



THE

BRIDGE

Volume 5, Issue 2 • Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command • Summer 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Maj. Andrea M. Viel, Editor-in-Chief

30 Aug 2012

Dear Readers,

Allow me to introduce myself as the newly appointed Editor-in-Chief for The Bridge magazine. Having just recently taken on the responsibility as the 416th TEC's PAO chief, I am committed to maintaining the quality product that you've grown accustomed to receiving. Additionally, I am up for the challenge of exceeding your expectations when it comes to providing newsworthy and informative stories for our readers.

This quarter marks the first edition of the departure from mass print of The Bridge magazine. The online format entitled, E-Bridge, is available and provides an opportunity for massive readership and ultimately a wider dissemination of our Army Reserve's message. The transition to this message expansion has been welcomed and provides Soldiers, Civilians and Families an opportunity to share the great Army Reserve stories with emergent audiences.

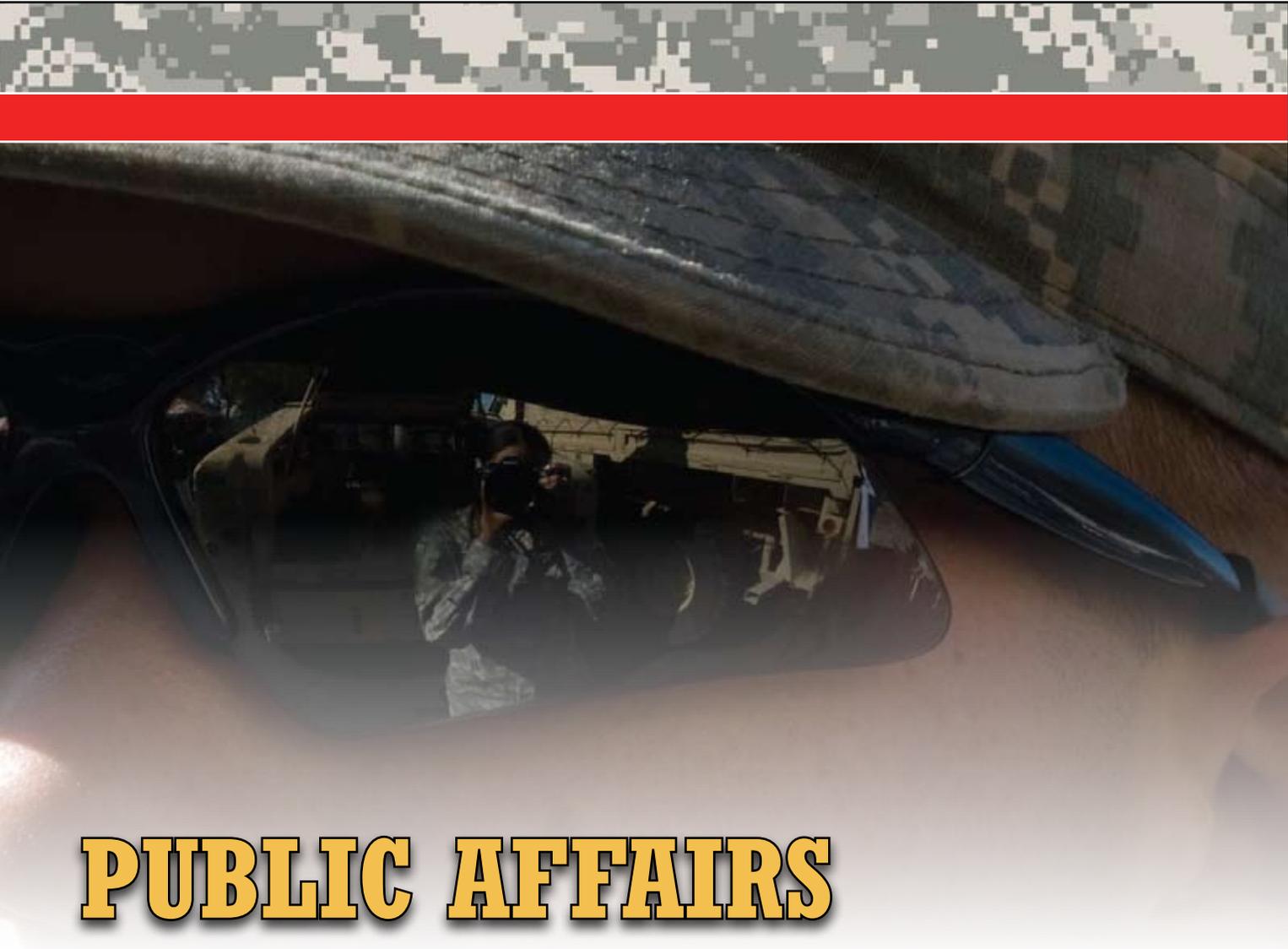
I encourage you to fan the 416th Theater Engineer Command on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/416thTEC> to keep up with daily command activities. Additionally, bookmark our E-Bridge webpage: <http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/142/the-bridge>.

Sincerely,



Andrea M. Viel
MAJ, AG
Editor-in-Chief





PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Do you enjoy taking photos and/or writing articles? If so, we're looking for you! Be a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) for your unit and help us get your unit's story out.

What's a UPAR? A UPAR is an additional duty taken on by someone who enjoys capturing photos and writing stories/articles. A UPAR helps to expand their unit's visibility throughout their communities and within the Army Reserve community. The job of each UPAR is to represent their command/unit in public affairs, whether it be taking photos at every command event or managing their unit's websites and social media networks. As a UPAR, you would have to be familiar with your unit, be dependable, organized and communicate well.



If this sounds like something you'd be interested in taking on, please contact SFC Hernandez at Marisol.hernandezaguilar@usar.army.mil or 800.315.6327 Ext. 122 for more information.

COMMAND NOTES

Brig. Gen. Charles D. Martin

As we say goodbye to the summer and welcome the start of a new fiscal year, I hope this edition finds all the members of the 416th TEC Family doing well. This edition of the Bridge provides an excellent overview of our Soldiers hard at work during training and bearing record high temperatures at exercises such as Combat Support Training Exercise 91, Operation Essayons, Golden Coyote and Red Dragon.

The theme that resonates throughout all these training exercises is one of Soldiers supporting Soldiers and transferring nuggets of wisdom. Eager to learn and serve, our younger Soldiers look up to our seasoned Soldiers, who have been sharing their experience and mentoring while accomplishing the mission.

We should all be aware of how times are quickly changing as we swiftly move toward a more functional command structure; thereby, we must be steadfast in developing top leaders and Soldiers who can support our new focus—to build a tighter, slimmer Army, and an efficient, ready Reserve Force. I encourage not only leaders but all Soldiers to become familiar with Rally Point 32, which outlines how we as an Operational Army Reserve move to our objective Army 2020 and Joint Force 2020. As Citizen-Soldiers we are the key to success as we bring the right mix of civilian-acquired skills to the Army as a whole. Having the right Soldiers, in the right place, at the right time, with requisite skills is paramount to our continued success.

While we continue to ensure a healthy climate and platform to produce quality training and rely on Soldiers to train and lead other Soldiers, it is equally as important to ensure we as Soldiers maintain a healthy emotional outlook. We are all responsible to help our buddies not only train for technical expertise, but also to maintain emotional footing. As such, I would like to take a moment and speak on a topic we must all take seriously—suicide prevention. As we ensure we cultivate a healthy environment for training, we also must ensure we provide the proper environment for Soldiers to feel comfortable in addressing personal issues and ensuring they get the proper care without the fear of stigma, retribution or endangering their careers. This command strongly supports soldiers for seeking help for emotional challenges and supports the concept that buddies must help buddies.

Suicide cripples the readiness of our force and society; therefore, we must encourage a healthy climate of acceptance and support those seeking help. As we focus our training on suicide prevention in the next few months, we must always remember the following three fundamental principles:

- 1.) We Care – Senior leaders must foster an environment of genuine concern.
- 2.) Help is available – Commanders and leaders at all levels must be aware of local assistance resources and ensure these resources are used to the fullest extent.*
- 3.) Suicide is preventable – Every individual has a role in suicide prevention.
All Soldiers, families and civilians are not only vital members of the 416th TEC family, but also make up the strength of the Army Reserve.

As always—Leaders take care of your Families, Soldiers and yourselves. Thank you for all you do for the 416th TEC and this great Nation.

Essayons!



*Soldiers and families in need of crisis assistance can contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Trained consultants are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and can be contacted by dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and pressing “1” for Military members and Veterans or by visiting their website at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.



Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command

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SUBMISSIONS: The Bridge invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the 416th Theater Engineer Command. Correspondence to the editor should be addressed to ENG416PublicAffairsAllUsers@usar.army.mil. All articles and photos must be submitted electronically.

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FRONT COVER:
Spc. Ronny Hislop, an engineer with the 364th Engineer Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 244th Engineer Battalion, tightens the bolts on a recently renovated bridge at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Hislop, a Denver native, and his fellow engineers were at this central California installation in order to make improvements that will help turn Fort Hunter Liggett into the premier U.S. Army Reserve training installation in the western United States. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Zach Mott, 207th Public Affairs Detachment)

BACK COVER:
Cpl. Lance Clifford, an intelligence analyst for the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., representing the 416th Theater Engineer Command, tries for one more push-up as Sgt. 1st Class Ruth Morris, a drill sergeant assigned to the 108th Training Division, keeps count during the push-up event of the Army Physical Fitness Test at the Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 16, 2012. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, 416th TEC PAO)

CSM NOTES

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert L. Stanek

“Hello, I’m CSM Robert ‘Bob’ Stanek.”

Those spoken words seem simple enough but when it comes to writing them down; it’s a whole new challenge. As you can imagine, expressing your thoughts in a clear and concise manner takes practice. I don’t mind writing and get plenty of occasions to do so, but instead prefer to help others develop that skill set. A classic example of this occurred while serving as the CSM for the 372nd Engineer Brigade in Afghanistan. I was asked to write a monthly column for the unit’s newsletter, but instead tagged the sergeant majors on the brigade’s staff, there were six of them, to help pen articles for my column, but under their name. It was good for the brigade to see their written words in comparison to their spoken words, not to mention it was pretty humorous on a few occasions. Reluctantly, some of verbiage had to be “edited” to protect the innocent (the writer) and provide more “clarity”. Call it MENTORING!

In any case, back to writing this column. My (THE BRIDGE) advisors have recommended that I expressed my expectations and what’s important to me. They suggested following the CAR’s, LTG Talley, message of “Family First, Civilian Job Second and Army Reserve Third” or his CSM’s theme, CSM Schultz, of “Getting Back to the Basics.” But as a CSM, just about everything Army related is important to me and hopefully you too. They suggested HOT TOPICS like Suicide Awareness; oh by the way, the Active Component has a stand down day on 27 September to train on Suicide Prevention. The Army Reserve has the first battle assembly after that date to train on it. Politics was also thrown out as a subject matter given the importance of the upcoming election, and how it might affect the military and the nation for decades to follow. An issue like that might endear our reader’s interest, but I’m afraid that our opinions on that topic are supposed to be apolitical. So any discussion on whose better for the military will reluctantly have to be a private discussion on a later date.

Finally, the last words from me this quarter is what should have been my first paragraph. The Sergeant Major Academy tells us to write “BLUF”, which is BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT. My apology for doing it backwards, but sometimes it just works better that way. So here is my formal “written” introduction to THE BRIDGE’s readers. I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as I can over the next few years.

Hi, I’m CSM Bob Stanek, the new 416th Theater Engineer Command - Command Sergeant Major. I’m replacing CSM Larry Reeve, who officially retired on 31 July. It’s understandable if you missed him. He was the fellow in the parking lot with the “HUGE” smile on his face and a cloud of smoke behind his truck from the squealing tires trying to get out of here. Good Luck Larry in your retirement years! We’ll miss you and hope to see you someday in the future.

Respectfully,
Bob Stanek
CSM



Chaplain (Col.) Bruce Fredrickson

Earning Life's Rewards

The 2012 Summer Olympic Games were exciting to watch. Three distinct themes emerged as I sat glued to my television. All three of these themes or attributes should define us as Soldiers and our conduct should mimic those themes. They are patience, humility and gratitude.

Maybe you noticed this attribute too, but I appreciate how each athlete would patiently look up at the clock or scoreboard in anticipation of their results. In many instances, Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were determined by hundredths of a second. The narrowest of margins separated athletes from victory or defeat. In our society of “no waiting” where we become anxious in the check-out line, for the athletes, those seconds of waiting for the results must have seemed like hours. Once the results posted, the flood of emotions revealed either victory or defeat. The patience and dedication of each athlete was rewarded by their selection to represent their country at the London Olympic Games.

I also observed that each athlete was awarded their medal by someone else other than themselves. To receive their well-earned medal, the athletes required the actions of another. Most athletes accepted their medals in humility. You could see a collective sigh of relief sometimes followed by tears of joy during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner. And lastly, when the music would end, athletes would smile and wave as if to thank both their families and fans for their support. Their humility and gratitude for their nation was inspiring.

Such humility demonstrated the truth in the words found in 2 Timothy 2:5 “If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules.” This biblical verse implies that others watch to see if we display integrity and follow the rules. But this verse also states that we don’t reward ourselves. It is the action of others that see our discipline and mental toughness.

Maybe it’s a supervisor looking to see which employee should receive the next promotion. Maybe it’s a teacher functioning much like a coach, pushing the pupil to stretch and grow. Maybe it’s a family member encouraging us to seek excellence. Few Americans ever compete as Olympic Athletes but all of us should seek to incorporate many of the same attributes that lead to Gold, Silver and Bronze. We may not have medals around our neck but like the Olympic athletes we sometimes experience victories or defeats by the narrowest of margins. May we find gratitude in both because sometimes in defeat we learn some of life’s greatest lessons.

Likewise, for those of us who function as parents, leaders, and mentors, we should look to encourage and thank others for their efforts. When we do so, our actions sow seeds of hope for the future.

I encourage each of us to focus on the good and model improvement through personal example as we embrace the Army Values.



For God and Country,
Chaplain Fredrickson



UPAR: Public affairs cliff notes

Story and Photos by Spc. Lindsey Schulte, 364th Public Affairs Operation Center

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. -- Units across the Combat Support Training Exercise sent soldiers to the Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) training held by the 364th Public Affairs Operation Center at Fort Hunter Liggett to learn the cliff notes version of Army public affairs.

Every unit should have a UPAR.

“It gives the unit (a) face. It allows them to go out and interact with the community and really touch base with them and it lets the taxpayers know that their money is going towards something that’s valid,” said Sgt. Clifford E. Coy II, with the 364th PAOC, one of the UPAR training instructors.

Coy and Sgt. 1st Class Aaron J. Salzer, also with the 364th PAOC, taught soldiers how to market their units to the world by publishing photos, videos and stories through print, social media and media relations. Publishing photos on social media and aiding the local media are two ways they instruct UPARs to get the story out.

This is not Coy or Salzer’s first go

1st Lt. Sasha R. Meyer with the 5502nd Army Hospital gets hands-on experience in the Unit Public Affairs Representative class held at Fort Hunter Liggett during the Combat Support Training Exercise 91, July 2012.

round training UPARs. They were both instructors of training the 364th held for the 372nd Engineer Brigade last year. Now they've opened the class for any interested units participating in the CSTX 91, here.

The units sent lower enlisted, mainly, and junior officers to attend the training. There is no rank requirement to be a UPAR, but there are some personality preferences.

"They should have a good ability to speak to people and be personable," said Coy.

However, UPARs need more than an outgoing personality. They take pictures, write news stories and help outside media cover the unit's story. Basically, they get the word out about what the unit is doing.

Salzer talked to the soldiers about how to help outside media get their story. Escorting the media was his primary job during his deployments to Iraq in 2003-2004 and Kosovo in 2004-2005. He dealt with over 3,000 media agents in his 16 years as a public affairs specialist.

"The biggest thing is understanding who they are, and what they want, and making sure that you do what it takes for them to get a good story," said Salzer.

Though most external journalists are pretty respectful of the rules, Salzer has come in contact with some who had their credentials revoked for unauthorized behavior. Salzer explains the UPAR's responsibility when a journalist crosses the line.

"Their job is basically to stop the journalist from gaining access, and then report it to the chain of command," said Salzer.

Coy provided copies of Home Town News Release form

containing soldier information and explained that the form can help UPARs provide interviewees for the media. The release form is essentially permission to the command that helps both the command and the soldiers determine whether they can be contacted by the media.

The release requirement includes most, but not all, information on a unit's official social media page, like Facebook. Facebook is an example of the many social media sites that help UPARs reach soldiers' families and community members.

The families and home towns can follow their soldiers and follow what their soldiers are doing on social media. It shows promotions, family days and other events that don't always make it into the papers, said Coy.

Other information presented in the training provided overviews of story and outline writing and photography

"Photography is a skill that should definitely be learned as a UPAR, as most of commands expect the UPAR to be the unit photographer," said Coy.

When it comes to photography Coy's advice is definitely worth taking. His photos have been published in the Bridge magazine, Warrior-Citizen magazine, the Army Times and the AKO home page. Last year a photo he took at a Best Warrior Competition was nominated for U.S. Army Reserve Command best photo for 2011.

As Coy went through some of his pictures to show the basics of photography, his laser pointer pinpointed the principle on each photo. "We'd be taking pictures and uploading them for our unit, like for

family day," is what Sgt. Larkesha T. Davis with the 90th Support Battalion said she was told her duties would be, before she attended the UPAR training. What she learned, was far more information to aid her in her duties as the UPAR.

To keep them further engaged, Coy provided the soldiers with hands-on experience with the cameras after some basic photography instructions.

Finally the training emphasized that every UPAR product must go through the unit's Public Affairs Office Students were given a disc that contained social media release guidelines AR360-1 and AR530-1, the UPAR handbook, the UPAR class power point production and UPAR quick tips to take back to their unit. The hands-on training provided a refreshing contrast to some stoic and un-engaging regulation filled courses. 🇺🇸



Sgt. Clifford E. Coy, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center, gives basic camera instruction for the Unit Public Affairs Representative class at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., conducted during the Combat Support Training Exercise 91, July 2012.

416th TEC hosts Family Program Academy

Story and Photos by Sgt. Lolita E. Brown, 49th Military History Detachment

PHOENIX--The 416th Theater Engineer Command conducted its Family Program Academy, July 20- 22. Participants included the Family Readiness Group Leaders, Family Readiness Liaisons and Family Support Group from the 416th TEC, 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 372nd Engineer Brigade.

Special guest, Col. James Murphy, G4 Deputy Chief, 416th TEC, and Command Sgt. Major Larry Reeve, command sergeant major, 416th TEC, were also in attendance.

The goal of the training was to ensure the command maintains trained family readiness volunteers in order to achieve an effective interface between family assistance professionals, soldiers and family readiness group volunteers.

The program curriculum, which has been in existence for several years, is broken down into three levels; fundamental, developmental and resource. The curriculum was developed by the United States Army Reserve Command.

This year's FPA was based on the fundamental program curriculum.

"This is the first level of our Family Program Academy and it focuses on the basics and essentials of how to start and maintain a viable and healthy Family Readiness Group," said Tamara DeBenedetto, Family Program Director, 416th TEC.

"The Family Program Academy is to be offered by the commands," she added. "USARC requires that it is offered yearly."

Family Readiness Group leaders and Family Readiness Liaison members participate in a spelling game during the Family Program Academy's opening reception.



The FPA conducted classes in volunteer recruitment recognition, FRG funds management, family day, FRG telephone tree and the FRG newsletter.

Charlotte Douglas, Family Programs Training Manager, USARC, whose job is to oversee, develop and implement curriculum for different portions of the family programs and family readiness programs out in the field, participated as one of the instructors.

"I train commanders, volunteers and new staff including contractors," Douglas stated.

The FPA is designed to help family readiness groups, volunteers and command teams understand how family programs can provide programs that are relevant to the soldier's family whether a soldier is reporting to a new unit or deploying.

"This conference gave me a good foundation to enhance my roles and responsibilities as a FRL," said Sgt. 1st Class Craig Martin, FRL, 9th USAR Theater Support Group from Honolulu. "This training will allow me to take back a good solid foundation to know what my responsibilities are and the knowledge to enhance our family support group."

The FPA also provides commanders an understanding of the types of family programs available for Soldier and families. Such programs include child youth services, survivor outreach services, a new service to survivors of soldiers who have passed, Military One Source, a counseling service, and Tutor.com, a Department of Defense online tutoring service that helps military children with their homework.

"I recommend anyone who is part of the FRG to come one of these events," added Martin. "Without the knowledge or resources, it makes it hard for anybody to support their unit or soldiers effectively."

This year's theme, "Making a Difference" was based on "The Starfish Story" by Loren Eiseley.

{One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean." "The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die," "Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said "I made a difference for that one.}

"Our goal is to make a difference, one soldier at a time," said DeBenedetto. 🇺🇸

1st Lt. Carneen Cotton, FRL, 387th EN CO, talks about her experiences as a FRL at the Family Program Academy.



Sgt. 1st Class Craig Martin, FRL, 9th USAR TSG, Hawaii, interacts in an exercise during the volunteer recruitment and recognition class at the Family Program Academy held in Phoenix.



By 416th Theater Engineer Command, G1

Sponsorship Program Guidance

The 416th TEC Sponsorship Program was created to help commanders exercise their basic responsibility to assist soldiers, civilian, and families successfully integrate into the command.

IAW AR 600-8-8, commanders will appoint an individual to coordinate and manage the sponsorship program, ensure new inbound soldiers and civilians receive a welcome letter and the opportunity to request a sponsor. Commanders closely monitor and evaluate the program. Sponsors for civilian employees are appointed by supervisors.

Commander and supervisors should ensure only those individuals who can represent the command in a positive manner be selected as sponsors.

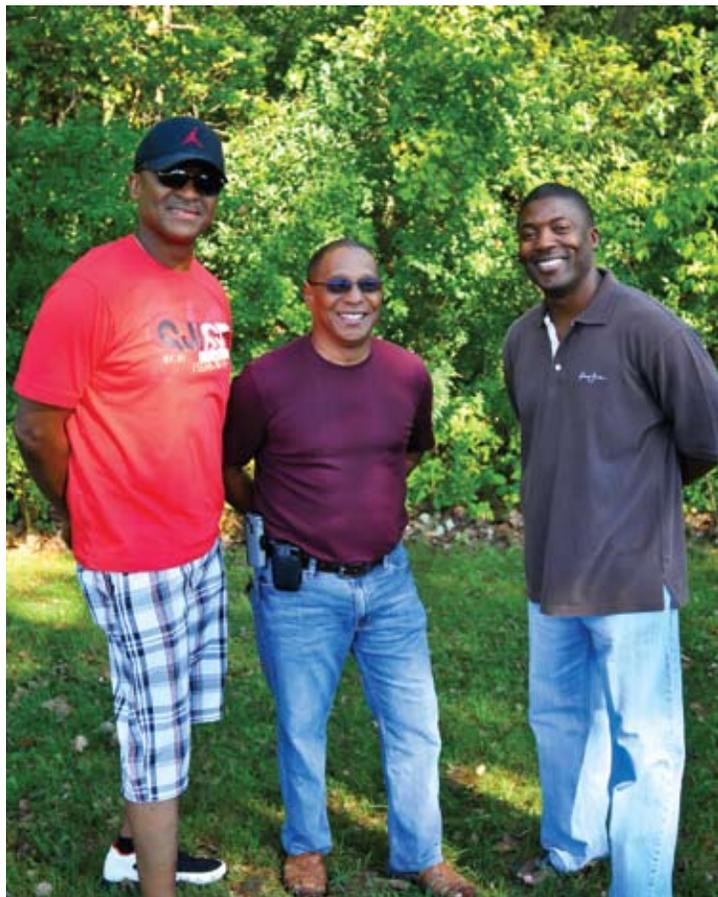
A sponsor will be appointed within five to ten calendar days after the actual order is received, unless the soldier or civilian employee declines. If no sponsor is desired, a welcome letter from the commander, command sergeant major, or civilian supervisor is still highly suggested.

The sponsor selected will be in a grade equal to or higher than the incoming soldier or civilian employee, when practical. They should also be of the same gender, marital status, and military career field or occupational series as the incoming soldier or civilian employee, when feasible. Commanders will make every attempt possible to assign same-gender sponsors for soldiers and civilians, especially for first-term AGR soldiers.

In the event that the unit does not have a same-gender sponsor, commanders should make a recommendation. Sponsor should be familiar with the unit and community. The sponsor will normally not be the person being replaced by the incoming soldier or civilian employee, when practical.

Sponsorship is a commander's program in which commanders and individual sponsors are key to its success. When the act of sponsorship is performed with care, knowledge, and sincerity, it will benefit the entire command.

To review a copy of the Headquarters, 416th TEC Sponsorship Program, please contact LTC Pamela Folk-Bowman at pamela.denise.folk@us.army.mil.



(From left to right) Master Sgt. Delano Wilson, Sgt. Maj. Geraldo Pirela, and Master Sgt. Rodney Lindsay, 416th TEC G3/5/7, welcome Pirela to the unit during HHC's Family Day on Aug. 5 at the Joliet Splash Station waterpark. This was Pirela's first battle assembly with the command. When the act of sponsorship is performed with care, knowledge, and sincerity, it will benefit the entire command. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

OCONUS Leave Procedures

Thinking about taking a vacation to Italy, Africa, or perhaps a cruise down to Mexico? Great, but along with working with your travel agent, there's some steps and paperwork you must complete before taking that well deserved vacation. Start with the 416th TEC OCONUS leave and TDY processing checklist. Contact your S1/S2 or G1/G2 office for the checklist below and further information.

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based checklist titled "416th TEC OCONUS LEAVE AND TDY PROCESSING CHECKLIST". The form is divided into several sections:

- PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Fields for NAME (Last, First, MI), ORGANIZATION, and COUNTRY/STATE IS TRAVELING TO.
- DATES OF TRAVEL:** Fields for FROM and TO.
- QUESTIONS:** A series of yes/no questions regarding leave status, travel agent, passport, and medical clearance. For example: "1. Are you on OCONUS leave?", "2. Have you completed your passport renewal with your state's (USA/Canada)?", "3. Have you obtained your leave of absence (LOA) or other necessary documentation?", "4. Have you had your medical clearance (MCC) completed by a military medical professional?"
- COMMENTS:** A section for providing additional information or notes.

At the bottom of the form, there are fields for "Print Form" and "Save" buttons.



Brig. Gen. Alton Berry, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command (center), cuts the ribbon signifying the opening of both the Maj. Alan Johnson Maintenance Facility and the Sgt. Ross Clevenger Armed Forces Reserve Center. Berry is assisted by the Mayor of Selah, Wash. John Gawlik (left) and Mayor of Yakima, Wash. Micah Cawley.

Two Soldiers Memorialized with Army Reserve's Newest Facilities

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)

YAKIMA, Wash. – The Army Reserve opened its newest facilities in the remote town of Yakima, Wash., July 29. Located in the heart of apple country, and where 75 percent of hops are grown in the nation, the newly built buildings on the Yakima Training Center have similar rustic brick finishes topped with red roofs. They house more than 400 soldiers from both the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. For Victoria Johnson and Loren Clevenger these are more than just buildings, they are reminders of loved ones that they lost in Iraq.

Hosted by Brig. Gen. Alton G. Berry, commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, The Sergeant Ross A. Clevenger Armed Forces Reserve Center and the Major Alan R. Johnson

Maintenance Facility were both memorialized with a time honored military ceremony. Soldiers and family members attended the ceremony remembering Sgt. Clevenger and Maj. Johnson who both gave their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This cements the fact that he will not be forgotten for his sacrifices," said Victoria, who lost her husband, Jan. 26, 2007. Maj. Johnson served as a civil affairs officer with the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion in Iraq. Johnson, 44, died from wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee in the town of Muqdadadiyah. Johnson served with both the North Dakota National Guard and the Army Reserve and was commissioned after being an enlisted soldier. "He never gave up being a soldier. He

would be out there at the wash racks and performing maintenance on vehicles with his soldiers," added Victoria.

The Major Alan R. Johnson Maintenance Facility houses a multiple-bay area for training, maintenance and administrative support. Victoria said that when they were looking for someone to name the facility after, they looked for a soldier who never gave up and had a win-win attitude. "My husband always gave 100 percent."

Located next to the maintenance facility is the Sergeant Ross A. Clevenger Armed Forces Reserve Center named after the combat engineer who lost his life after his route clearing vehicle was hit by an explosive attack in Iraq's Anbar province just west of Baghdad in February of 2007.

"We always knew that Ross did great things," said Loren Clevenger, father of Sgt. Clevenger. "He always liked to make people happy." Clevenger served with the Army Reserve's 321st Engineer Battalion.

"The courage and bravery he displayed was a credit to his upbringing as a man and a warrior," stated 1st Sgt. Roy Smith who was with Clevenger during the attack. "I hope that those who perform duty in this building will take time to know more about Ross who is a son, a brother and a hero. We will never forget his sacrifice."

Due to the Base Realignment and Closure directive, in 2005, it was determined that two Army Reserve Centers in Pasco, Wash. and Pendleton, Wash., and one Washington Army National Guard Readiness Center in the area would be closed and units consolidated onto the Yakima Training Center. Moving these units under one roof not only saves costs but provides the 400 soldiers and federal employees direct access to state-of-the-art facilities consisting of classrooms, administrative areas, a library, a learning center, a computer lab and storage space.

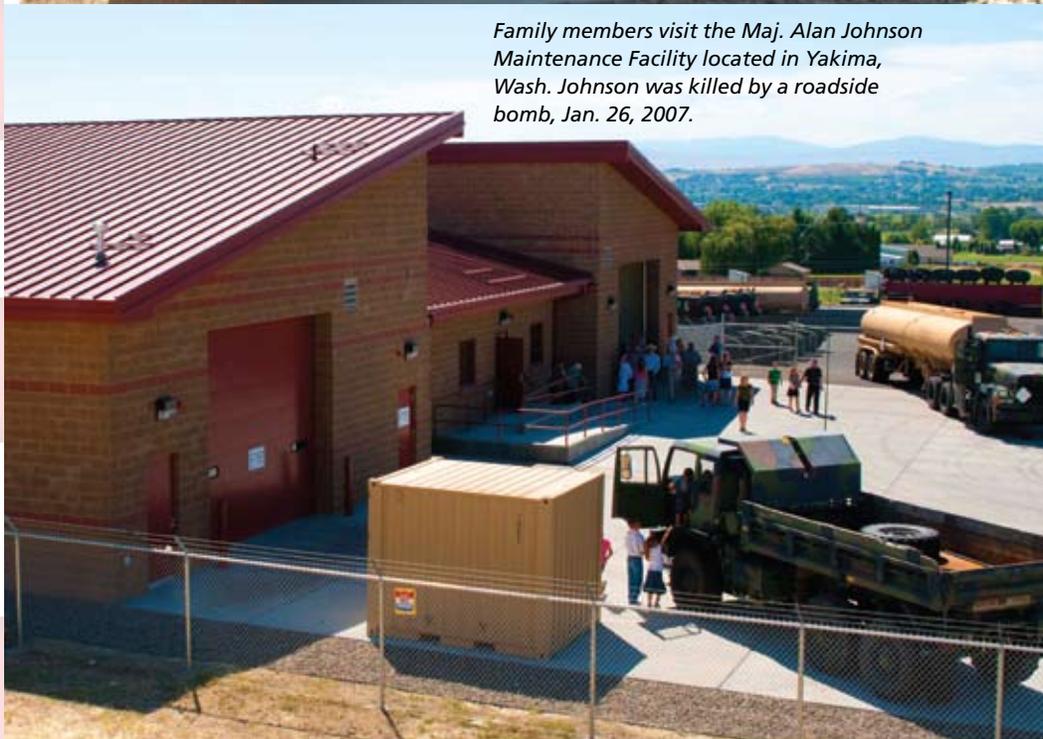
It is now the home for seven Army Reserve units and one Washington National guard unit.

These two facilities will now be the location where Soldiers will ready themselves and their equipment for future global missions and will also serve as a remembrance of the two lost soldiers.

"This new complex also signals a long term commitment by the U.S. Army Reserve to the city of Yakima and its citizens," said Berry, who feels that this building is the focal point for training and readiness. "Our men and women will learn the skills to be effective soldiers in this ever changing environment where we must adapt quickly to emerging global threats." 🇺🇸



A soldier walks into the new Sgt. Ross A. Clevenger Armed Forces Reserve Center in Yakima, Wash. Clevenger was killed by a roadside bomb Feb. 8, 2007 while serving with the 321st Engineer Battalion.



Family members visit the Maj. Alan Johnson Maintenance Facility located in Yakima, Wash. Johnson was killed by a roadside bomb, Jan. 26, 2007.



Sgt. Clevenger's parents view the plaque in memory of their son Ross that will be placed at the Sgt. Ross A. Clevenger Armed Forces Reserve Center in Yakima, Wash. Clevenger was killed by a roadside blast in February of 2007 in Iraq while serving with the 321st Engineer Battalion.

Behind every Soldier is a strong support team

Use them to prevent suicide

Counselor

Battle Buddies

Family

Chain of Command

Coach

Chaplain

Physician

www.militaryonesource.com | 1.800.342.9647

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1.800.273.TALK (8255)



What To Do If You Think a Person Is Having Suicidal Thoughts

You cannot predict death by suicide, but you can identify people who are at increased risk for suicidal behavior; take precautions, and refer them for effective treatment.

- **Ask** the person directly if he or she (1) is having suicidal thoughts/ideas, (2) has a plan to do so, and (3) has access to lethal means:

- “Are you thinking about killing yourself?”
- “Have you ever tried to hurt yourself before?”
- “Do you think you might try to hurt yourself today?”
- “Have you thought of ways that you might hurt yourself?”
- “Do you have pills/weapons in the house?”
 - This *won't* increase the person's suicidal thoughts. It *will* give you information that indicates how strongly the person has thought about killing him- or herself.

- Take seriously all suicide threats and all suicide attempts. A past history of suicide attempts is one of the strongest risk factors for death by suicide.
- There is no evidence that “no-suicide contracts” prevent suicide. In fact, they may give counselors a false sense of reassurance.

- **Listen and look** for red flags for suicidal behavior, indicated by the mnemonic:

IS PATH WARM?

Ideation—Threatened or communicated
Substance abuse—Excessive or increased

Purposeless—No reasons for living
Anxiety—Agitation/Insomnia
Trapped—Feeling there is no way out
Hopelessness

Withdrawing—From friends, family, society
Anger (uncontrolled)—Rage, seeking revenge
Recklessness—Risky acts, unthinking
Mood changes (dramatic)

• Act.

- If you think the person might harm him- or herself, do not leave the person alone.
- Say, “I’m going to get you some help.”
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK. You will be connected to the nearest available crisis center. Or...
- Go to SAMHSA’s Mental Health Services Locator (www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/databases/) or Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator (<http://dasis3.samhsa.gov>).

Assessing Suicide Risk: Initial Tips for Counselors

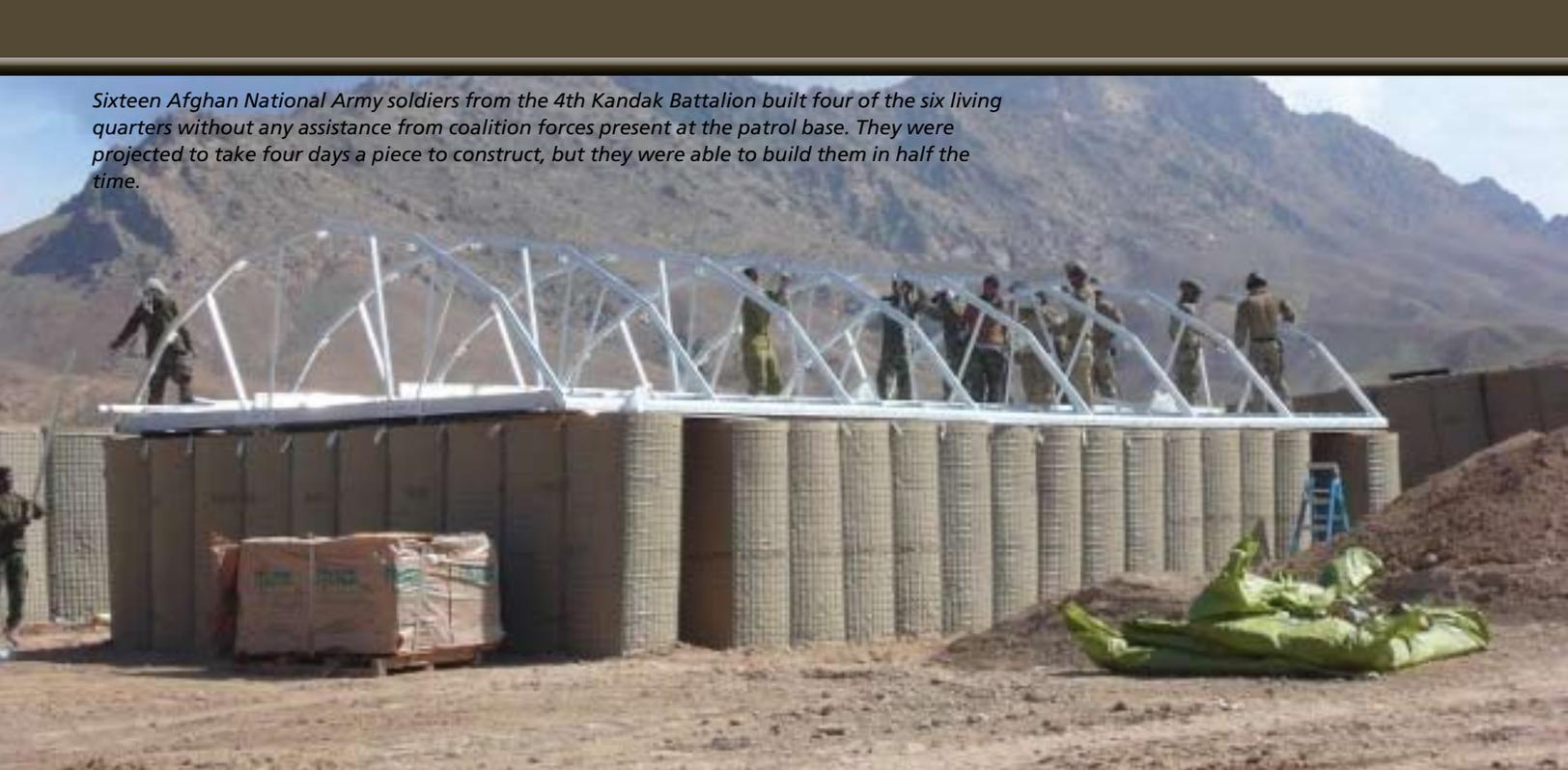
NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINETM
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Sixteen Afghan National Army soldiers from the 4th Kandak Battalion built four of the six living quarters without any assistance from coalition forces present at the patrol base. They were projected to take four days a piece to construct, but they were able to build them in half the time.



Afghan Engineers Build Their Foundation

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan -- Sgt. Francisco Singer of the 668th Engineer Company, 980th Engineer Battalion, has been training Afghan National Army engineers for more than five months. Seeing them build their first combat patrol base makes him optimistic about what the future holds for the Afghan soldiers.

Since mid-December 2011 the San Antonio, Texas, native has worked with the Australian army on Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt to train ANA engineer soldiers. Singer's six-week course teaches the fundamentals of operating heavy construction equipment, such as backhoe loaders, compactors, Bobcat skidloaders, dump trucks and front-end loaders.

Singer (who is serving his second tour in Afghanistan) along

with two American instructors, also works with ANA non-commissioned officers, training them to effectively lead troops and plan construction projects from start to finish.

Singer said he was impressed from the beginning with the work ethic and enthusiasm of the Afghan soldiers.

"It was an eye opener to see their eagerness to learn," Singer said. "They really want Americans training them. They tell us all the time."

About two months after the first Afghan troops graduated from his course in January, Singer and several soldiers from Australia's Mentoring Task Force 4 took the 16 Afghans to a remote location near the city of Chaka Juy for a construction mission.

The mission was to have the ANA engineers build a patrol base

from the ground up with minimal assistance.

For each phase of the construction project, Singer and the Australians mentored the Afghan forces using the U.S. Army's "crawl, walk, run" training philosophy.

"They are visual learners. First we'd show them how to do something. Then we'd do it together. Finally, they'd do it on their own," Singer explained.

Singer's primary task was to "stand back and observe" Sgt. Rhamatoula, the ANA platoon sergeant, as he managed the project and led his troops. Singer said he would only interfere if he saw the Afghan NCO taking his construction project in the wrong direction.

If he did lend a hand, Singer gently nudged Rhamatoula back down the right path. He passed on

to the platoon sergeant knowledge he gained as a noncommissioned officer – managing troops and equipment and recognizing both their limitations and capabilities.

The original project plans required the 16 Afghan engineers to build the patrol base perimeter and six living quarters, but, without any recommendations from their mentors, the ANA leadership determined they could have better security if they expanded the project and built two checkpoints and a strongpoint.

“This was the first big project they had ever worked on, and they far exceeded our expectations,” Singer proudly said.

They performed so far beyond what had been forecast that Singer was able to leave the construction site ahead of schedule.

“My job as a mentor finished early. There was nothing else I could teach them that they couldn’t grasp on their own” Singer said. “I [left] the first week of May and wasn’t supposed to be out of there until mid-June.”

Singer said he is proud of his engineers and is optimistic about what the future holds for the ANA engineers.

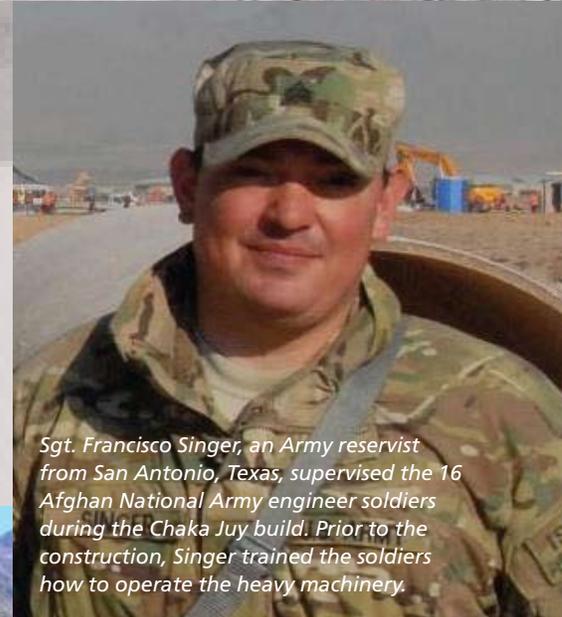
A total of 41 ANA soldiers have graduated from Singer’s course. He will continue to train ANA

Five Afghan soldiers from the 4th Kandak Battalion take turns operating the Bobcat skid-loader and the Chaka Juy build site. The soldiers were preparing the groundwork at the Afghan patrol base.



engineers and take them out on missions until his tour ends later this year.

“Every mission they were given and told to do, they did it with no problems. The only thing that held them back was equipment limitations,” said Singer. “If they were to go out and build another base, I’d want to go out there with them.” 🇺🇸



Sgt. Francisco Singer, an Army reservist from San Antonio, Texas, supervised the 16 Afghan National Army engineer soldiers during the Chaka Juy build. Prior to the construction, Singer trained the soldiers how to operate the heavy machinery.

Two Afghan National Army soldiers from the 4th Kandak Battalion help the backhoe loader operator fill the HESCO barriers of the patrol base perimeter. The Afghan soldiers were first taught how to assemble the barriers before they were allowed to build the perimeter unassisted.



The Afghan soldier builds the frame to one of the six living quarters built at the Chaka Juy patrol base. The Afghan National Army not only operated heavy construction equipment, but they also improved their carpentry skills.



Cpl. Lance Clifford competes for BWC

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

FORT MCCOY, Wis. -- As the week rolled by, Cpl. Lance Clifford, found himself stepping up to a challenge he welcomed, as he competed for the title of non-commissioned officer of the year at the United States Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition (BWC).

BWC brings the best of the best soldiers from the Army Reserve to compete against each other in both physical and mental soldiering events.

"I like the challenge and the opportunity to be able to do this type of training," said Clifford, an intelligence analyst for the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., representing the 416th Theater Engineer Command out of Darien, Ill.

"I don't get to do this kind of stuff as an analyst, stepping up and preparing myself enabled me to do this type of training," said Clifford, who is a freelance writer from Seattle.

"And on top of that it just makes me a well-rounded Soldier, which I think is important especially in the Reserve," he added. "A lot of time these soldiering skills often get overlooked in garrison and it's great to be able to come here and sharpen those skills."

The week-long competition consists of the APFT, ruck marching, weapon qualification, written exam, mystery events and combatives.

Clifford stated that the experience of pushing yourself and pushing through when it gets hard and painful is what kept him motivated through the competition.

The land navigation course proved to be one of his greatest challenges.

"That chewed me up and spat me out," Clifford said.

"Mainly because of the thick woods, I got turned around a few times. Then there was Pikes Peak, the highest part around here, I'm sure," he added.

As part of the competition, the competitors were also faced with mystery events, one which included a ride in a Black Hawk helicopter, a first for Clifford.

"I had never ridden in a Black Hawk before. That was very fun and I had a nice window seat," he said with a smile.

Clifford hopes to take the skills and experiences from this competition and apply them by teaching and mentoring soldiers in his unit.

"It would also be great to come back next year as a sponsor and train up someone else," he said. "Especially after getting to this level, knowing what to expect, and being able to see if they can pass some of my failings."

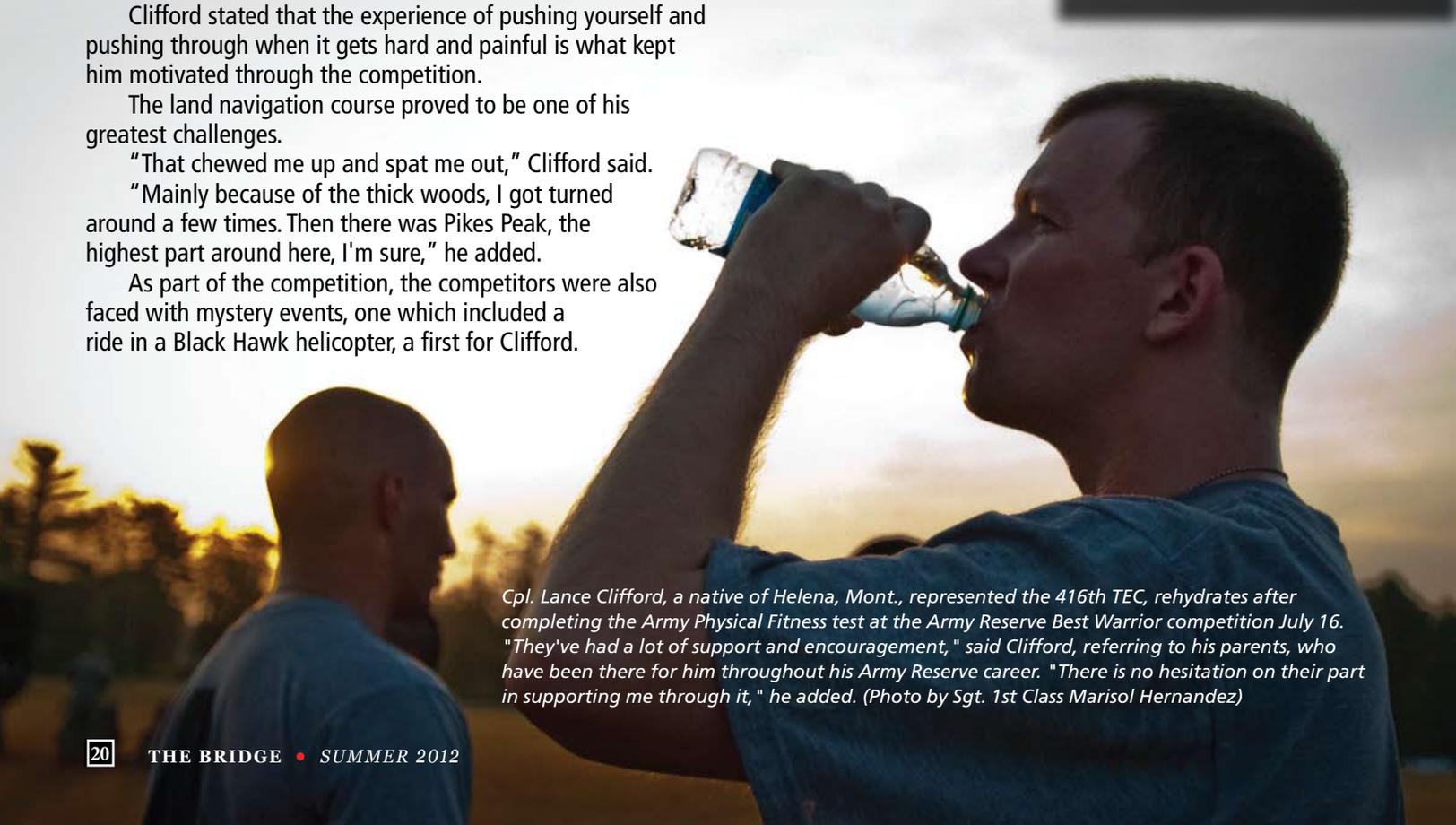
"Whether I win or lose, it's great to just be here to compete," he concluded. 



Cpl. Lance Clifford, top, gains control of Sgt. Joshua Randles, during the Modern Army Combatives Tournament at the 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 19. (Photo by Timothy Hale, USARC PAO)



Cpl. Lance Clifford, a 35F1 Intelligence Analyst, rests between events during the Army Reserve BWC on July 17. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Cpl. Lance Clifford, a native of Helena, Mont., represented the 416th TEC, rehydrates after completing the Army Physical Fitness test at the Army Reserve Best Warrior competition July 16. "They've had a lot of support and encouragement," said Clifford, referring to his parents, who have been there for him throughout his Army Reserve career. "There is no hesitation on their part in supporting me through it," he added. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

Distinguishing the strongest

Story by Spc. Benjamin John, 364th PAOC

FORT MCCOY, Wis. - In the calm before the storm, Spc. Kyle Hughes reflects back on the past two days as he unpacks his bags and makes everything in his room dress right dress. He is preparing for the United States Army Reserve Command 2012 Best Warrior Competition (BWC).

Hughes, an electrician with the 486th Engineer Company representing the 416th Theater Engineer Command, has been training and competing for almost a year to get to where he is today. He said he attributes his accomplishments to his parents and the sacrifices they took to raise him and his sister.

"I think they like seeing what I am capable of," said Hughes. "There are not a lot of things you can do in life where there is direct feedback as to what you are capable of doing."

The BWC is a competition where skills are tested. It is a place where the best of the best go to show the country what they are made of. It is a competition that is a year in the making and distinguishes the strongest, both mentally and physically.

According to Hughes the success that he has experienced that led him to this point, was not accomplished solely by him, as he gives a lot of credit to his team leader and sponsor Sgt. Zachary Smith who is also an electrician with the 486th EN CO.

"We have been motivating each other more than anything else," said Hughes. "Even if we could not come in on orders, we have been studying and doing physical training together."

Pushing and challenging himself to exceed the standard, has been the mindset of Hughes' training regiment for the past year. His physical training goal is to perfect the Army Physical fitness Test and get a score of 300, the highest standard score possible.



Spc. Kyle Hughes, an interior electrician with the 486th Engineer Company representing the 416th TEC, talks to 1st Sgt. Norman Black minutes after he went through a live-fire shoot house, July 18, at the 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis. Hughes is a native of Wooster, Ohio. (Photo by Spc. Benjamin John, 364th PAOC)

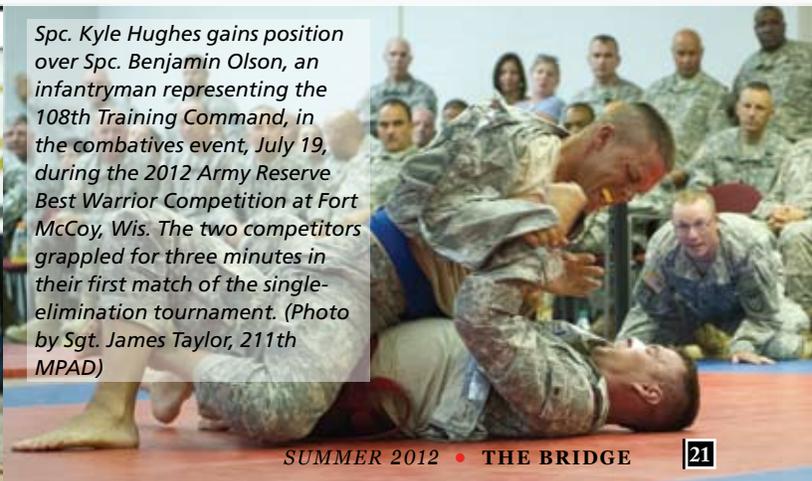
"When I started the competition I was around 245-250 points, and right now I'm above a 290," said Hughes with a smile.

The BWC is also a test of a soldier's mental strength. Hughes uses internet sites and his basic army warrior tasks manual to sharpen his mind and dedicated six hours a day to studying and learning certain tasks necessary to.

"I'm accomplishing something," said Hughes. "Competition like this shows us why we joined." 🇺🇸



Spc. Kyle Hughes performs push-ups during the Army physical fitness test at the 2012 372nd Engineer Brigade Best Warrior Competition Feb. 14. Hughes has raised his APFT score by more than 50 points since he started training for BWC. (Photo by Sgt. Clifford Coy, 364th PAOC)



Spc. Kyle Hughes gains position over Spc. Benjamin Olson, an infantryman representing the 108th Training Command, in the combatives event, July 19, during the 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis. The two competitors grappled for three minutes in their first match of the single-elimination tournament. (Photo by Sgt. James Taylor, 211th MPAD)

A photograph of three men in U.S. Army Reserve dress uniforms. The man on the left is Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Rios, the man in the center is Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, and the man on the right is Spc. Michael Swan. They are all smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture. They are standing in front of several flags, including the American flag and a blue flag with a gold emblem.

US Army Reserve Command announces winners of 2012 Best Warrior Competition

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve, center, gives a thumbs up with Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Rios, left, and Spc. Michael Swan, right, at the 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior competition at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 20. Rios, a native of South Ozone Park, N.Y., and Swan, a native of Gurley, Ala., will represent the Army Reserve at the Department of the Army Best Warrior competition later this year at Fort Lee, Va.

Story by Timothy Hale, U.S. Army Reserve Command Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wis. - The U.S. Army Reserve Command announced the winners of the 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition July 20 at the American Legion Post in Sparta, Wis.

The 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior Non-commissioned Officer of the Year is Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Rios. A Corrections Specialist, Rios is a native of Ozone Park, N.Y. Rios represented the 84th Training Command in the competition.

The 2012 Army Reserve Best Warrior Soldier of the Year is Spc. Michael Swan. A Track Vehicle Repairer, Swan is a native of Gurley, Ala. Swan represented the 335th Signal Command in the competition.

Rios and Swan will go on to represent the Army Reserve in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition in October at Fort Lee, Va.

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, Chief of the Army Reserve, said the 43 NCOs and Soldiers competing in this year found out the competition was not for the faint of heart.

"As you found out, there's no wimp factor here," Talley said. "This is a well-rounded, tough competition that tries and tests the skills that make our Warrior-Citizens Army Strong. I'm proud of every one of you who have endured the physical and mental

challenges it takes to be an Army Reserve Best Warrior."

Other honors at the awards banquet were as follows:

Best Warrior runner-up (Non-Commissioned Officer category): Sgt. Orval Emery, a Chemical Operations Specialist representing the 377th Theater Support Command, from Wichita, Kan.

Best Warrior runner-up (Soldier category): Spc. Ivan Pimentel, a Human Resources Specialist representing the 75th Training Division, from Modesto, Calif.

Highest Army Physical Fitness Score: Spc. Lucas Delay, a Military Policeman representing the 200th Military Police Command, from Davison, Mich.

Highest Weapons Qualification: Spc. Carl Best, an Intelligence Analyst representing the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, from Lincolnshire, Ill.

NCO Combatives Winner and overall combatives champion: Sgt. Anthony Mitchell, a Public Affairs Broadcast Specialist representing the 3rd Medical Deployment Support Command, from Chicago, Ill.

Soldier Combatives Winner: Spc. Dustin Chavez, an Operating Room Specialist representing the 807th

Medical Deployment Support Command, from Pollock Pines, Calif.

The week started with candidates competing in Best Warrior Competition represented 205,000 Soldiers serving in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The 21 NCOs and 22 junior enlisted Soldiers spent the week on a variety of Army challenges that tested the limits of their physical and mental capabilities to include: Army Physical Fitness Test, night land navigation, urban orienteering, weapons qualifications, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, 10km ruck march, written exam and essay, a sergeants major board appearance, and a Modern Army Combatives tournament.

Their military backgrounds and experience represent the entire spectrum of the Army Reserve. Many have deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. Their career fields include military police, healthcare, mechanics, human resources, intelligence, chaplain assistant, public affairs, and engineering. They are America's Warrior-Citizens, representing a wide cross-section of communities from across the United States. 

Editor's Note: Turn to pages 20-21 for articles and photos of the 416th TEC's Soldiers.

August is Anti-Terrorism Awareness Month.....

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

A new publication titled “Anti-Terrorism Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Stand Alone Facilities” has recently been released. The handbook describes how to establish and implement an Anti-Terrorism (AT) program and its requirements with emphasis on facilities that are outside of large U.S. military installations.

A quote from the publication is below:

“In today’s era of persistent conflict and asymmetric threats, protecting standalone army reserve facilities (SAFs) against a prospective terrorist attack presents a particular challenge. In most cases it requires thoughtful action beyond prescriptive instruction. It requires resourcefulness, initiative, and creativity—those bywords that represent the hallmark of the American Army.

Tackling unusual, unpredictable challenges is nothing new. Army policy and doctrine provide a basis for success, but this is often not



sufficient in the case of SAFs. The words *resourcefulness*, *initiative*, and *creativity* apply emphatically to SAF-type situations so diverse that they defy a fixed code guiding templated solutions.”

With August the designated month for “Anti-Terrorism Awareness,” I encourage all of you to again take a fresh look at your facilities’ Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection Planning. 



Soldiers improve Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup Corral

Story and Photos by Spc. Manda Walters, 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. – Soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve's 486th Engineer Company, out of Southfield, Mich., completed renovations at the Custer State Park Buffalo Corral Complex, as part of a Golden Coyote infrastructure project, June 17.

The 28th annual Golden Coyote exercise provided relevant training opportunities for active duty military, National Guard, and Reserve units. The reservists used military occupational specialties to engineer multiple projects at the site to include: demolishing old fencing, trenching 800 feet of earth, installing electrical components and fixtures, emplacing water lines and installing freeze-proof hydrants and geothermal waterers.

"This is the first year the buffalo corral has been on the Golden Coyote project list," said Jayme Severyn, who has worked as the Custer State Park Golden Coyote project liaison for the past five years. "The work of these service members will make the buffalo roundup more efficient this year."

The buffalo roundup is an annual fall event at the park that herds approximately 1,300 buffalo into corrals. The corral is a holding pen for animals during veterinary checks and auctions.

"Until now, the water had to be hand carried in buckets to the corral," said Severyn. "The water line the engineers put in makes it easier to get the water to the animals."

The 16 to 22 engineers who were on-site daily completed the water line and other projects during the four-day mission at the corral.

"Mission failure was not an option," said 1st Lt. Brian Jutila, the 486th officer-in-charge of the buffalo corral worksite. "These dedicated soldiers take tremendous

Members of the 486th EN CO of Southfield, Mich., unload electrical supplies for completing an engineering project at the buffalo corral complex at Custer State Park during the South Dakota National Guard's Golden Coyote training exercise, June 17. The project was completed in four days and provided the reservists with hands-on military occupational specialty training.

Spc. Brian Jackson, a carpentry and masonry specialist, drives a skid steer and Sgt. James Daly, an interior electrician, both members of the 486th EN CO of Southfield, Mich., provides ground guidance, while Jayme Severyn, Custer State Park Golden Coyote project liaison, observes at the buffalo corral complex in Custer State Park June 17.



pride in their work. They spent countless hours here at the buffalo corral complex, even after evening release, to make sure this project was on time and finished.”

Jutila said the dedication of the soldiers, combined with the U.S. Army’s established standards in military decision making processes, positive risk management and closed-loop learning process,

contributed to the success of the project.

“The closed-loop learning process helps us to identify solutions to problems that arise at the worksite,” said Jutila.

At the buffalo corral worksite, the soldiers met the obstacle of finding a water main and had a chance to utilize the closed-loop learning process.

“We added numerous unplanned man-hours to search for an existing water line,” said Jutila.

The 486th has learned from the challenge.

“Using the closed-loop learning process we identified a solution to the problem of finding a water main,” said Jutila. “We brainstormed and came up with the idea that we could use ground-penetrating sonar if we confront a similar problem on future missions.”

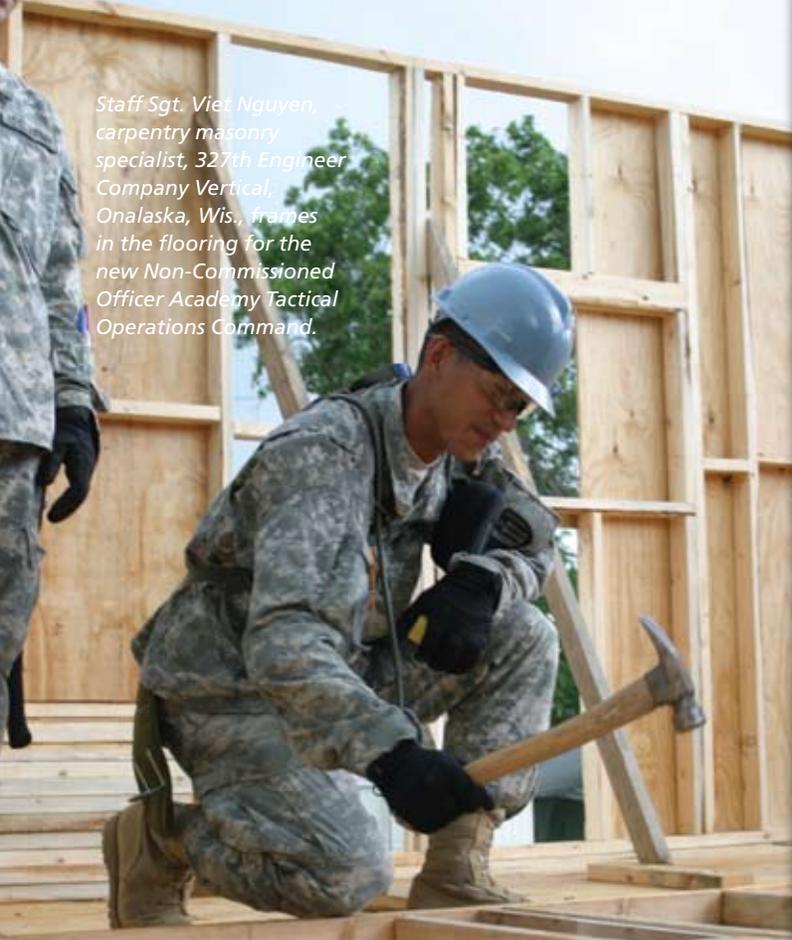
The Golden Coyote exercise has improved the unit’s mission readiness by providing hands-on experience and opportunities for soldiers to brainstorm and find solutions, said Jutila.

The platoon of engineers, comprised of 39 members, finished the project while also alternating soldiers through combat training lanes.

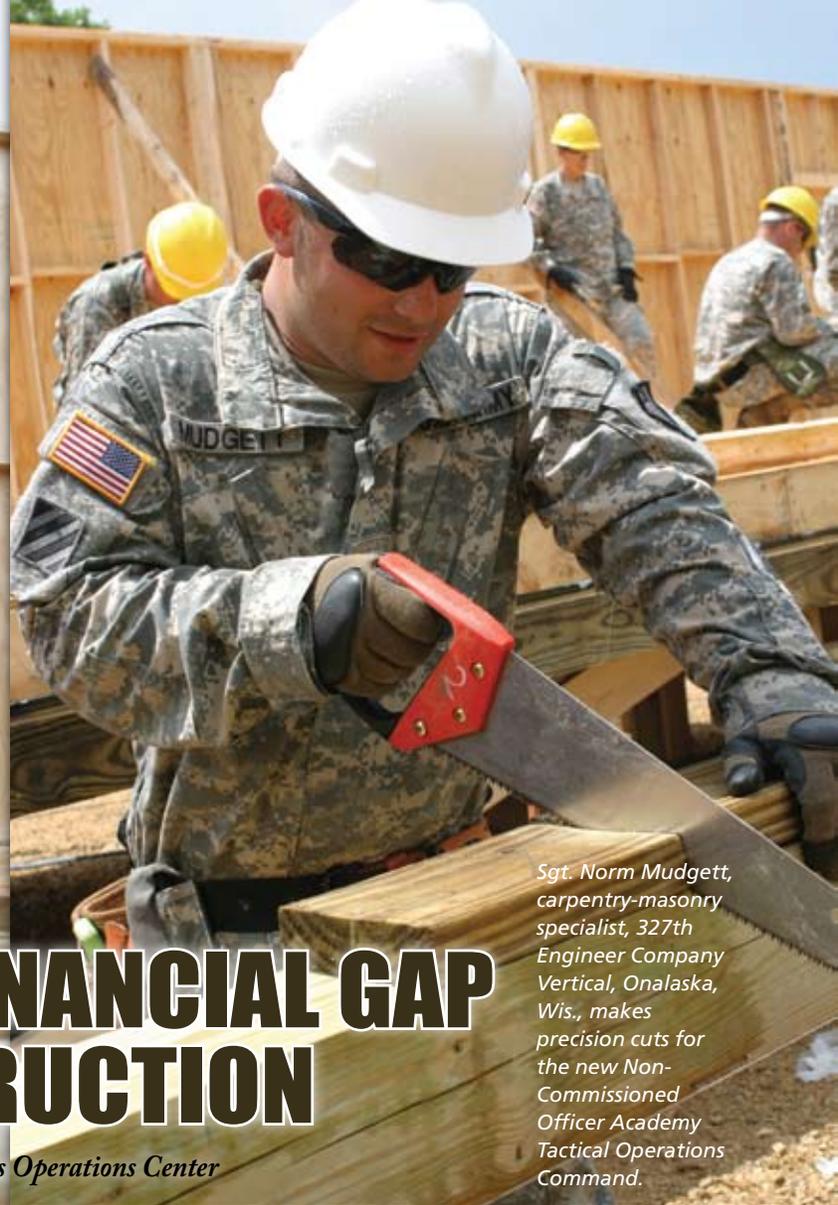
Park visitors can see the work of the 486th in use this year at the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup scheduled for Sept. 24. 

1st Lt. Brian Jutila, 486th EN CO of Southfield, Mich., buffalo corral worksite officer-in-charge, identifies one of the freeze-proof hydrants emplaced by engineers at the buffalo corral complex at Custer State Park during the South Dakota National Guard’s Golden Coyote training exercise June 17. The 28th Golden Coyote training exercise benefits the Black Hills by providing manpower and equipment for infrastructure projects for the National Forest and Custer State Park as well as training opportunities for military personnel in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.





Staff Sgt. Viet Nguyen, carpentry masonry specialist, 327th Engineer Company Vertical, Onalaska, Wis., frames in the flooring for the new Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Tactical Operations Command.



Sgt. Norm Mudgett, carpentry-masonry specialist, 327th Engineer Company Vertical, Onalaska, Wis., makes precision cuts for the new Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Tactical Operations Command.

SOLDIERS FILLS FINANCIAL GAP THROUGH CONSTRUCTION

Story and Photos by Sgt. Lolita E. Brown, 318th Public Affairs Operations Center

FORT MCCOY, Wis. -- As the growing number of budget cuts impact the military, U.S. Army Reserve engineers are working to save the Army money. Operation Essayons 2012, held June 9 to 23, helped Army Reserve engineers develop and sustain technical skills while improving Fort McCoy's infrastructure.

More than 400 soldiers, from 15 units throughout the United States, were tasked to work on various construction projects to include: building a traffic circle, a pole shed to store boats for the Morale Welfare and Recreation, a Tactical Operations Command for the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, rebuilding a Forward Army Refueling Point, and repaving parking lots for the ranges.

"Historically this type of construction on

Fort McCoy has been provided by civilian contractors which costs a lot more money," said Capt. James Lavelle, plans officer, Training Coordination Branch, Fort McCoy. "If we do it through Essayons, we can have soldiers do all of the labor and its cost effective."

Fort McCoy provided all of the material for the construction. Labor was only one aspect of cost savings but the units also provided their own equipment except for specialty tools.

As the Army saves money on labor cost, it also allows soldiers an opportunity to get much needed hands-on training in their Military Occupational Skills (MOS). The soldiers pitched in their knowledge and

expertise ranging from electricians, carpenter, masons, plumbers and heavy equipment operators.

“Operation Essayons is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our engineering skills as they would be applied worldwide in any theater or situation,” said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Malchow, construction supervisor, 327th Engineer Company Vertical, Onalaska, Wis. “It gives us the opportunity to enhance the skills a soldier may not be able to conduct on your normal battle assembly training.”

Other costs saving factors were to offer training opportunities to lower density MOS Soldiers such as food service specialist.. Normally when soldiers attend training on Fort McCoy, meals are usually coordinated through Troop Issue Sustenance Activity (TISA) and provided by civilian food service operators. However during the exercise Soldiers again filled the void.

“Under the command and control of the battalion heading Operation Essayons, we utilize our organic 92G (Food Service Specialist) for all feeding operations throughout the duration of the exercise,” said 1st Lt. Fatima D. Gales, company commander, Forward Support Company, 397th Engineer Battalion, Eau Claire, Wis.

“This is the first time in my 38 years in the military where this exercise was purely MOS training with no tactical play,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Vacho, 379th Engineer Battalion’s command sergeant major. “It gives soldiers time to focus on their MOS skills and apply their trade.” 🇺🇸

Pfc. Trevor Zarek, heavy equipment operator, 996th Engineer Company, Milwaukee, Wis., paves the road for the new traffic circle.



Campbellsport, Wis. native Pvt. Jordan Rowe, assigned to the 372nd Engineer Company, located in Pewaukee, Wis., cuts joints that will be used to make trusses at Base Camp Milpitas during Combat Support Training Exercise-91 on July 15.



Vertical Engineers Train, Make Improvements Affecting Future Soldiers

Story and Photos by Spc. Jeff Shackelford, 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif. – Soldiers from the 372nd Engineer Company, located in Pewaukee, Wis., conducted training and improvements to Base Camp Milpitas during Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 91, July 14.

Despite the heat and supply challenges, Soldiers from the 372nd stay sharp and motivated while building offices and sleeping quarters, helping the

unit gain experience and stay busy until the CSTX 91 training lanes open.

“We are doing some training and we are letting some of the junior enlisted lead these projects to get leadership experience,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Lindenberg, a Vertical Engineer Project Manager assigned to the 372nd.

Lindenberg, a native of West Bend, Wis., said the new huts

are outfitted with electricity and air conditioning, with the construction providing training opportunities for carpenters and plumbers as well.

With temperatures regularly reaching above 100 F, these improvements not only provide training for the engineers but comfort for the Soldiers.

“The buildings will help get Soldiers out of tents so they can be a little cooler,” said

Lindenberg. “We will outfit them with electrical outlets and air. It will be a much nicer place to live for future Soldiers.”

Lindenberg said that one of the most important aspects of building is a good foundation.

“We worked with another unit to have the ground rolled and compacted, so as time goes on the building does not settle and start falling apart,” said Lindberg. “You have to have a strong foundation.”

Even though there have been some challenges, the 372nd builds on.

“There have been some tool issues,” said Lindenberg. “Not

all of our equipment is here yet.”

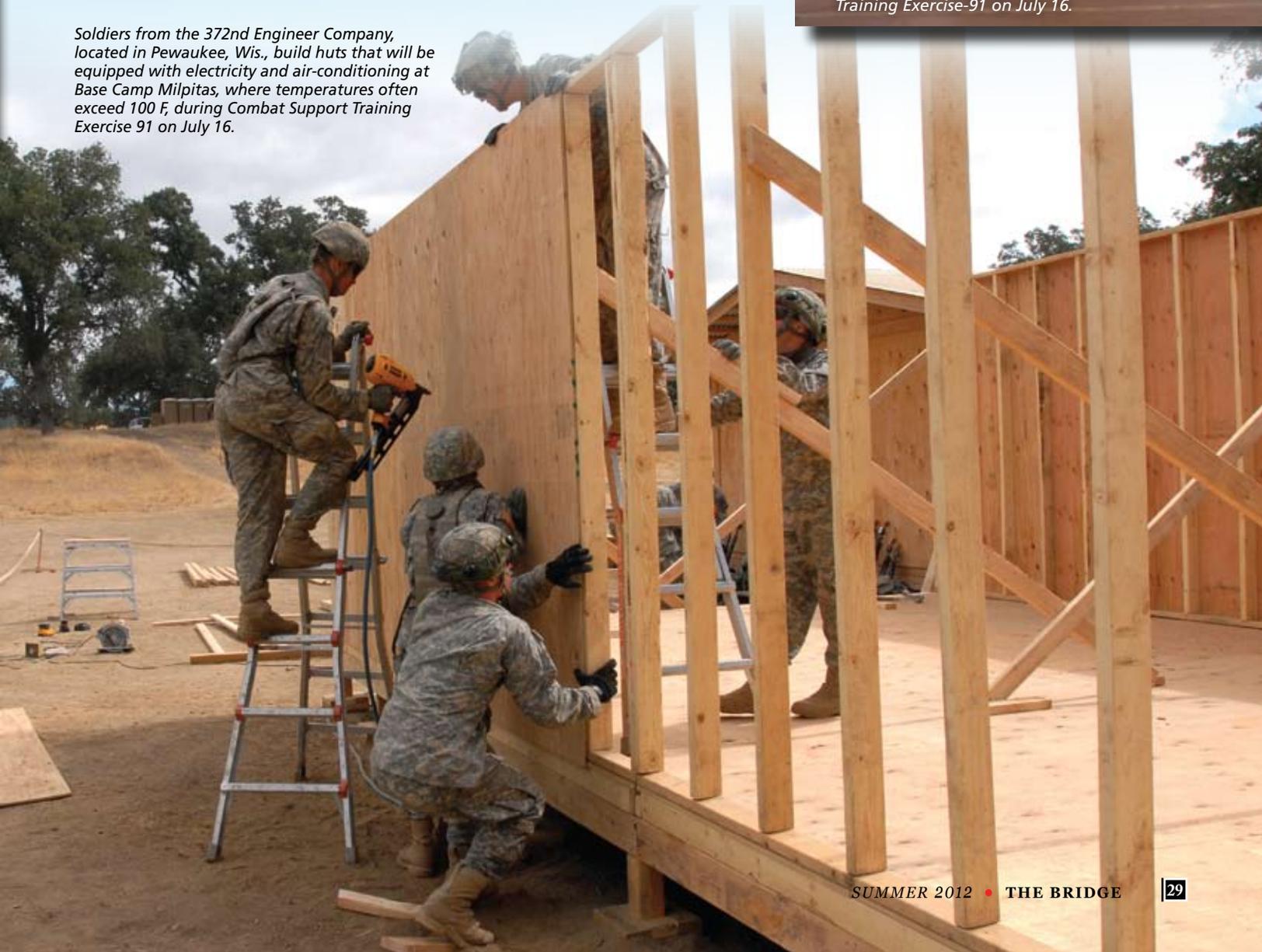
CSTX 91 is a sustainment-focused training exercise developed for units in Train/Ready year-3 of the 5-year Army Forces Generation model.

With many of the units participating in CSTX 91 becoming available for deployment next year, the remote training environment Fort Hunter Liggett provides, offers rugged terrain, realistic training opportunities and living conditions that Soldiers may face while deployed. 🇺🇸



Green Bay, Wis., native, Spc. Ryan Schmitt, assigned to the 372nd Engineer Company, located in Pewaukee, Wis., measures a support stud that will be used in the construction of trusses for additional huts at Base Camp Milpitas during Combat Support Training Exercise-91 on July 16.

Soldiers from the 372nd Engineer Company, located in Pewaukee, Wis., build huts that will be equipped with electricity and air-conditioning at Base Camp Milpitas, where temperatures often exceed 100 F, during Combat Support Training Exercise 91 on July 16.



704th EN CO participates in first Guard/Reserve Decisive Rotation

Story by Capt. Joshua W. Yarbrough, Commander, 704th Engineer Company

From May 4-26 soldiers from the 704th Engineer Company (Clearance) participated in National Training Center (NTC) Rotation 12-07 (ATROPIAN RESOLVE) in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. The rotation was the first decisive action rotation for a guard/reserve unit and is part of NTC's transition away from Afghanistan-specific training. The training was geared towards conducting missions in a complex environment that includes irregular warfare and nation state aggression. It is part of the Army's move

to start training for the next conflict and future unified land operations.

As part of its training, the 704th had to establish an "AA" or assembly area and did not operate out of a Forward Operating Base (FOB). They had to provide their own internal security and helped assist the 489th Engineer Battalion base cluster with additional security as well. As the unit employed desert camouflage netting to mask the presence of its Tactical Operation Center as well as to provide much needed shade, the location was somewhat unrecognizable as a training TOC. The

Members of 2nd Platoon, 704th EN CO pose in front of Painted Rocks at NTC during NTC Rotation 12-07.



location, straddling high ground and a major intersection, often led it to being mistaken as the battalion headquarters – as the Executive Officer (XO), 1st Lt. David Scott would find out when Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, Deputy Commanding General of the California Army National Guard (CAARNG), surprised him by entering through the rear of the TOC tent.

The unit practiced internal defense procedures and conducted react to indirect/direct fire drills courtesy of observer controller/trainer (OC/T) and artillery simulators.

During the rotation, the 704th supported the CAARNG 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) by providing targeted and deliberate route clearance capabilities. The unit conducted multiple sweeps in support of maneuver forces as

they prepared to conduct patrols and react to enemy contact. They assisted with training and teaching maneuver commanders about what their assets were and how to best employ them in the future fight. The 704th also benefited from being attached to the light organization because of the great cross-training in small unit infantry tactics.

There appears to be more emphasis for small infantry unit training to become more important for route clearance unit's operating in parts of Afghanistan due to the threat of command-wire improvised explosive device (IED's) and the need to conduct dismounted clearance in named

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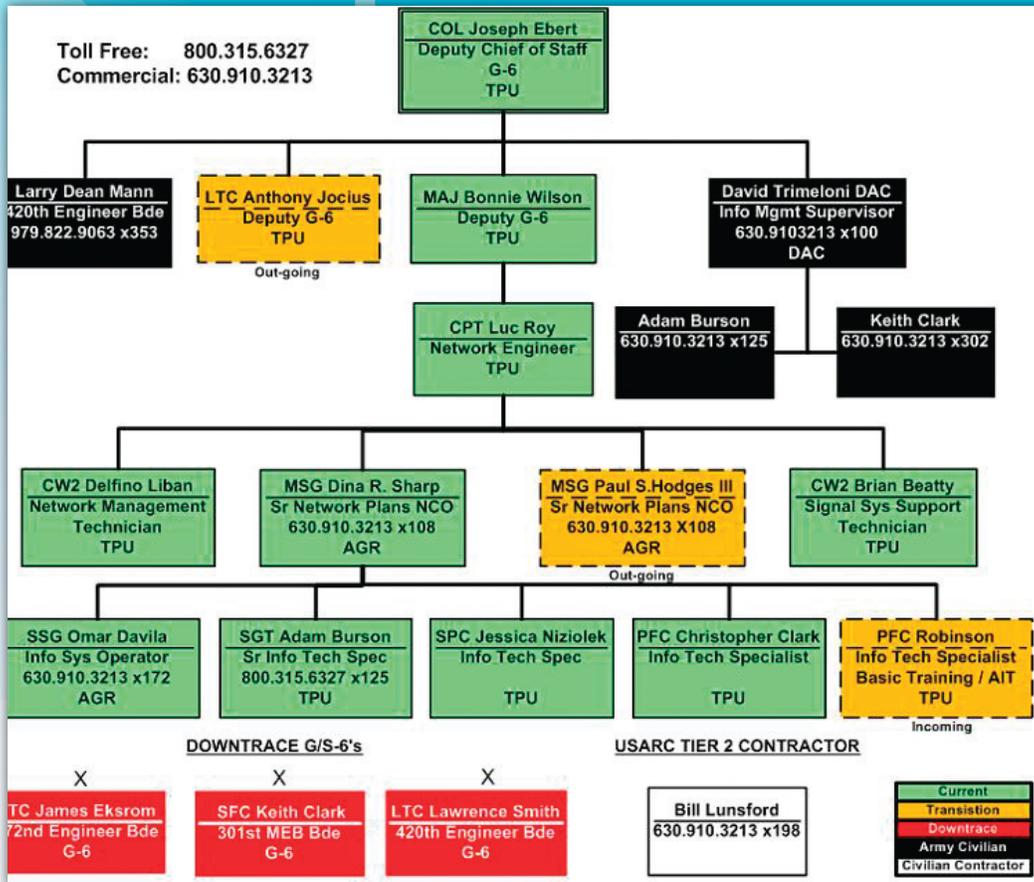
The 704th EN CO certified soldiers on systems such as the Talon Robot during their training at NTC in May. The Talon Robot is employed to interrogate suspected IED.



G-6 STAFF NOTES

By 416th Theater Engineer Command, G6

416th Theater Engineer Command – G-6



Important Numbers and Contact Information and Help

USARC Help Desk 1-877-777-6854 or at https://esahelp	AKO Help Desk 866-335-2769 or at http://www.us.army.mil
Register For An Army E-mail Account (1) Register - https://atc.us.army.mil (2) Complete DoD Information Assurance Awareness Exam https://ia.signal.army.mil (3) Complete Wide Network Security Focus Training at https://atc.us.army.mil (4) Complete ARAMP Request https://aramp.usar.army.mil	Can I access my USAR email account from home? (1) The requirements are a CAC Card Reader, Active Client Software, and an internet connection. (2) The URL is https://owa.usar.army.mil (3) From the AKO CAC web page you can download the software and there's a listing of CAC Reader vendors. The CAC Resource Center is located under the "Quick Links" heading.
DoD Information Assurance Awareness Exam https://ia.signal.army.mil	Where do I update and make changes to my USAR account information? Utilize the https://aramp.usar.army.mil web site
My USAR account is "Disabled" or "Locked Out". What do I do? Submit a trouble ticket via https://esahelp or call 1.877.777.6854	AKO Help Desk: 866-335-2769 http://www.us.army.mil
You received a new CAC and are having problems using it on your computer: (1) ID card offices are issuing PIV II CAC's. You can verify if yours is one of these by looking for either of these on the back above the magnetic strip in yellowish / brownish letters "Gemalto TOP DL GX4 144" or "Oberthur ID One 128 v5.5 Dual" (2) Cure: Fixes for this problem. ActivClient 6.1 and ActivClient 6.2 need to update your software.	

Microsoft Windows 7 Deployment on Its Way

Lt. Col. Anthony Jocius, Deputy G-6

In the coming year the Army Reserve (AR) will undergo another large computer/automation change. This change will affect all computers connected to AR network LAN throughout the command. Our current image version 3.0.9.0 will be upgraded to version 4. This new image will require all computers to be re-imaged.



Why do we need to implement this change? Migration to version 4.0 will strengthen internet security and standardize all Army information systems in to one common platform. Reduce opportunities across the network to access and exploit government computer systems Army-wide. All AR organizations will comply with these changes or risk being removed from the LandWarNet.

AR image 4.0 is a software modification to the approved Army Gold Master (AGM) 10.0 Image with Microsoft Windows 7. Network Commands (NETCOM) AGM 10.0 alone is NOT compatible with the AR Network (ARNET). The Army Reserve will make the appropriate changes which will enable it to comply with the new image.



ARNET laptops and desktops unable to support AR Image 4.0 will be turned in and replaced with systems ordered and received in support of the Army Reserve be replaced through the standard G-6 migration life cycle management process. Systems which cannot be upgraded will be removed from the network, blocked or placed in quarantine. These non-compliant computers pose a significant security risk to the ARNET.

System administrators and organizations will require Computing Environment (CE) training and certification for information technology towards obtaining Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2007 support. Related certifications for example, Microsoft Certified Technician Specialist (MCTS), Microsoft Windows 7 Configuration and Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP): Enterprise Support Technician.

For on-line training opportunities, for both Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2007, go to the following websites:

<http://usarmy.skillport.com> and
<https://train.gordon.army.mil>.

The 416th TEC G-6 Col. Joseph Ebert and his staff are preparing an order for publication. This forthcoming order will detail the command implementation and re-imaging plan. The G-3 EOC will publish this order and disseminate to all of its down-trace units.

Giving Back; 652nd Hosts Blood Drive

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, 416th TEC PAO, Photos by Sgt. Nathan R. Narolis, 652nd EN CO



Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Kasper, retention NCO, smiles for the camera, as she donates blood during the 652nd EN CO blood drive on May 5. The 652nd EN CO hopes to make the blood drive an annual event. (Photo by Sgt. Nathan R. Narolis, 652nd EN CO)

HAMMOND, Wis.--On May 5, the 652nd Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) hosted a blood drive open to soldiers and their families at the Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Gabrielson and Spc. Bert Hoyer Army Reserve Center. Thirty five soldiers successfully donated 39 units of blood.

The blood drive helped the 652nd EN CO strengthen their relationship with the town of Hammond. The 652nd EN CO relocated to Hammond in May of 2010 after being located in Ellsworth, Wis., for over forty years.

Sgt. Nathan R. Narolis, supply sergeant for the company, put the event together as a way to help show the units' appreciation towards the town that has welcomed them with open arms.

"The more we can support the community, the more they will support us," he said. "Without a good support net, our missions will only get harder."

"We represent the military and we need to show the people that we are here for them," Narolis added.

Working closely with the local Red Cross, Narolis was able to coordinate the event during the unit's battle assembly with full support from the command.

"To be part of a community you have to be involved," said Cpt. Shawn P. Gilbert, 652nd EN CO company commander. "This is one way reserve soldiers [who] come from all over, can be involved in the local community."

"We are scheduled for our next blood drive in January and intend to open it up to the public," said Narolis.

The 652nd EN CO hopes to make this an annual event and has recently been involved with the community in other events to include taking part in Hammond Heartland Days and National Night Out. The unit also plans on assisting the Hammond Police Department and St. Croix County Sheriff later this year. 🇺🇸



Cpt. Shawn P. Gilbert, 652nd EN CO company commander, donates blood at the unit's blood drive during May's battle assembly. (Photo by Sgt. Nathan R. Narolis, 652nd EN CO)

996th EN CO trains on CAT Simulators

Story by Mrs. Annette Bailey, Photos by Ken Pfederer

Capt. Fernando Quiñones-Vargas is the operations officer for the 996th Engineer Company out of Milwaukee, Wis. He has seen the impact that CAT Simulators has made on soldiers and recruits alike.

After returning from deployment in Afghanistan, Quiñones-Vargas learned that simulators had been installed to aid in the equipment training process at the 996th. The company utilizes CAT Simulators Hydraulic Excavator, M-Series Motor Grader, Small Wheel Loader, Wheel Tractor-Scraper and Track Type Tractor simulator systems. The simulators allow the company to train

new soldiers to master the controls on each piece of equipment before they get inside the cab of the actual machine. When the next battle assembly took place, Quiñones-Vargas got to see the simulators in action for the first time. Since then, he has watched approximately 80 soldiers rotate through the training simulators over battle assembly weekends. Once the soldiers are trained on the equipment, they perform road clearing and construction, among other types of duties.

When the soldiers moved onto field training, Quiñones-Vargas saw improved performance when operating the actual equipment. One of the most

noted improvements Quiñones-Vargas has seen in the soldiers is the difference in their confidence and experience levels from training on the simulators. "They know exactly what to do and are much more efficient in their executions of applications because they had the opportunity to practice the training exercises on the simulators first." indicated Quiñones-Vargas.

"The simulators have more appeal to the soldiers. They are a new

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Soldiers from the 996th EN CO train on CAT simulators during their battle assemblies. The simulators allow the company to train new soldiers to master the controls on each piece of equipment before they get inside the cab of the actual machine.



BRIDGING



SSD1 will be mandatory starting January 2010, and it will be a prerequisite to Warrior Leader Course. Soldiers will be automatically enrolled during AIT and begin once they are in their unit. SSD1 will focus on team and squad levels, teaching leadership, NCO History and introducing Soldiers to the Army's drills and ceremonies.

There will not be SSD between WLC and Advanced Leader Common Core. ALC-CC is in lieu of SSD2.

Bridging the gap for Army Reserve NCOs, Structured Self-Development program in full swing

By Timothy L. Hale, Army Reserve Command Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – A new approach to provide all Army soldiers a streamlined way to manage their professional development is underway.

The Structured Self-Development, an Army-wide program developed by the United States Army Sergeants



Major Academy, is designed to assist all soldiers – active, reserve and National Guard – achieve professional and technical success as they move through the noncommissioned officer ranks.

The goal of SSD is to provide a capable corps of NCOs who can think critically, manage resources, be culturally astute in any environment, and be a motivated warrior-leader.

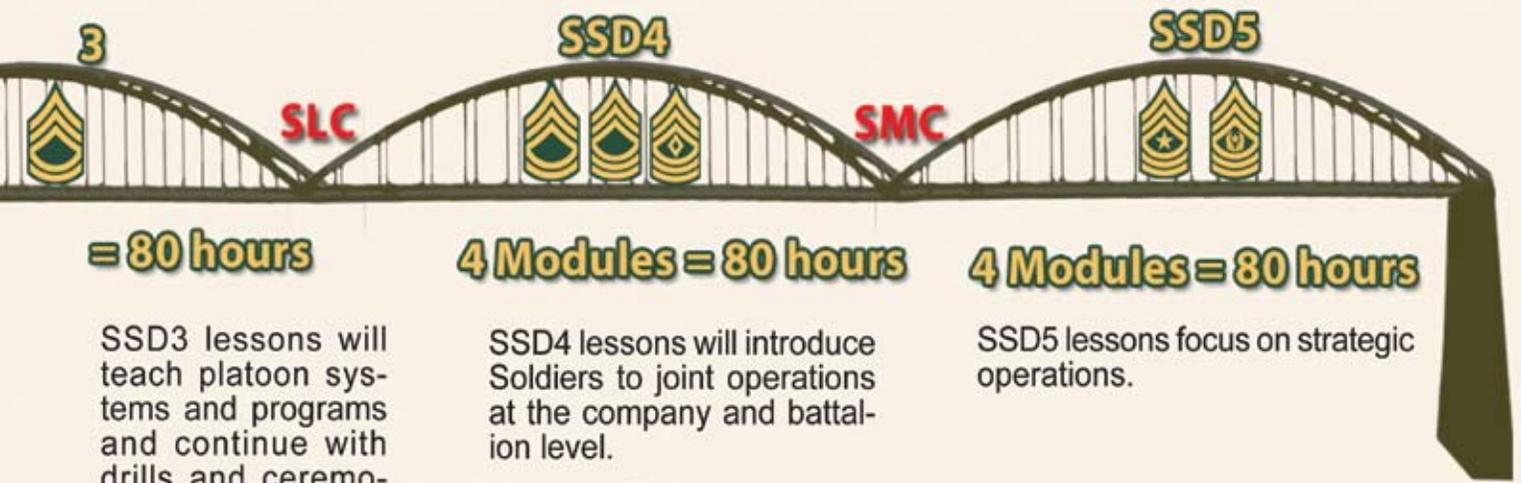
While the SSD acronym may be new, its foundation is based on the existing professional NCO education system.

“It is going to enhance those (NCOES) training environments,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Whitehead, operations NCO, USARC G-37 (Individual Training).

“It will keep the soldiers on their toes,” Whitehead said. “It gives them a little more information to put in their tool bag and be a better Soldier all the way around.”

Through SSD and the current NCOES, a soldier must complete each specific SSD level through self-paced

THE GAP



SSD3 lessons will teach platoon systems and programs and continue with drills and ceremonies. SSDIII will be taken after ALC and before the Senior Leader Course, previously known as the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC).

SSD4 lessons will introduce Soldiers to joint operations at the company and battalion level.

SSD5 lessons focus on strategic operations.

SSD AT A GLANCE

SSD will reinforce what is learned in institutional training and operational assignments. Each SSD level consists of a series of modules of up to 80 hours. The operational domain provides “real world” experience in problem solving, while the institutional domain focuses on education and transitioning through the NCOES.

learning before attending a resident course such as Warrior Leader, Advance Leader, Senior Leader or the Sergeants Major Course. As an example, a staff sergeant must complete SSD Level III before attending the Senior Leader Course.

Just like crossing a bridge to get from one side of a river to the other side, soldiers will now bridge the gaps with SSD on their own to get to each phase of professional development.

“It is a distance-learning program but it enhances what you learn in the classroom from the different levels of NCOES,” he said.

Whitehead said there is a three-year time limit to complete each SSD level but the responsibility rests squarely on the individual. He does caution soldiers to watch the start dates because it may shave months off the three-year window.

“If you pick a course that has already started you may not get the full three years to complete the course.

So pay attention to the course start date,” he said.

Whitehead also said leaders must also be involved in soldier development.

“As a leader, you need to be aware of what your soldiers are doing,” he said. “You need to be tracking their progress and you’re going to need to help them out. Everyone needs a little motivation now and then and that’s a leader’s responsibility.”

Whitehead added that SSD will allow Army Reserve soldiers more opportunities for continuing their military service.

“It’s going to enhance your skills,” he said. “It’s going to build on what you have learned in the classroom and make you an overall better Soldier. These skills will carry across from the Army Reserve to your civilian life and family life – every aspect.”

For information on how to sign up for the appropriate SSD course, see your first line leader or training NCO. 



Engineers throw pies, raise money

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – On a hot, sunny day at Kandahar Airfield, members of the 980th Engineer Battalion of Austin, Texas, gathered together for outdoor games, music, grilled food, and charitable pie throwing.

About a month before the day of festivities, troops began placing monetary bids on the coveted opportunity to throw three pies at an officer or soldier of their choosing. Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery of Melissa, Texas, said he got the idea when he attended a similar event put on by the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment. He wanted his soldiers to

Sgt. Javier Silva of Austin, Texas, had the highest bid for the day of \$750. He earned the right to smear a pie in Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery's face on May 13.

Capt. Marc Richardson of Hot Springs, Ark., laughs in anticipation for the three pies targeted at his face, Sunday, May 13, 2012, at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Soldiers raised \$4,300 for the Fisher House Foundation, Travis Mills Foundation and Wounded Warrior Project.



Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery 980th Engineer Battalion commander, of Melissa, Texas, peels the pie off his face after participating in the fundraiser for wounded warriors on May 13.



have the opportunity to “give back to those who have sacrificed.”

“I didn’t just want us to say we support the troops,” Lowery said. “But I wanted us to actually do something.”

With a total of 11 Purple Hearts awarded in the battalion, the fundraiser meant much more to the soldiers than just an opportunity to throw pies at a fellow comrade. It was an opportunity to contribute to three different charities: the Fisher House Foundation, the Travis Mills Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Lowery said he wanted to donate part of the money to the Fisher House Foundation because he could direct the money to Fort Sam Houston where some of the 980th Purple Heart awardees are currently recovering.

It was also important to Lowery that they donate to the Travis Mills Foundation. Staff Sgt. Travis Mills is a Texas native who lost portions of

all four limbs when he was struck by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. Lowery said he wanted the fellow Texan to know the battalion appreciates his sacrifice.

And so as the picnic came to an end, all of the attendees gathered around the designated “Pie Chair” to watch their fellow soldier get smeared the chocolate and vanilla pudding desserts.

The crowd roared with laughter as over 30 soldiers walked away wiping pudding off their faces and out of their hair from the nearly 100 pies thrown.

In all, the fundraiser brought in a total of \$4,300 for wounded warriors. There was a tie for the highest bid of \$750. Sgt. Javier Silva paid the lofty tag to pie Lowery, while members of the battalion S-6 shop pulled their funds to pie Capt. Luc Roy.

“It was a fun way to raise money for those who’ve sacrificed,” Lowery reflected. “Everybody enjoyed themselves that day.” 🇺🇸



Capt. Marc Richardson of Hot Springs, Ark., wipes the pudding off his face after participating in a pie throwing fundraiser for wounded warriors on May 13.



Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery, 980th Engineer Battalion commander from Melissa, Texas, washes the pudding out off his face and out of his hair after participating in a fundraiser for wounded warriors on May 13.

areas of interest – especially around culverts.

Some of the most beneficial training came from classes taught before entering “the Box” during the reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) stage. Here the soldiers learned about the wide variety of enablers available to engineer units in theater. The unit certified soldiers on the Packbot and Talon Robot systems, Biometrics Hand-Held Mine Detection Equipment (BATS/HIIDE), and OSVRT used to view unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) feeds.

During route clearance situational training exercise (STX) lanes, the 704th employed these enablers to great success. They nabbed several known insurgents during sweeps with biometrics equipment

and utilized footage from Ravens to intercept insurgent forces before they could emplace IEDs. They also utilized small unit infantry tactics to clear choke points and by the end of the rotation were more often than not intercepting insurgents (OPFOR) before they could emplace IEDs.

The last major event the company conducted was a live mine clearing line charge (MICLIC), which brought out Jones and Brig. Gen. Tracy A. Thompson, 420th Engineer Brigade Commander, to observe the event.

All in all, it was a great training rotation for the company. The unit learned a lot about conducting route clearance in Afghanistan, but also how to employ their services in a decisive action environment as part of a unified land operation. The training will prove paramount as the unit moves to its early fiscal year (FY) 13 rotation to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. 

The 704th EN CO ensured other soldiers would not miss their sign.



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generation. Every time the guys have free time, they want to use the simulators,” says Quiñones-Vargas.

The 996th is located in a central location to other engineer units. When word got out that the 996th had simulators, other units wanted to use them as well.

“The simulators combine training with an element of fun. Soldiers are competitive and like to see who can pull the better metrics by practicing the harder applications against each other,” he said.

Besides becoming well trained, there are other benefits that Quiñones-Vargas has seen from the engaging nature of the simulators. The first is good time management.

“Soldiers use the simulators for pocket training time,” he stated.

Given the choice of many activities, the soldiers are choosing to train on the simulators whenever they can. The second is the community engagement.

“The simulators have been a really good experience. We’re using them for community outreach programs like with the local Boy Scout troops. We invited the troops in to see what we do and let them experience the simulators to show what kind of jobs we perform as combat engineers. It’s great for the relationship of the community, and for civilians to see how we train,” Quiñones-Vargas shares.

Not only are enlisted soldiers and people around the community getting a taste of Cat Simulators, Quiñones-Vargas has discovered a more unique use for the simulators as a recruiting tool.

“When we are in the process of looking for new recruits, we show them around the facility and take time to show them the technology and training they will get when they sign with us. It’s a great take-away for them and a very convincing way to show them the advancements in training. We could take them to the motor pool and show them the equipment, but the simulators are real attention grabbers,” Quiñones-Vargas said.

New recruits can pre-train on the simulators before getting on the actual equipment.

Not only are recruits excited to see the kind of training tools they will get access to, but being exposed to the simulators in advance of operating on the actual equipment, takes the anxiety out of having to learn to operate the actual equipment immediately.

Editor’s Note: Original article published on www.catsimulators.com 



Ms. Melissa Moore, CAT simulator instructor/ technician and director of Sales, conducts training for the soldiers of the 996th EN CO during CAT simulator training held during battle assembly.

AROUND THE ARMY



Lt. Col. Chris Quale, 416th TEC G2, addresses players from the US Lacrosse and Fox Valley Lacrosse Club on April 7 at a lacrosse clinic at the Naperville Polo Fields. The lacrosse clubs teamed up with the Wounded Warrior Project to host the event. "I'm out here to speak to the boys about the Wounded Warrior Project and to emphasize the good that it does to help our soldiers that are returning from overseas with traumatic injuries either physical or internal," said Quale. The event raised nearly \$14,000 from FVLC and the local lacrosse community for the WWP. (Courtesy Photo)



Maj. Andrea Viel, 416th TEC PAO, and her family are recognized at a Chicago Sky, Women's National Basketball Association, game on July 13. The Chicago Sky will have their Military Appreciation Night on Sept. 2. All military and their families are encouraged to attend. (Courtesy Photo)



The 416th TEC participates at the Villa Park, Ill. 4th of July Parade. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



A child tries on Army gear during a vehicle fair held by the Village of Willowbrook on July 19. Pfc. Garcia Pablo, 378 EN DET, along with the 416th TEC motor pool section provided a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV), a Palletized Loading System (PLS) vehicle and a M1165A1 Humvee for the annual event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Chuck Lovelace, 416th TEC, HHC, Supply NCOIC)



Command Sgt. Major Larry E. Reeve (L), 416th TEC Command Sergeant Major, receives the noncommissioned officer sword for his retirement from Brig. Gen. Charles Martin, 416th TEC Commanding General, and Col. Miyako Schanely, 416th TEC Chief of Staff, at Reeve's retirement dinner on July 7. Reeve served for 35 years. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Capt. Al Flowers, 606th EN FAC DET, out of Mustang, Okla., uses an IKEI/Geospatial Assessment Tool for Engineering Reachback (GATER), during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST) training on June 11, held in Darien, Ill. The IKEI/GATER is a Laser, Distance Meter, Digital Camera, GPS, and compass all in a hand-held unit, which can capture data of up to 1000 meters. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama along with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn holds up the new Illinois Military Licensing Act. The new law will support military families looking for jobs. (Photo by Sgt. Lolita E. Brown, 49th Military History Detachment)



Photo of the Quarter