Sgt. 1st Class (P) Carlos Walker, run towards the finish line at the 23rd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March on March 25. The 416th Theater Engineer Command team came in 4th overall in the Co-Ed Military Light category (less than a second from 3rd) in the 26.2 mile march considered one of the toughest marathon courses. (Photo by 1st Sgt. Julius Lindsey, Minneapolis Recruiting Company)

The march is about team work and not leaving a fallen comrade behind as all team members have to cross the finish line within 20 seconds of each other. Over twenty teams were disqualified.

Quitting was never an option, but it did taunt some of them after the course proved its rugged course.

“By the 20th mile I was worn out,” stated Beltran. “I had slightly twisted my right ankle three times due to the rough, sandy and uneven terrain. The team members would wait for me and encouraged me to continue at different points of the last two miles and that gave me strength to overcome the ordeal.”

I wanted to quit twice, but I just kept thinking about the survivors and the amputees who had the courage to do this march as well, added Allen.

“Crossing the finish line in a fast shuffle along [with] the team was both a very thrilling and emotional experience,” said Beltran.

Although most of the team, initially registered for the march to overcome the personal challenge, it became an unforgettable and emotional experience as the team had the opportunity to meet and thank Bataan survivors.

According to an article in the New Mexico Department of Veteran's Services newsletter, there are only 61 remaining Bataan survivors.

“The most memorial moment [for me] was the opening ceremony,” said Allen, which included an emotional roll call by some of the remaining survivors.

Being in the presence of those service members who survived the Bataan Death March was one of my most memorable moments, added Lindsey.

Marchers will continue to participate in this annual event, whether it's for a personal challenge, the spirit of the competition or to foster esprit de corps in their units, however the story of the original march must continue to be remembered.

“Marching 26.2 miles to honor those service members who defended the Philippine Islands, sacrificing their freedom, health and lives is well worth the challenge,” concluded Lindsey. 🇺🇸

*Editor's Note: Poem was recited by the Prisoners of War during their captivity under the Imperial Japanese Army in World War II. For more photos on this story go to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/416theengineers/sets/72157629325338758/>

The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act and New Authorities for Civil Support.

By Keith Eichorst, Civil-Military Projects Officer, 416th Theater Engineer Command



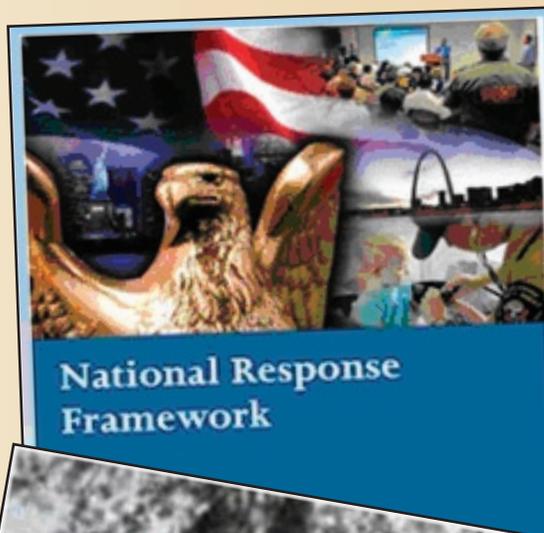
While the military is anticipating a drawdown in its activities, the reserve component has seen an increase in its legal authorization regarding Civil Support or Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA). The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2012, now signed into law, has

given the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) the authority to involuntarily activate Federal Reserve component members or units in the event of a major national disaster or other emergency. Section 12304b(a) of the NDAA gives the SECDEF the authority to activate units or members for a continuous period not to exceed 120 days, in response to a local governor's request for federal assistance.

Included in the NDAA is the authority [NDAA Sec. 12304b(c)] to appoint a "Dual Status Commander." A Dual-Status Commander would be an appointed Commander of military forces on the ground of a major disaster or emergency, as defined in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122). This Dual-Status Commander would have the authority to both simultaneously command federal (Title 10) armed forces as well as National Guard (Title 32) armed forces. Under Section 12304b(c)(2), when a major disaster occurs subject to the laws of any state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, the Governor of the state affected should be the principal civil authority, supported by the primary federal agency, to provide assistance. In these cases, federal (Title 10) armed forces are then used in support of the primary

federal agency that is providing assistance to that state. Department of Defense assets like the Army Reserve are normally in support to the lead federal agency.

Like all laws, further guidance is anticipated through Department of Defense Directives, Army regulations and training manuals to supplement implementation of this law for Army Reserve units and soldiers. 



Before You Tell it To an Inspector General

→ **Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.**

(Are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal)

→ **Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.**

(Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway)

→ **If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first.**

(IGs at higher commands will normally refer the case to the local IG for action)

→ **Be honest and don't provide misleading information.**

(IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information)

→ **Keep in mind that IGs are not policy makers.**

(If a policy is flawed you can submit proposed change on a DA form 2028)

→ **Keep in mind that IGs can only recommend, not order a resolution.**

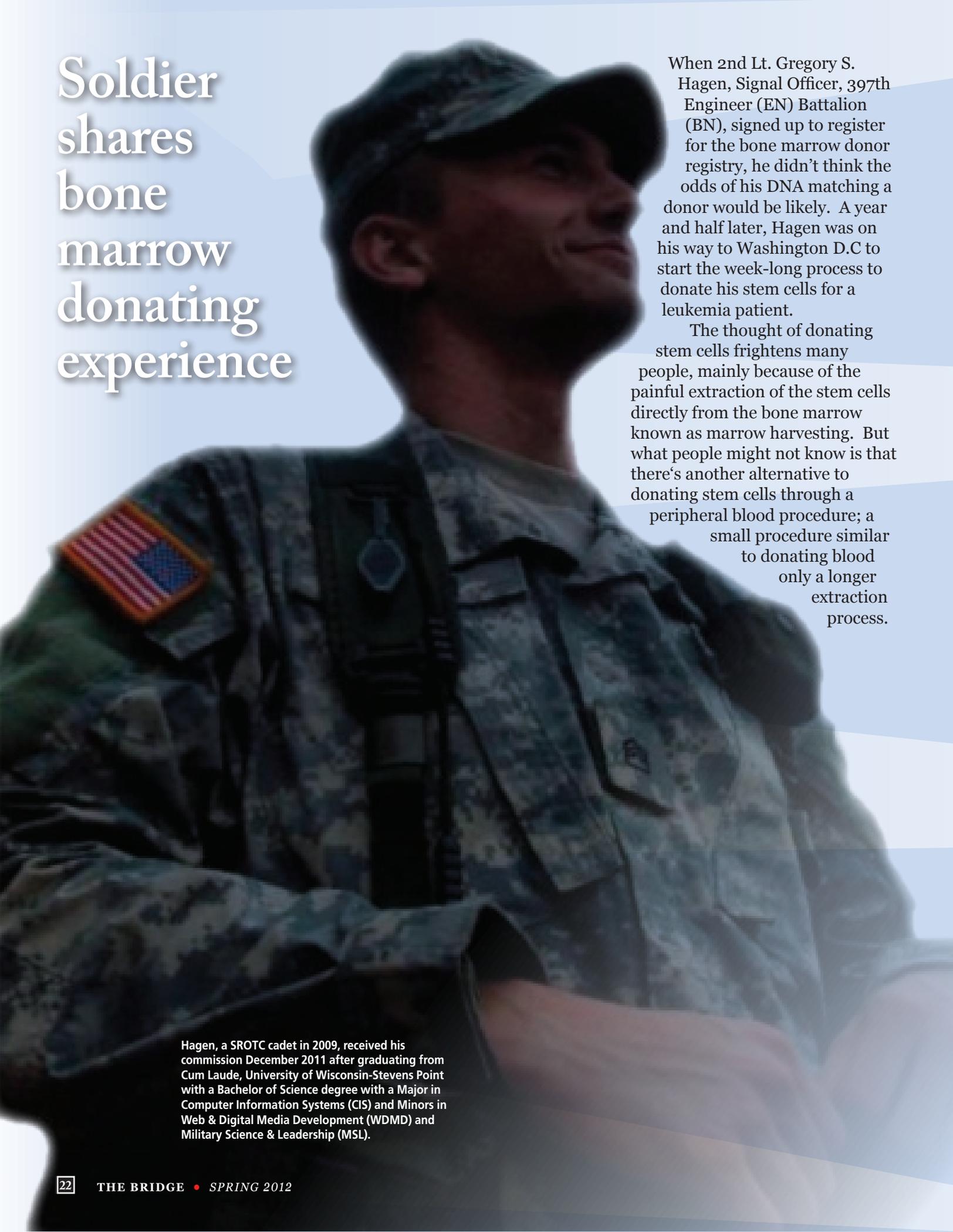
(Only Commanders can order; the role of the IG is to advise the Commander)



1-800-315-6327 ext 241
Maj. Stacey Cetin
416th Command Inspector General

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian, or Family Member seeking IG help. After all, problem solving is one of the IG's primary missions.





Soldier shares bone marrow donating experience

When 2nd Lt. Gregory S. Hagen, Signal Officer, 397th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), signed up to register for the bone marrow donor registry, he didn't think the odds of his DNA matching a donor would be likely. A year and half later, Hagen was on his way to Washington D.C to start the week-long process to donate his stem cells for a leukemia patient.

The thought of donating stem cells frightens many people, mainly because of the painful extraction of the stem cells directly from the bone marrow known as marrow harvesting. But what people might not know is that there's another alternative to donating stem cells through a peripheral blood procedure; a small procedure similar to donating blood only a longer extraction process.

Hagen, a SROTC cadet in 2009, received his commission December 2011 after graduating from Cum Laude, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a Bachelor of Science degree with a Major in Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Minors in Web & Digital Media Development (WDMD) and Military Science & Leadership (MSL).

We recently caught up with Hagen to discuss his recent experience with the **C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program**.

The Bridge- What made you want to register with the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program?

Hagen- "Well, I first signed up because I thought it was a very noble thing that DoD is doing by using some of its money, which is eventually paid back by the recipient, in order to quickly find a donor match to patients who are in great need of bone marrow. After a few phone calls from the program I found out the patient was only 18 years old and it made me think of my little brother. I would do whatever I could do to save my brother's life, so why not at least give this young man a chance at a better life."

The Bridge- Did you know the patient?

Hagen- "We are not allowed to know the patient or contact them. All I was told is that my recipient is an 18 year old male, who is currently in a hospital in New Zealand. Hopefully, I will get to hear how the process went."

The Bridge- Tell me a little bit about the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program?

Hagen- "The program is used to match the DNA of people on the donor's list with anyone in need of bone marrow around the world."

The Bridge- Tell me a little bit about the procedure?

Hagen- "The procedure itself is pain-free for the most part and benefits every party involved. On the first day I had medical screening and details of the procedure were covered again to make sure I was comfortable with it. I then received my first dose of filgrastim, (a drug that works to release stem cells into your blood stream, so they can filter them out of the blood on the day of the donation). Over the next five to six days I continued to receive doses of the drug. On the day of the donation I arrive at the facility fairly early to begin the 4-5 hour donation. It basically worked like a plasma donation or a blood transfusion. They hooked me up to a machine that draws blood out of one arm and then returns it through another arm. During the process I was able to watch movies and read to help pass the time."

The Bridge- What was the hardest part of this process?

Hagen- "The hardest part was knowing that I would get frequent headaches on a daily basis, and wouldn't be able to do anything about it. But the headaches were very mild and thus didn't affect my ability to get out and enjoy the city."

The Bridge- Would you go through this process again?

Hagen- "If given the opportunity I would definitely do this again. They [donor program] will give you a year before they ask you to donate again, unless your recipient runs into complications and needs more stem cells."

The Bridge- Who was the most supportive thought out this process?

Hagen- "My mother gave me the most support through the process. She flew out to Washington D.C. with me and was by my side through the entire process just in case anything should go wrong. Thankfully, I didn't have any problems."

The Bridge- What would you tell others who want to help or donate stem cells.

Hagen- "I would encourage anyone to sign up for this. It is a great cause and like I said before all parties involved benefit. How often do you get a week in Washington D.C. to tour the city practically at no cost?"

The Bridge- What do you hope to get across with your story?

Hagen- "I hope to accomplish two things: spread the name of the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor program, which will hopefully help and encourage people to sign up and to also squash the myths or fears that this process is painful. With the new abilities to pull stem cells from the blood stream, the procedure is almost pain-free. You will experience more of a mild discomfort that will last for a week. I personally will take a week of mild discomfort for the potential to save somebody's life any day."

For more information on the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program, visit their website at www.dodmarrow.org

A put together "Husky" in the mine protection clearance system at Fort Hood, by the 321st EN CO is shown during their week long training of the new equipment.



First Mounted Mine Detection System received by 321st EN CO

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Sara Morris and 1st Lt. Kim Almodovar, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD)

The 321st Engineer (EN) Company (CO) (Clearance), out of Conroe, Texas, made history this week as the first Army Reserve unit to receive the new Vehicle Mounted Mine Detection System (VMMD), "Husky" & Buffalo A2 package.

As a specialized 'route clearance' company, this equipment plays a vital role in the unit's ability to detect and neutralize explosive hazards along routes and within areas of support that pose a hazard to Soldiers during deployment.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Reece of Alpena, Arkansas, who operated the previous versions of the Husky and Buffalo in Iraq, 2003, said "Upgrades to the A2 package benefit the soldier most by

improving his ability to communicate, conduct long distance surveillance and maintain his sector of fire. Improvements to the vehicles cab, which includes air conditioning, will now allow soldiers to conduct more missions over a longer period of time."

In addition to the fielding of this new equipment, these soldiers received close to 200 hours of extensive training on vehicle familiarization, assembly, maintenance and operations.

"The training we received on this new equipment is specific to our mission and incorporates TTP's; tactics, techniques and procedures," said Reece. "The benefit to the soldier and his

safety downrange is increased ten-fold."

The 'Husky' system is designed to pass over pressure fused landmines without detonating them and is equipped with a variety of sensors and tools that allow it to detect suspected explosive devices, mark the location, and alert a disposal team to investigate and clear the area. Mine Detonation Trailers (MDTs) are used to detonate mines that were not initially detected by the 'Husky' and are designed to sweep over an area three meters wide.

The Buffalo A2 MPCV Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle is designed to allow soldiers to safely examine and classify suspected explosive devices and

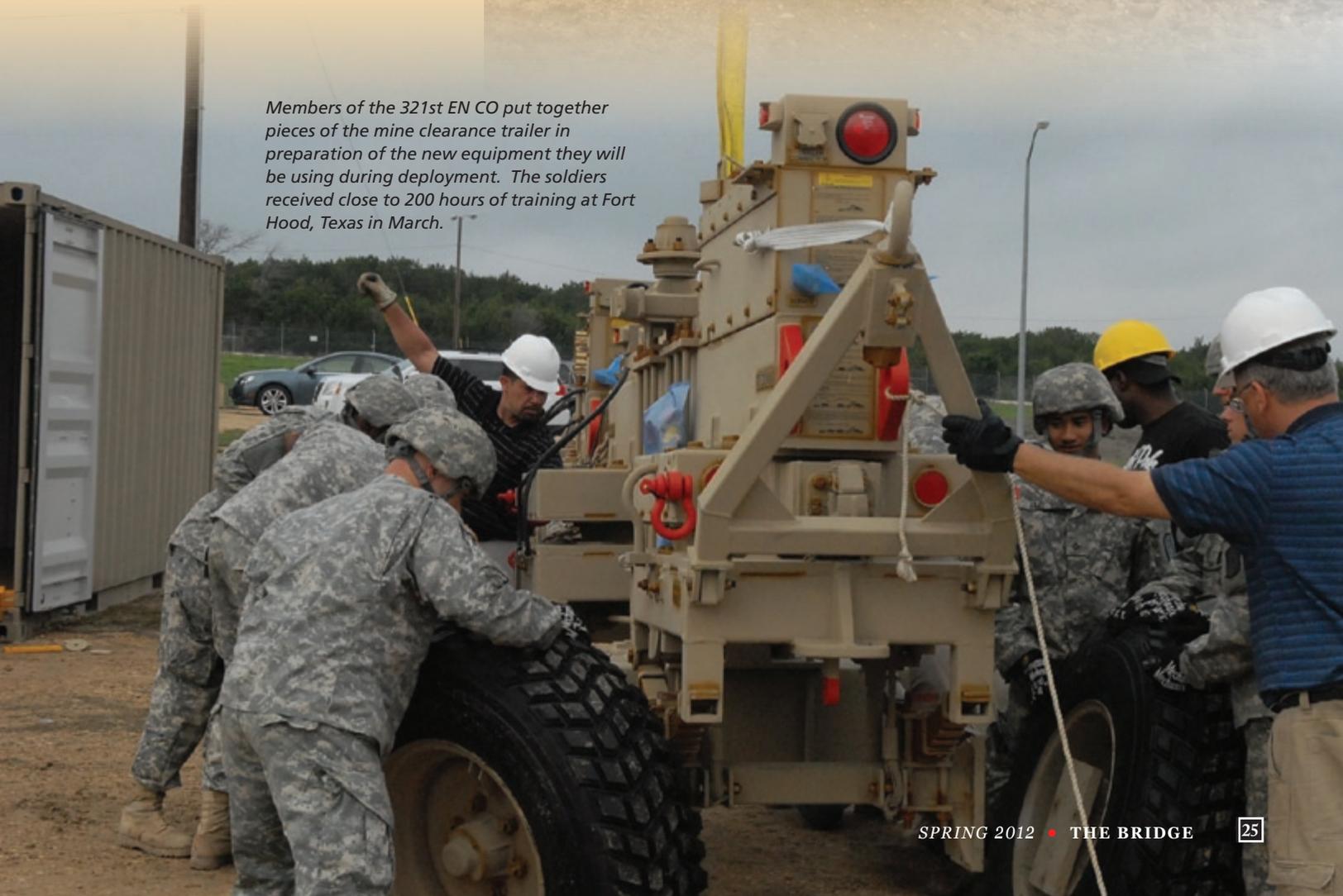
disable them. This vehicle is equipped with multiple exterior cameras which allow the occupants to observe activity around the vehicle from many different angles. It is also equipped with a remote controlled arm; outfitted with a digging and lifting attachment, a camera and a blower tool that allows Soldiers to reach out and investigate suspicious elements in areas that would otherwise be inaccessible or deemed unsafe.

The 321st EN CO is made up of highly qualified and motivated Combat Engineers who are infantry trained and equipped to maintain a secure area of operations; ensuring that all troops in theater can successfully complete their missions and tasks without interruption or delay. 🚧

Another look at the arm attachment used on the Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle (MPVC) "Buffalo A2," for mine interrogation.



Members of the 321st EN CO put together pieces of the mine clearance trailer in preparation of the new equipment they will be using during deployment. The soldiers received close to 200 hours of training at Fort Hood, Texas in March.



605th CMT deploys in support of Task Force Sword

By Capt. Kathryn Werback, 18th EN BDE PAO



Lt. Col. Gregory Wooten, 605th Detachment Officer in Charge, conducts an awards and combat patch ceremony for the 605th on Jan. 30; 30 days of the unit being in country. (From left to right Maj. Karl Herbst, Maj. Luke Hill, Sgt. Maj. Victor Imhoff, Sgt. Vinicio Reyes, Sgt. Bryan Theisen and Spc. Joshua Radloff. Not pictured- Staff Sgt. Jason Wilson and Sgt. 1st Class Donald Bollman. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Wilson, 605th UPAR)

In January, the 605th Engineer (EN) Detachment (Det.), Construction Management Team (CMT), out of Darien, Illinois, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Assigned to Task Force (TF) Sword, the 605th CMT is currently responsible for project management throughout Regional Commands East, North, and Capital.

Although the 605th CMT is a small detachment, they are augmented with specialized personnel to enable them to act as a larger engineering cell, this includes the 290th Survey and Design (S&D) Det. out of Newton Falls, Ohio.

Prior to being assigned to TF Sword, the 290th S&D was assigned to the 578th EN. Battalion (BN).

The final piece of the 605th CMT augmentation is a team of contracted civilians. They provide civil and electrical professional engineers, Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) experts, and inspectors.

The additional capabilities enable the 605th CMT to provide the necessary support for a massive province build out.

The 605th CMT conducts initial mission analysis and project requirements. The 290th S&D sends a survey team for the initial survey and their designers support with site designs. The site designs are vetted through the 605th CMT and then through the TF Sword senior designer.

All construction drawings are created by civilian designers, reviewed by the professional engineers and approved by the 605th CMT commander. As necessary, site layouts and construction designs are vetted through specialty sections.

Based off the site requirements and layout, the designated project manager produces a construction directive

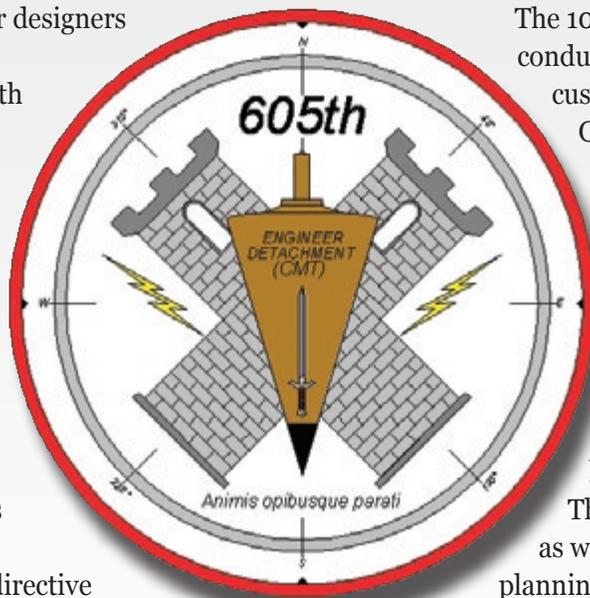
for each part of the build. For instance, B-Huts, tent decks, ammunition handling areas, helicopter landing zones, and entry control points each get a construction directive.

The construction directive includes a performance work statement or scope of work, the construction designs, site layout, and inspection forms. This is distributed for tasking, then down to the on the ground.

After coordinating with the unit, the surveyors stakeout the site, to include such things as boundaries and building corners. If there are any site issues, the surveyors adjust the design on site to ensure the constructing unit has everything they need to accomplish the build.

During construction, inspection teams conduct site inspections to augment the constructing unit's quality assurance and quality control program.

For larger projects, periodic inspections occur in order to ensure all the construction is done to standard. After the inspection an after action review is written, supported by inspection sheets and photos. This is distributed for situational awareness of current progress and any issues on site.



The 100 percent inspection is preferably conducted in conjunction with the customer and a punch list is generated. Once the construction and punch list have been completed, the constructing unit coordinates for the customer to sign a memorandum of completion to signal the end of the project.

The final responsibility of the 605th CMT is to coordinate a final survey that shows the exact location of all structures at the site. This can be used for future planning as well as maintained for master planning. 🚧



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Loyalty

Duty

Respect

Selfless Service

Honor

Integrity

Personal Courage



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The PSD team prior to their combat patrol, bow their heads during “Word of God” given by Chaplain Deric Sneller on Jan 19.

Unshaken Courage

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear.” ~A. Redmoon

Story and Photos by Sgt. Valerie Willhoite, UPAR, 980th EN BN

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The bond between brothers is like no other, something of which the men of the Personal Security Detail (PSD) are all very well aware. Fifteen soldiers of the 980th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN) have stood out and excelled to make this group one of a kind. They trained longer, pushed harder and dedicated themselves to something greater than the only individual. They are a team. All these men came from different backgrounds, hometowns and cultures, but pulled together with the same strong work ethic, dedication and morals to make a successful *band of brothers*.

The 980th Engineer Battalion is based out of Austin, Texas and currently serving a tour in Regional Command

South, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They are led by Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery, Battalion Commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Edward H. Fowler, Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. The 980th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Lone Star, is made up of both horizontal and vertical construction companies, a bridging company as well as a survey and design detachment. Each piece of this very intricate battalion is viable to the success of their overall mission.

This unique collection of men, the 980th PSD, is led by Staff Sgt. Angelo Vacchiani. He was handpicked by Battalion Commander, Lt. Col Wyatt Lowery, for his exceptional leadership skills and experience. The men of the

PSD all have great trust in and loyalty to Vacchiani, the team, the battalion and Task Force Lone Star.

Some decisions are made with deep, personal thought and selfish contemplation; others come naturally when certain situations arise. On Jan. 19, at approximately 1300 hours, one of those situations ensued.

The PSD was out on a combat patrol while escorting battalion VIPs to the down trace units at a smaller Forward Operating Base (FOB). This two day mission included construction assessments, key leader engagements, job site reconnaissance and mission progress. Upon completion of the mission, the patrol began their return to Kandahar Airfield on a route that they

know all too well and have traveled many times. Except this time, something was different, something out of the ordinary.

Sgt. Joel Perez, Assistant Patrol Commander, located in the first vehicle, was the first to spot the mushroom cloud of smoke ahead near the Kandahar entry control point. He immediately informed Vacchiani, Combat Patrol Commander, and awaited further direction. Vacchiani performed the required steps and decided to push forward through the severe traffic jam to assess the situation. What was ahead, none of the men were expecting, however, all were prepared.

The PSD vehicles pulled up to a world of chaos brought forth by a suicide vehicle born improvised explosive device (VBIED). The 25th Infantry Division (ID) had just arrived on the scene, pulling security and requesting medical support. Without further ado, Vacchiani ordered his troops to dismount. Vacchiani and Perez, along with Sgt. Velasquez, Sgt. Zene, Cpl. Bell and Spc. Flynn were now outside the safety of their vehicles and in the mix of the original chaos. These men not once questioned the decision of their leader; they trusted his assessment and knew their support was essential. "I evaluated the conditions and the initial chaos, saw

the damaged vehicles, IED blast, casualties and knew we had to take control of the situation at once," said Vacchiani.

Each individual PSD member played a crucial role in the safety and success of this mission. Whether it was Vacchiani making a critical decision to have him and his men dismount and take control of the incident, Zene and Flynn providing security or Perez and Bell doing vehicle and personnel searches to ensure no secondary IED devices were present, they all displayed an admirable amount of poise and courage.

Some would consider his bravery a true act of heroism - Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, following the direct orders from his Combat Patrol Commander, Sgt. Velasquez, 980th EN BN Medic, rushed to the aid of the first living casualty he spotted. "The most difficult part is the time between finding out about a casualty and getting to them, [is] not knowing what I'm going to see but still preparing my mind for the worst," said Velasquez.

His military and civilian experience, and training immediately kicked in and he began a head to toe assessment on the casualty. Velasquez has been an Army Medic for 5 years and works as an Emergency Room Tech at the Heart Hospital of Austin. He performed

battlefield first aid while treating injuries alongside another medic from the 25th ID. Once the casualty was stable, he loaded him onto a spine board to transport him closer to the next casualty. This allowed "Doc" - as his team calls him - to treat multiple casualties while still assessing the others. The second casualty "Doc" came across had sustained multiple life threatening injuries including injuries to his upper and lower airways. Velasquez applied 2 tourniquets and a chest seal to the casualty, who was an Afghan citizen. "This is what medics train for," said Velasquez. "When we get the opportunity to use our craft, it seems to overshadow everything else in the world. It's now just me, the casualty and the situation." "Doc's" selfless actions and intricate first aid performance saved lives that day.

While Velasquez was performing aid to the casualties, Vacchiani instructed the 25th ID to call up a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) report and get a medical helicopter to the scene to evacuate the casualties. Immediately, Perez and Bell took lead and set up a landing zone (LZ) for the MEDEVAC chopper. The 25th ID sent a smoke signal for the helicopter to land in the LZ and

...continued on page 45

MASUM GHAR, Afghanistan. – The 980th Engineer Battalion, Personal Security Detail (PSD) take a group photo after receiving their coins from the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery at the top of FOB Masum Ghar on Jan 19.



Soldier Learns Lesson from Key Resolve 2012

By Lt. Col. William R. Holstine, 416th TEC, G3

Exercise Key Resolve (KR12) is Korea's robust joint/combined "Fight Tonight" exercise, conducted Feb. 21-March 11, 2012. The purpose of which is to ensure readiness and provide a strong deterrent posture. It consists of a two-week long Computer Automated Exercise (CAX) and a Field Training Exercise (FTX). USACE conducts battle staff and liaison training within the CAX framework, while deploying Forward Engineer Support Teams-Advanced (FEST-A) for field training.

During KR12 the 416th TEC Deployable Command Post (DCP[-]) provided one FEST-A for technical engineering support to United States Forces Korea (USFK). In addition, the 416th TEC augmented the Pacific Ocean Division Forward (POD Fwd) in conducting battle staff functions and Command and Control (C2) of FEST-As and Liaisons (LNOs).

According to Mr. Mitchel Glenn, POD's Military Planner, this was the first time that a POD Fwd Advance Echelon (ADVON) deployed early to take C2 of the deployed FEST-As. Lt. Col. Thomas Brady, Glenn and I quickly organized and assumed responsibility roles as we prepared for the arrival of the FEST teams and structured a training schedule to ensure they received transportation support, in processing, mission essential equipment and adequate time to research and begin drawing data on their assigned missions. Our success was enhanced by the support we received by our in country host, the Pacific Ocean Division Far East District (POF). Lt. Col. John Rhoads, Deputy Commander of POF, and his staff provided excellent accommodations and support to include the video conference

room, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), transportation assets, and technology assistance during the early days of our operation.

The deployment of our FEST teams and the POD Fwd ADVON to their respective mission sites was a success as we exercised our communications/deployment plan and successfully linked-up with the team translator's to assist in movement to site and initial coordination meetings. Upon arrival to Camp Carroll, POD Fwd ADVON established communications and developed a battle rhythm beginning with Personnel Status Reports (PERSTAT), Situational Reports (SITREP) and conference calls to POD Fwd as they processed through Reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM).

The FEST teams began their mission analysis with initial meetings with the customer (USFK J34—their operation staff) in which they were provided detailed guidance. The meetings were arranged by Brady and were instrumental in ensuring the FEST team leader and customer was in sync. The missions the FEST teams received were "real world"; they included Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) assessments as well as Anti-terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) vulnerability assessments. These missions were outstanding opportunities to develop their team member's skills and a cost effective way to provide the customer a detailed, comprehensive, and professional product. A true win-win for the FEST team and USFK J34.

Use of the 416th TEC DCP (-) staff provided a valuable training opportunity for the 416th TEC personnel. Their initiative and professionalism caused them to quickly transition as the POD

Fwd Battle Staff. Col. Greg Gunter, Deputy Commander of POD and Lt. Col. John Uptmor, who played the role of the POD Fwd G3, led our augmented team and effectively organized us in a productive staff. The 416th TEC DCP (-) displayed effective team work, leadership, and technical proficiency, which directly contributed to the success of POD Fwd and greatly increased the training value of KEY RESOLVE 12.

In summary, our experience was very educational and enlightening. Seeing firsthand how U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civilians and military working together with Army Active Component and Army Reservist was amazing as everyone quickly organized in their key roles and brought many different experiences and views that lead to overall mission success for the POD Fwd, FEST team missions and the KEY RESOLVE 12 exercise. 🇺🇸

The Pacific Ocean Division Forward (POD Fwd) team: Front Row (L to R) Lt. Col. Robert Richmond, Lt. Col. (P) John Uptmor, Mr. Mitchel Glenn, Col. Gregory Gunter, Maj. (P) Bill Holstine, and Capt. Jonathan Burton. Back Row (L to R) Capt. Todd Fatka, Sgt. Zachary Harper, Mr. Craig Ueda, Mr. Risty Thompson, Mr. Peter Gitto, Mr. Han (Translator/Driver), Lt. Col. Bill Wilson, Spc. Derrick Samuels, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Fiedler, Master Sgt. Bill Lunsford and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Begley. (Courtesy Photo)



Attention all Motorcycle Riders:

The 416th TEC Motorcycle Mentorship Program (MMP) kicked off the 2012 riding season with a "Blessing of the Bikes" on April 21. Officiated by Chaplain (COL) Bruce Fredrickson, the non-denominational event offered riders a moment to pause and reflect on a safe and enjoyable riding season. Riders are invited to ride their machines to battle assembly.

Remember to wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE):

Helmets, certified to meet Department of Transportation (DOT) standards, must be properly fastened under the chin.

Impact or shatter resistant goggles, wraparound glasses, or full-face shield properly attached to the helmet must meet or exceed ANSI Safety Code Z87.1, for impact and shatter resistance. A windshield alone is not proper eye protection.

Sturdy footwear, leather boots or over the ankle shoes must be worn.

A long-sleeve shirt or jacket, long trousers and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for motorcycle riders.

Reflective upper garment, or a brightly colored, outer upper garment will be worn during the day and a reflective upper garment during the night. Military uniforms do not meet this criterion. The outer garment shall be clearly visible and not covered. Items may be worn on top of the outer garment, but they must meet the same visibility requirements of the outer upper garment.

Plans are being made for short bi-weekly rides and a monthly longer ride. Watch the training schedule for MMP meetings.

The MMP is open to all 416th soldiers and down trace personnel as well. You do not need to own a motorcycle to be a member.

The purpose of the MMP is to establish and maintain a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all motorcycle riders, encourage on-going rider education and skills development, and reduce the potential of motorcycle mishaps. It should also set an example for all personnel according to the standards, traditions, and customs of the U.S. Army to operate and conduct itself in a manner that provides equal opportunity and treatment for all motorcyclists.

Information is available on receiving motorcycle safety training (both experienced rider and basic skills) at no cost.

Got Updates?

A lot of Military Motorcycle Riders count on this site to help ensure that they are in compliance with local requirements. If you have info about your installation, please send it to:

webmaster@militarybikers.org



Please contact LTC Dean Rorig @ dean.rorig@us.army.mil for more information and/or to be added to the MMP email list.



Brig. Gen. Michael Devine, commander of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., converses with Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah (left) and Utah Lt. Gov. Greg Bell during the Welcome Home Warrior ceremony for the 744th Engineer Company of Ogden, Utah, at Weber State University in Ogden, Feb. 25. The 744th conducted route clearance missions in the Kunar, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces in eastern Afghanistan from October 2010 to October 2011. The company's mission was to find and clear improvised explosive devices and provide safe passage for NATO forces and the people of Afghanistan.

744th Receives Warm Welcome after Afghanistan Deployment

Story and Photos by Sgt. Andrew Reagan, 304th Public Affairs Detachment (PAD)

The 744th Engineer (EN) Company (CO) of Ogden, Utah, was welcomed back with open arms from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan at a Welcome Home Warrior ceremony at Weber State University in Ogden, Feb. 25. In attendance were family, friends and distinguished guests that included Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah and Utah Lt. Gov. Greg Bell.

The ceremony's guest speaker, Brig. Gen. Michael Devine, commander of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., lauded the soldiers for their service and praised their perseverance on 390 separate missions.

"I commend all of you who answered your nation's call. You embody the value of selfless service...You are champions with character," Devine said.

The 744th conducted route clearance missions in the Kunar, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces in eastern Afghanistan from October 2010 to October 2011. The company's mission was to find and clear improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and provide safe passage for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Forces and the people of Afghanistan. The unit cleared more than 20,000 kilometers of roadway in one of the most dangerous areas of operation in Afghanistan. Of the 130 soldiers on the

deployment, 117 received Combat Action Badges for direct contact with the enemy. The soldiers also received 27 Purple Hearts and one Soldier, Cpl. Raphael Arruda, was killed in action July 16, 2011.

Despite the hardships they suffered, the members of the unit were proud of the mission they undertook and demonstrated willingness to perform their duties in extremely trying situations.

"One of the good things about route clearance is that regardless of what (happened) in the rest of the war, we were able to make safe passage for the soldiers that came behind us," said Capt. Scott Sparrow, the commander of the 744th.

"This unit is full of phenomenal soldiers who work hard with what they're given, and try to really make the best of it. We continued to try to improve on things, and that was a true testament to the [soldiers] in this company, they continued in the face of danger. We had [soldiers] who were wounded and we kept going out there," Sparrow added.

In addition to its route clearance mission, the 744th also trained Afghan National Army soldiers on route clearance techniques, including how to perform IED sweeps after dismounting a vehicle and basic demolitions.

The Afghan soldiers were inexperienced when the partnership began, but the soldiers in the 744th saw marked improvement in their Afghan counterparts. The members of the 744th are confident the Afghans can pick up where the 744th left off and continue safeguarding essential travel routes and the Afghan people.

“Some of the guys that we worked with were fantastic. They got to the point where they were clearing roads on their own through the Pech valley and found a couple of IEDs. They were up and coming,” Sparrow said.

“The soldiers we trained became route clearance engineers. When American forces turn the country over to the Afghan National Army, these soldiers (will) have the capability to run their own route clearance missions and

remove IEDs and keep the locals out of harm’s way,” added Sgt. Roman Essex, one of the soldiers who trained the Afghans.

The ceremony was a chance for the soldiers to reflect on their achievements. During the deployment the 744th become known in its battalion as an outfit other companies could rely on, no matter the circumstances.

“I think our unit’s biggest accomplishment was that we never said ‘no.’ We were always the unit that did the mission and you never had to ask us twice. We proved ourselves through our work and what we did. We became the company that people requested, and no matter what it cost, we placed the mission first and got the mission done,” Essex said. 🇺🇸



Capt. Scott Sparrow, commander of the 744th Engineer Company from Ogden, Utah, embraces Sergio Arruda during the Welcome Home Warrior ceremony for the 744th at Weber State University in Ogden, Feb. 25. Arruda’s son, Cpl. Raphael Arruda, was killed in action July 16, 2011.

721st Engineer Company Trains Afghan Engineer Soldiers

Story and Photos by Sgt. Joseph Koktan, 980th EN BN

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – “Shona-ba-shona” is an expression in Pashto meaning to work “shoulder-to-shoulder.”

It is a phrase soldiers from the 721st Engineer Company of Grand Prairie, Texas, heard many times while training Afghan Engineer Soldiers at their operating base in Aziz-Ullah, Afghanistan.

Capt. Scott Schwartz, company commander, native of Anna, Texas, and 1st Sgt. Ban Tien, of Pearland, Texas, both agreed that they knew there was an opportunity for the 721st to advance the engineering skills of the Afghan National Army (ANA) when they accepted a request from the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., to conduct monthly workshops with ANA soldiers.

“The United States has made an unprecedented investment over the last 10 years to facilitate a stable future for the people of Afghanistan,” Schwartz said, who is serving his second tour in Afghanistan. “At our level and at this

phase of the war effort, one of our jobs is to shift the responsibility from coalition forces to that of the Afghanistan National Army and related agencies.”

The goal of the monthly four-day engineer course is to equip Afghan Soldiers with the skills necessary to operate construction equipment well enough to take over missions when U.S. and coalition forces exit Afghanistan.

One of the challenges the 721st faces is that most of the Afghan Soldiers have little to no experience operating construction equipment. To overcome this hurdle, the first few courses will cover basic maintenance and control operations for four different pieces of machinery: a Bobcat skid loader, backhoe loader, compactor and road grader.

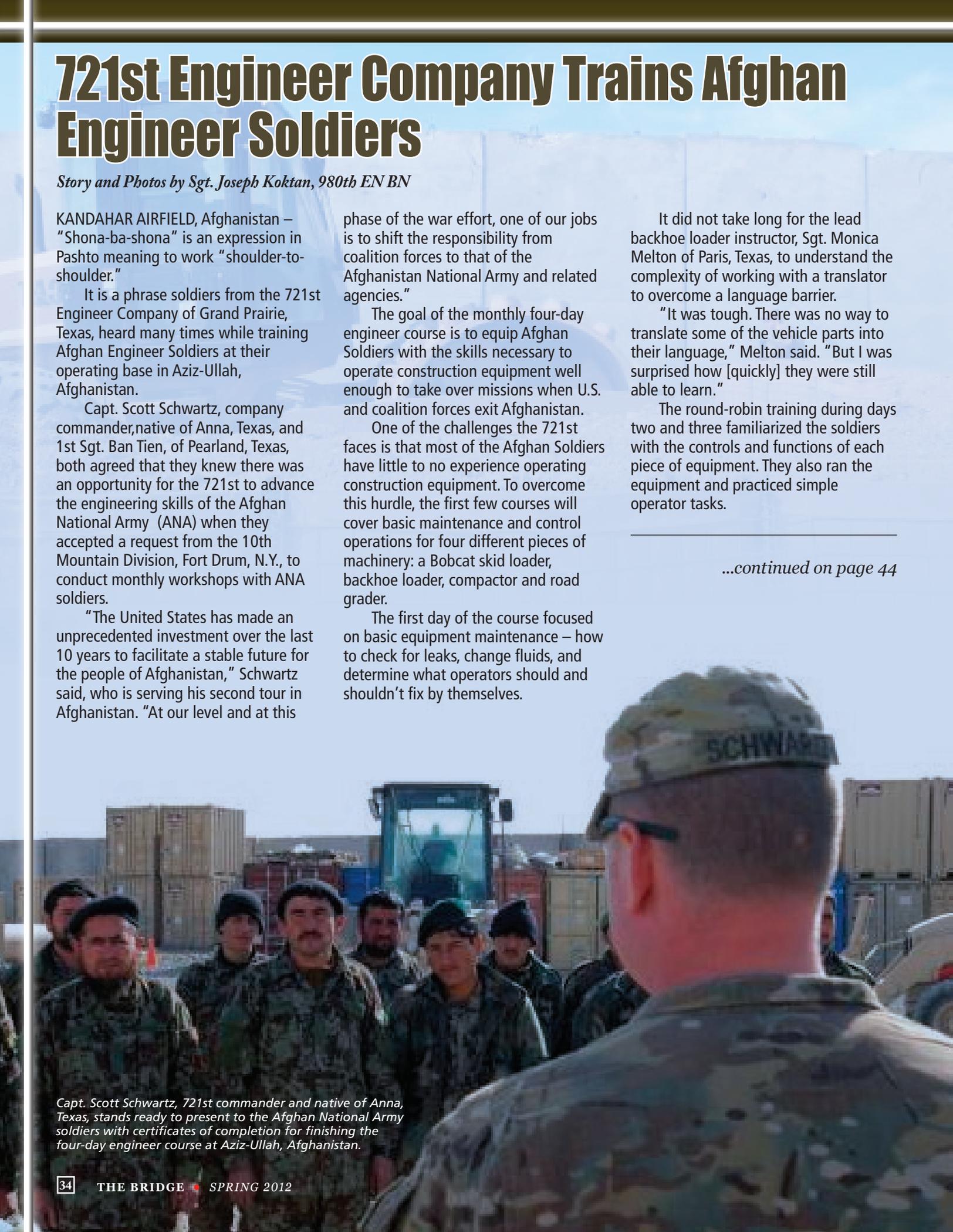
The first day of the course focused on basic equipment maintenance – how to check for leaks, change fluids, and determine what operators should and shouldn’t fix by themselves.

It did not take long for the lead backhoe loader instructor, Sgt. Monica Melton of Paris, Texas, to understand the complexity of working with a translator to overcome a language barrier.

“It was tough. There was no way to translate some of the vehicle parts into their language,” Melton said. “But I was surprised how [quickly] they were still able to learn.”

The round-robin training during days two and three familiarized the soldiers with the controls and functions of each piece of equipment. They also ran the equipment and practiced simple operator tasks.

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Capt. Scott Schwartz, 721st commander and native of Anna, Texas, stands ready to present to the Afghan National Army soldiers with certificates of completion for finishing the four-day engineer course at Aziz-Ullah, Afghanistan.

During phase four of the training, Afghan National Army soldiers practiced scooping and dumping gravel with the backhoe loader in the 721st Engineer Company's motor pool in Aziz-Ullah, Afghanistan.



Capt. Scott Schwartz, 721st Engineer Company commander and native of Anna, Texas, presents an Afghan National Army soldiers with his certificate of completion for finishing the four-day engineer course at Aziz-Ullah, Afghanistan in mid-February.



Soldiers compete for the German Armed Forces Badge

Story by Sgt. Kaitlin R. Feyma, 364th PAOC

TOLEDO, Ohio -- It was cold, cloudy and snowy in Toledo, Ohio. Temperatures didn't reach much past freezing at their highest and they dipped into the teens at their lowest, with gusty winds that stole breath. But this less-than-ideal weather did not stop soldiers of the 372nd Engineer (EN) Brigade (BDE) from participating in the many outdoor events that are a part of the German Armed Forces Badge for

Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) competition.

The competition, which took place at the University of Toledo (UT) Feb. 24-26 and was organized, hosted and run by UT Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AROTC) Cadets, is comprised of track and field events, swimming events, 9 mm pistol shooting, a road march, and a first aid written test, according to German Sgt. Maj. Rolf

Lichtenberg of the German Army Liaison Office located at Fort Lee, Va.

Lichtenberg was there to oversee all of the events, because a German officer or non-commissioned officer (NCO) must be present to ensure the competition is being run according to German standards.

The competition is not a new concept for enlisted or commissioned reserve soldiers. Staff Sgt. Richard R. Etter, who is a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 192nd Quartermaster Company out of Milan, Ohio, heard about the competition from a friend who

German Sgt. Maj. Rolf Lichtenberg with the German Army Liaison Office at Fort Lee, Va., accepts an award from the leadership of the University of Toledo (UT) Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AROTC) program Feb. 26 at UT. Lichtenberg oversaw the GAFBMP competition held at the university Feb. 24-26. (Photo by Sgt. Kaitlin R. Feyma)

Spc. Nicholas A. Gunn of the 486th Engineer Company out of Monclova, Ohio, finishes the road march during the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) competition Feb. 26 at the University of Toledo (UT). The competition, held Feb. 24-26, tests Cadets and Soldiers' physical abilities, marksmanship and knowledge of first aid. (Photo by Sgt. Kaitlin R. Feyma)



belongs to the 983rd EN. Battalion (BN) out of Monclova, Ohio, where Etter works for his civilian job.

“One of the guys in my unit had just participated in one in November,” he said. He expressed interest in competing himself, and, when the 983rd had open slots to fill for the UT-hosted competition, he jumped on the chance.

According to Lichtenberg, the competition is open to soldiers of all nations who are willing to participate, though it is mandatory for German soldiers. The purpose, he said, is for the participants to have fun and do something to benefit their careers. For example, American soldiers often participate in order to gain points for promotion.

The difference between this competition and other similar events is that participants in the GAFBMP competition do not compete against each other. Each soldier participates in order to receive the highest merit they can.

Participants have the opportunity to earn a bronze, silver, or gold badge, gold being the highest merit possible. According to Lichtenberg, of all the events in the competition, only the 9mm qualification and the road march determine which badge a participant will receive. The track and field activities, swimming, and first aid test are scored on a “go” or “no-go” basis.

Participants must complete all the events in order to be eligible, but some events proved more difficult than others. Etter said the most difficult activity for him was the 100-meter sprint.

“I’m not a fast guy, so I do more long distance,” he said.

However, the event he enjoyed the most was the pistol qualification. As a reserve enlisted soldier the chance to fire a 9mm pistol does not come along very often, he said.

“I know a lot of guys enjoyed that because they never get the opportunity,” he said.

Overall, Etter said he enjoyed the competition. He originally wanted to participate just to see if he could be successful, which he was, earning a gold badge. As for future competitions, he has his own Soldiers in mind.

“I would definitely recommend it to them,” he said of the GAFBMP competition.

Not only did most of the reserve soldiers earn high merits in the competition, but the competition cadre, comprised fully of UT Cadets, conducted a fantastic and well-organized event, especially for their first time, according to Lichtenberg.

“Everything was smooth,” he said. “What I didn’t like was the weather, but who is responsible for the weather?”

Other than the weather, the competition was an overall success, and the UT AROTC Cadets and cadre are planning another competition, tentatively set for sometime this fall. 🇺🇸

An Army Reserve Soldier shoots his assigned M9 pistol at Toledo Police Departments shooting range during the GAFBMP competition on Feb. 25. (Photo by Sgt. Cliff Coy)



Battlespace Awareness through ColST Integration

By Lt. Col. Christopher Quale, 416th TEC, Intel Officer (G2)

What is a Company Intelligence Support Team (ColST) and how can it enhance engineer operations? That is a question which has been posed to me more than once since my arrival to the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC). Many leaders within the engineer regiment had not heard this term in the Army lexicon until recently.

Over the last five years ColSTs have become critical organizations to infantry, armor and other combat arms maneuver company commanders in deployed environments. Those commanders are beginning to rely on these teams to enhance their missions readiness. Maneuver engineer units (route clearance, horizontal/vertical construction, and sapper) also utilize this

organization to increase soldier/leaders awareness of their area of operations and increase the effect their operations have within it.

The 20th Engineer (EN) Brigade (BDE) from the 18th Airborne Corps incorporates ColSTs into deploying companies to allow their company commanders to more effectively operate independently, according to Maj. Jeffrey A. Prokopowicz, 20th EN BDE, (S2).

The mission of any ColST is to describe the effects of the weather, enemy, terrain and local population on friendly operations to reduce uncertainty and aid in decision making. It accomplishes this through the utilization of dedicated personnel assigned from within the unit, trained in basic military intelligence processes and analytical

tools. Training for these personnel will typically comprise of the following:

1. Advanced software capabilities of Powerpoint, MSWord, Excel, Google Earth, etc.
2. Data mining – critical analysis of data sets
3. Analytical platforms – software within SIPRNet and Google Earth
4. Essential Intel Products – patrol prebrief/debriefs, association matrices, link diagrams and information management, etc.
5. Basics of patterns and trends analysis
6. Country/cultural orientations
7. Product standards – how to create products to standard with relevant information and timely/accurate reporting
8. Basics of battlefield ISR

As a TEC many of our requirements for deployment are filled with individual companies. The Army Reserve is now identifying emerging requirements which will increasingly call upon company and battalion engineers to deploy as part of a combatant commander's (COCOM) theater security cooperation plan (TSCP).

Battalion (BN) level headquarters who establish ColST elements within their companies early in the ARFORGEN cycle will increase the ability of the commanders at both levels to see and understand the area of operations prior to deployment. Once within the area of operations to more quickly react to areas he/she can positively influence.

With the amount of training these teams require to operate effectively, they cannot be put together haphazardly. The

G2 **Company Intelligence Support Teams (ColST)** UNCLAS//FED

Definition

Company level intelligence teams formed from organic company personnel that provides tactical CDRs with basic but vital intelligence and analysis. Recent Force Design Update reinforce ColST with 2x 3SF (Intel Analyst).

ColSTs Provide:

- Patrol Pre- and Post-briefings
- Biometrics Support
- Site and Document Exploitation Support
- Pattern Analysis

ColSTs Support:

- Commander's Estimate
- Commander's Situational Understanding
- Target Development
- Combat Assessments
- BN S2 Intelligence Assessment

Lessons Learned

- CDRs must emphasize ColST selection and stabilization early within the ARFORGEN cycle
- The relationship between BN Intel Officer (S2) and ColST is critical to the success of the BN mission
- To maintain ColST training and readiness at the maneuver company, the BN S2 must lead and ensure that training events are conducted to standard; BCT emphasis is vital to synchronize training
- ColST manning and R&R must be managed so that operations and analysis are not lost
- Integration of HUMINT Control Team (HCT) to work with ColST provides a valuable and higher level of analytical detail to the intelligence common operating picture

Requires command emphasis – Focused training, Early selection, Crew stabilization/Battle Rostering

Time invested will reward the Command

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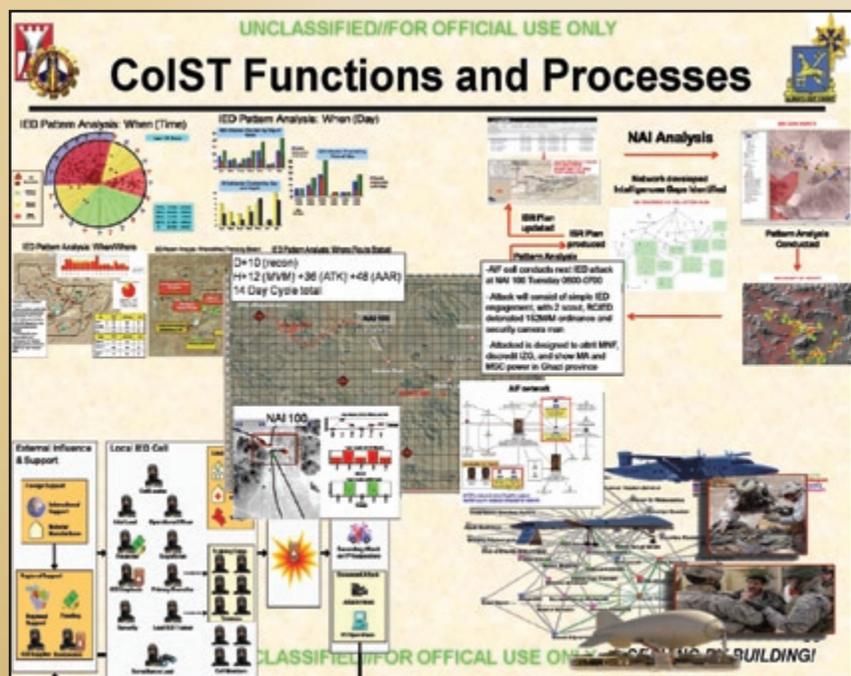
RECOMMENDED QUALITIES

- Security Requirements
 - Must have SECRET Clearance
 - Must be able to attain a TS
- Personal
 - GT score of 110
 - No permanent profiles
 - Must have passing PT score within the last 6 months
 - Proficient in basic computer operation
- Professional
 - Must demonstrate ability to operate with little to no supervision
 - Must be able to complete tasks on time and to standard
 - Must be able to demonstrate ability to think critically and analytically
 - Must be retainable through OEF deployment



value of the CoIST is directly proportional to the selection process and training time invested in it. Units who are using a vetting process to determine the best soldiers for this element traditionally reach a much higher level of success than those who do not. Additionally, commanders who have experienced CoIST operations in units they have supported in the past are allocating the training resources to allow these teams to function effectively within their units.

The Engineer regiment is incorporating these teams into their C2 formations at the company level. Should your commander decide your unit would benefit from this type of organization; the 416th G2 section can coordinate training for the leadership and the soldiers. 





Charlotte Douglas (left), U.S. Army Reserve Command Family Programs training manager, conducts a briefing during the 416th Theater Engineer Command's 2012 Family Readiness Chain of Command training conducted here Feb. 17-19.

416th conducts Family Readiness Chain of Command Training

Story and Photos by 1st Sgt. Robert R. Ramon, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD)

SAN ANTONIO – “When soldiers go away family ready, they come back family strong.” This was the theme of the 416th Theater Engineer Command’s 2012 Family Readiness Chain of Command training conducted Feb. 17-19.

The goal of the training, which was mandatory for units under the 416th TEC, was to establish a functional, trained military and civilian volunteer Family Readiness Group leadership team with the skills necessary to create, operate and maintain a cohesive and effective family readiness plan to support all soldiers and family members, said Tamra De Benedetto, the 416th TEC Family Programs director.

“Our family members are the main support that our soldiers receive. We want to ensure that in turn we are supporting those family members appropriately,” said De Benedetto.

The three day conference included sessions on family programs capabilities and staffing, roles and

responsibilities of the command team, operational security as it relates to family members, outreach and communications, financing readiness programs, practical exercises, and individual unit briefings to the 416th TEC deputy commanding general and command sergeant major.

They completed “three days of hard training here,” said Brig. Gen. Charles D. Martin, the 416th TEC deputy commanding general. “This conference is serious business because of the importance of the family support program.”

Strong family readiness groups are integral to the success of the Army Reserve according to Rhonda M. Collins, a training specialist with the U.S. Army Reserve Command.

“During deployments, those in the active component most likely have a neighbor who may be experiencing the same thing; however, Army Reserve soldiers and families don’t necessarily have that kind of opportunity,” said Collins. “The family readiness group provides that support

and makes sure families get the information and outreach that they need.”

U.S. Army Reserve Command Family Programs training manager, Charlotte Douglas, said the conference will make family readiness groups stronger which in turn will make for stronger units overall.

“It needs to be stabilized and standardized so that all units have a family readiness group for families to stay connected,” said Douglas. “When we get our FRGs functioning the way that they were intended to function, they really are a force multiplier.”

Participants received information that will be valuable in making their family readiness groups stronger and more effective, said Cpt. Steven Keister, commander of the 327th Engineer Company in Onalaska, Wis.

“It was an excellent conference and we came away with the knowledge necessary to make our family readiness group better than ever,” said Keister.

The final day of the conference included family readiness group briefings by each participating units’ leadership where Martin and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry. E. Reever, 416th TEC command sergeant major, reviewed and provided guidance on the current status and future plans of each unit’s family readiness program.



Brig. Gen. Charles D. Martin (standing in center), the 416th deputy commanding general, visits with soldiers during the 416th Theater Engineer Command’s 2012 Family Readiness Chain of Command training conducted here Feb. 17-19.

As the conference came to a close, Reever reinforced the importance of family readiness groups, especially as the active Army begins to draw down in size.

“The Army Reserve will be more important in the next year than we have ever been,” said Reever. “We cannot win wars without the Army Reserve, and we can’t win wars without the family readiness groups out there taking care of our soldiers and their families. This is one of the most important programs we’ll ever have. A strong family, makes a strong soldier.” 

Brig. Gen. Charles D. Martin (2nd from right), the 416th deputy commanding general, visits with members of the 396th Military Police Detachment including Capt. Jessica Barlow (left), Staff Sgt. Matthew Carley (2nd from left), and Staff Sgt. Tim Deasy (right) during the 416th Theater Engineer Command’s 2012 Family Readiness Chain of Command training conducted here Feb. 17-19. The 396th is based in Denver.



For complete stories, please visit our new website at:
<http://www.usar.army.mil/ourstory/commands/416TEC/Pages/News.aspx>

Best Warrior!

MARSEILLES, Ill. – The 372nd Engineer (EN) Brigade's (BDE) Best Warrior Competition (BWC) was held Feb. 13-17, 2012, where soldiers were put to the test mentally and physically. All of the soldiers were there to show they are the best, but out of the 10 competitors only two were chosen to represent the brigade at the Regional BWC in May.

420th Engineer Brigade hosts successful Yearly Training Calendar and Briefing workshop in Dallas

ADDISSON, Texas – About 120 soldiers and civilians from throughout the 420th Engineer Brigade attended its week-long Yearly Training Calendar (YTC) and Yearly Training Brief (YTB) workshop in early February. Surveys suggest most received valuable training. The workshop purpose was to finalize units' remaining training for fiscal years 2012 and completely line up 2013's training.

Reservists train to sustain life; readiness

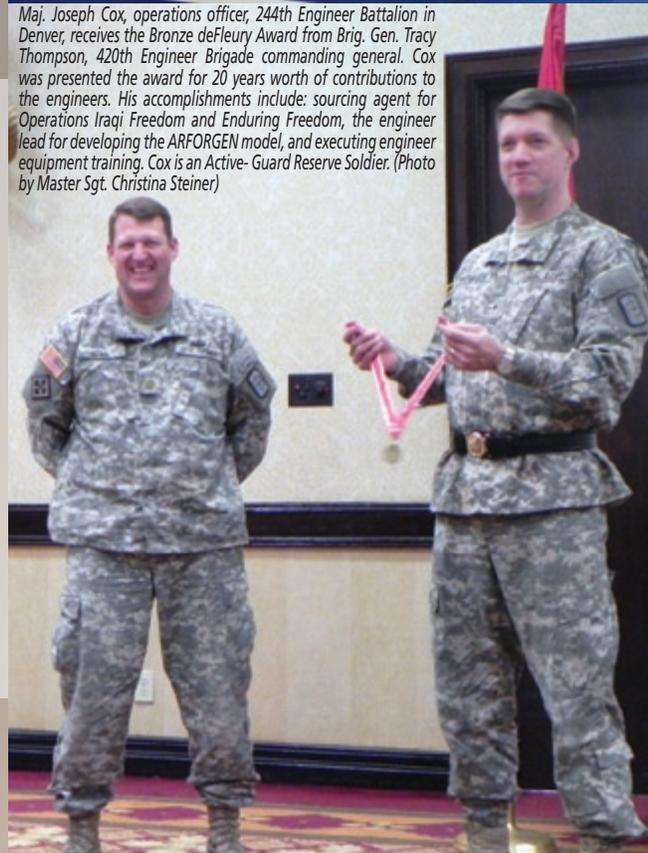
BRYAN, Texas – Leaders of the United States Army Reserve (USAR) consistently declare the greatest assets to their units are soldiers. Faced with economic challenges and training time; these leaders continue keeping their soldiers ready to defend this country in a moment's notice by creating effective and challenging training much like that of the 420th Engineer (EN) Brigade (BDE).

TEC Soldiers Bring Home the Gold

ATHENS, Ohio – Soldiers from the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) and the 961st Engineer (EN) Company (CO) had the unique opportunity to compete for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) which gave them a taste of the German's physical fitness test.



Spc. Lafe Leinbaugh of Tipton, Iowa, a Chemical Operations Specialist with the 323rd Chemical Company out of Sioux Falls, S.D., participates in the Modern Army Combatives tournament. (Photo by Sgt. Cliff Coy)



Maj. Joseph Cox, operations officer, 244th Engineer Battalion in Denver, receives the Bronze deFleury Award from Brig. Gen. Tracy Thompson, 420th Engineer Brigade commanding general. Cox was presented the award for 20 years worth of contributions to the engineers. His accomplishments include: sourcing agent for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the engineer lead for developing the ARFORGEN model, and executing engineer equipment training. Cox is an Active-Guard Reserve Soldier. (Photo by Master Sgt. Christina Steiner)



Sgt. 1st Class Deborah Carver of College Station, Texas, the 420th Engineer Brigade Surgeon Section noncommissioned officer in charge, teaches students several lifesaving techniques by using several types of training aids. Carver is also a student at Texas A&M University. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Peter Ford)



Spc. Nicholas Geerken, 961st EN CO, 2nd Platoon clears the required height for the high-jump event during the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency competition. Geerken earned the Gold Badge. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class (P) Carlos Walker)

721st EN CO Soldier Embarks on fifth Deployment

EL PASO, Texas – Sgt. Hackman, a Bismarck, N.D. native, has deployed with the Active Army, Montana Army National Guard and now the Army Reserve for his fifth tour overall. Hackman has volunteered for his latest deployment to Afghanistan with the Army Reserve.

Sgt. Alan Hackman, a heavy equipment operator from the 721st Engineer Company, boards an aircraft here in preparation for a deployment to Afghanistan Dec. 16, 2011. (Photo by Sgt. Stephanie Logue)

309th Gets A Welcome Home To Remember for their Acts of Heroism!

BRAINERD, Minn., – Soldiers assigned with the 309th Mobility Augmentation Company (MAC), received a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Ceremony at Central Lakes College on March 18 for their dedication in serving their country overseas. The unit was awarded 96 Combat Action Badges, 4 Purple Hearts and 4 Bronze Stars for their heroism and hard work while deployed.

The 309th Mobility Augmentation Company based out of Brainerd, Minnesota, stand at attention during the Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Ceremony at the Central Lakes College on March 18. (Photo by Spc. True Thao)



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"We had them working in their own (parking lot). They dug holes, cut and filled, compacted and pushed dirt with the bulldozer," said senior course maintenance instructor, Sgt. Brandon Hurley, of Flower Mound, Texas.

By the fourth day of training, the instructors said they were confident the Afghan soldiers could handle two smaller projects in the 721st vehicle staging area.

One of the projects included laying gravel with the Bobcat and compacting it with the roller. The second project was building a loading ramp with the backhoe loader.

Hurley said he sees the potential in the workshops and is impressed with how eager the Afghan soldiers are to learn.

"They want to take these skills to the civilian world and earn money for their families," said Hurley. "They also want to get out there and put forth their efforts to[wards] the war."

While watching his soldiers train, Lt. Khir Muhammad, one of the Afghan

Course instructor, Sgt. Monica Melton, of Paris, Texas, supervises the Afghan National Army soldier as he compacts the dirt dumped into 721st Engineer Company's loading ramp at Aziz-Ullah, Afghanistan.



officers involved with the training, said he is confident in the training and grateful his soldiers are working with the 721st.

Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Jordan, of Paris, Texas, and lead noncommissioned officer of the course, said he is impressed with how well the 721st instructors have taken on the challenge of training ANA soldiers and that they had a "blast" doing it.

"A lot of people wonder when the war will end. This [partnership with the

Afghans] shows the turning of the tide," Jordan said.

The Texas unit has more training planned for the ANA, including a full day devoted to equipment maintenance. Upcoming ANA projects include building a weapons test-fire pit and improving a road leading into the Aziz-Ullah compound.

For now the Afghan Soldiers will continue to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the 721st, but the goal is for them to eventually conduct their own engineer operations without help from U.S. or coalition forces. 🇺🇸

Spc. John Alameda, of Comptche, Calif., instructs the Afghan National Army soldier how to scoop gravel and spread the foundation for the 721st Engineer Company's motor pool at their base in Aziz-Ullah, Afghanistan.



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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – A dust storm forms from the MEDEVAC helicopter in the landing zone (LZ), set up by the PSD team, used to recover the casualties of the S-VBIED blast on Jan 19.

Vacchiani stood in the middle and guided the bird to the ground for a safe, quick and efficient landing and evacuation. The men resumed security and got the scene back under control before returning it to the 25th ID. PSD then remounted their vehicles, allowed for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team and Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell (CEXC) to clear the scene, and safely returned to Kandahar Airfield.

This wasn't the first, nor will it be the last obstacle these soldiers face. Everyday lives are lost, but how many can say that they were able to save even one? How many can be called a hero? This was all possible with not only their training, their bravery, their leadership but a combination of it all and more. These men love what they do and love who they do it for, for their families and loved ones back home. 🇺🇸



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The PSD team control the scene of the suicide vehicle born improvised explosive device (S-VBIED) outside the entry control point to Kandahar Airfield on Jan 19.

TEMPE, Ariz. - Twenty-five students in a circle formation await further instructions for the next exercise during the Equal Opportunity Leader Course in Tempe, AZ. Sister command, 412th TEC forges bridges with 416th TEC in support of expanding each other's command's Equal Opportunity Program on Nov. 30 - Dec. 7. The week-long class consisted of power-point briefs, videos and group interaction and exercises with specific topics in the arena of equal opportunity i.e. roles of the equal opportunity advisor/leader, effective and active listening, and racism and sexism to name a few. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Tony Inthavong, 494th BSB, UPAR)



Maj. Charles Bell, 980th EN BN, S3, receives his Bronze de Fleury Medal from Brig. Gen. Bryan Watson on Feb. 16 in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The U.S. Engineer Regiment began awarding the de Fleury Medal in 1989 to honor soldiers who exemplify the spirit of French engineer Francois Louis de Fleury. The 980th EN BN arrived in Afghanistan in mid-December. Their mission is to construct combat outposts, build and maintain roads, support theatre bridging, and train Afghan National Army engineer soldiers. They are expected to leave theatre near the latter part of 2012. (Photo by Spc. Valerie Willhoite, 980th EN BN, UPAR)



416th TEC celebrates African American History Month with Kay Fetch, an African and Arab dance group, who took soldiers on a journey of dance and music to discover a blend of African and Arab expressions across West and North African Cultures, on Feb. 4 in Darien, IL. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, 416th TEC)



Lt. Col. Robert Camara honors Command Sgt. Maj. Roscoe Gordon Mayfield, 318th PAOC command sergeant major, during his retirement ceremony Mar. 10. He joined the U.S. Army in 1971 as an aircraft armament repairman and served in Vietnam in 1972. The job can no longer be found among the military occupational specialties. Mayfield said the Army would give him the confidence and training to make him stand out from the other candidates. (Photo by Capt. Olivia Cobiskey, 318th PAOC)



Staff Sgt. Mano Kachatorian, 416th TEC, Yellow Ribbon Coordinator, demonstrates proper wear of military gear to a group of kids during the DCP's Yellow Ribbon event Feb. 11. The children got the opportunity to test out different military equipment and gear as well as getting a taste of a Meal Ready to Eat (MRE) (Photos by 1st Lt. Sidney A. Shinall, 318th PAOC)



Maj. Anne Brophy, 416th TEC SJA, passes out one of many chocolate samples during the "Chocolate Overdose" presentation by Michael Niksick, culinary instructor and professional chef in celebration of Women's History Month March 30 at the Parkhurst Army Reserve Center in Darien, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Photo of the Quarter