

Bolt

The 359th Signal Brigade Magazine

July 2008



Soldiers vie for
Best Warrior Title



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The 359th Signal Brigade Magazine

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Cover Story: Page 6 – Spc. Joshua R. Pierce, a chemical operations specialist with the 310th Chemical Co. in Greenville, S.C., throws a training grenade during the 'Best Warrior' Competition held at Fort Gordon, Ga. April 24-26.

Photo by 1st Lt. Michelle Lunato



Commander's Corner



THE SOLDIERS CREED – *What Does It Mean To You?*

Although we all have read and most likely recited the Soldiers Creed, have you ever really thought about what those words mean that are contained within the creed? I know I have, and every time I read and recite the creed, I consciously take a few moments to reflect on those words in the creed...

I am an American Soldier - as Soldiers this puts us in a very elite class as there are few in our nation who can actually say they are an American Soldier. In fact, today's total Army (active, Reserve, and National Guard) is around 1.1 million strong out of total population of over 300 million in our nation.

I am a Warrior and member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values – as Soldiers we are the nation's warriors – the ones who are prepared and/or experienced in battle. We also are a member of a team. Our team consists of the Soldiers we serve with. As Soldiers we voluntarily chose to serve the citizens of our nation and we do so while living the Army values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

I will always place the mission first – as Soldiers we understand that the mission always comes first irrespective of the inherent risks that are associated with it. This is significantly different than any other profession whether that is in the public or private sector.

I will never accept defeat – as Soldiers we never give up or take the easy way out as we understand that our nation is depending on us to get the mission done.

I will never quit – as Soldiers we never quit even when were pushed to our limit because we know that our fellow Soldiers are depending on us to be there for them – especially in battle.

I will never leave a fallen comrade – as Soldiers we understand the need to never leave a fallen comrade even if it means putting our own self at risk.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself - as Soldiers we are expected to be ready to perform our mission. This means being physically/mentally fit and ready to execute our military occupational specialty along with our warrior tasks. Finally, we know that it is our individual responsibility to keep our weapons, our equipment and ourselves ready to go into harms way at a moments notice.



1st Lt. Michelle Lunato

Col. Mark Hunt, commander of the 359th Signal Brigade, completes his 2-mile run along with the Best Warrior Competitors April 25.

I am an expert and I am a professional – as Soldiers we know that we are in the profession of arms and as such are expected to be experts at our craft – that being the business of soldiering.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat – as Soldiers we stand ready to go to war to defend the citizens of the United States regardless of where that takes us – the American people are depending on us to do this.

I am guardian of freedom and the American way of life – as Soldiers, we know that freedom is not free and that we often are the only thing standing between freedom and tyranny.

I am an American Soldier – once you have entered into the U.S. Army and the profession of arms you can proudly look anyone in the eye and say “I am an American Soldier and I am the best this nation has to offer.”

COL Mark W. Hunt

BRIGADE CSM CHAT:

Citizens first, Warriors Always



1st Lt. Michelle Lunato

The 359th Signal Brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Dehorty, speaks with Michael Buczyner of NBC Augusta, who came to cover the 'Best Warrior' Competition April 24. The feature on the competition aired on the local Augusta NBC station three times in two days.

Warrior is defined by Webster's as "a person engaged in some struggle or conflict." For the last hundred years, the Army Reserve Warriors were called to duty for every major conflict and some not so major. As the country and Army began more transformation, we saw Army Reserve Soldiers called upon for peacekeeping duties. This leveraged our civilian skill skills and capabilities. The term warrior can be applied equally to our daily comings and going; road warrior, etc.

Why did I choose 'Warrior' for my topic this newsletter? First, in remembrance and to honor Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin.

As the Senior Army Reserve leadership began gathering in the Washington D.C. to celebrate our 100th birthday, the Maupin family was

Phenomenal doesn't begin to describe the enthusiasm, technical and tactical skills and professionalism displayed by these Soldiers and NCOs.

--Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Dehorty

preparing for him to finally return to them.

After four years missing, sadly his remains were found. Maupin epitomized the Army Reserve Warrior.

Second, to highlight the accomplishments of the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers that competed for the title

Best Warrior.

For the second year in a row, the 359th Signal Brigade hosted the competition for the 335th Signal Command (Theater). This year saw our two newest brigade-size elements, the 209th and 650th Regional Support Groups also competing. This was perhaps one of the most highly motivated groups of Soldiers that I have witnessed in my short 27-year career. Phenomenal doesn't begin to describe the enthusiasm, technical and tactical skills and professionalism displayed by these Soldiers and NCOs. Congrats to all and please enjoy the article on the competition.

Finally, how 'Warrior' applies to us, Army Reserve Soldiers in our daily lives, especially as the Army Reserve enters into its second century of service. We forget how many things we have learned from the Army Reserve that makes us better citizens, better employees, better parents, children and friends. Because we are 'Citizen Warriors', we take charge of situations when other won't; we care for those less fortunate than us; and we volunteer when other don't.

In Lt. Gen. Stultz's Memorial Day message, he comments, "Unique to the Reserve structure, our Warrior Citizens bring maturity, experience and civilian-acquired, skill-rich capabilities that make the Army Reserve a strong and ready force."

Always, I ask that we remember our Soldiers, friends and family that are still deployed. As Army Reserve Warriors they continue our long and meritorious history.

Citizens First, Warriors Always.

— CSM Dehorty

Soldiers compete for 'Best Warrior' Title



Photos by 1st Lt. Michelle Lunato

Sgt. Kurt Rosell, the junior-level 'Best Warrior' for the 359th Signal Brigade and the overall competition who is a communications shop section sergeant with C Co., 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Baltimore, Md., uses his compass to navigate a point during the land navigation testing of the 'Best Warrior' Competition April

By 1st Lt. Michelle Lunato

359th Signal Bde PAO

Soldiers today have to be more than one dimensional riflemen on the battlefield. As the battlefields have changed, Soldiers are now expected to be physically fit, technically proficient, and able to react to a multitude of situations quickly. They must defend America, and do it with honor.

Developing this new multi-faceted Soldier takes time, and finding the best of the best, takes a competition.

To find that Soldier, the 335th Signal Command (Theater), an Army Reserve command headquartered in East Point, Ga., held their annual 'Best Warrior' Competition at Fort Gordon April 24-26. The competition, hosted by the 359th Signal Brigade, which is headquartered at Fort Gordon, had 18 Reserve competitors from nine states. These hand-selected Soldiers came from the 335th Signal Command and its brigades: the 415th Chemical Brigade,

the 209th Regional Support Group, the 650th Regional Support Group and the 359th Signal Brigade.

The three-day competition covered an array of skills ranging from weapons qualification to essay writing to a military board in full Class A uniform. This is a big difference from the past, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Dehorty, the command sergeant major for the 359th Signal Brigade.

"If you look back 20 years ago, we just went to a board. *That* was the competition. Today, it is the total Soldier."

Considering the Army transformation (since September 11th) and the changes the Army Reserve has made entering its second century, it is not a surprise that the competition has become more rigorous, said Col. Mark Hunt, commander for the 359th Signal Brigade.

"Just as the Army and the Army Reserve have evolved, this competition has evolved."

In this day and age, Soldiers need to

do more than fire their weapons accurately; they need to be healthy, be able to navigate safely and think quickly on their feet, said Hunt.

"This competition shows all the skill sets Soldiers need on the battlefield – we want well-rounded Soldiers."

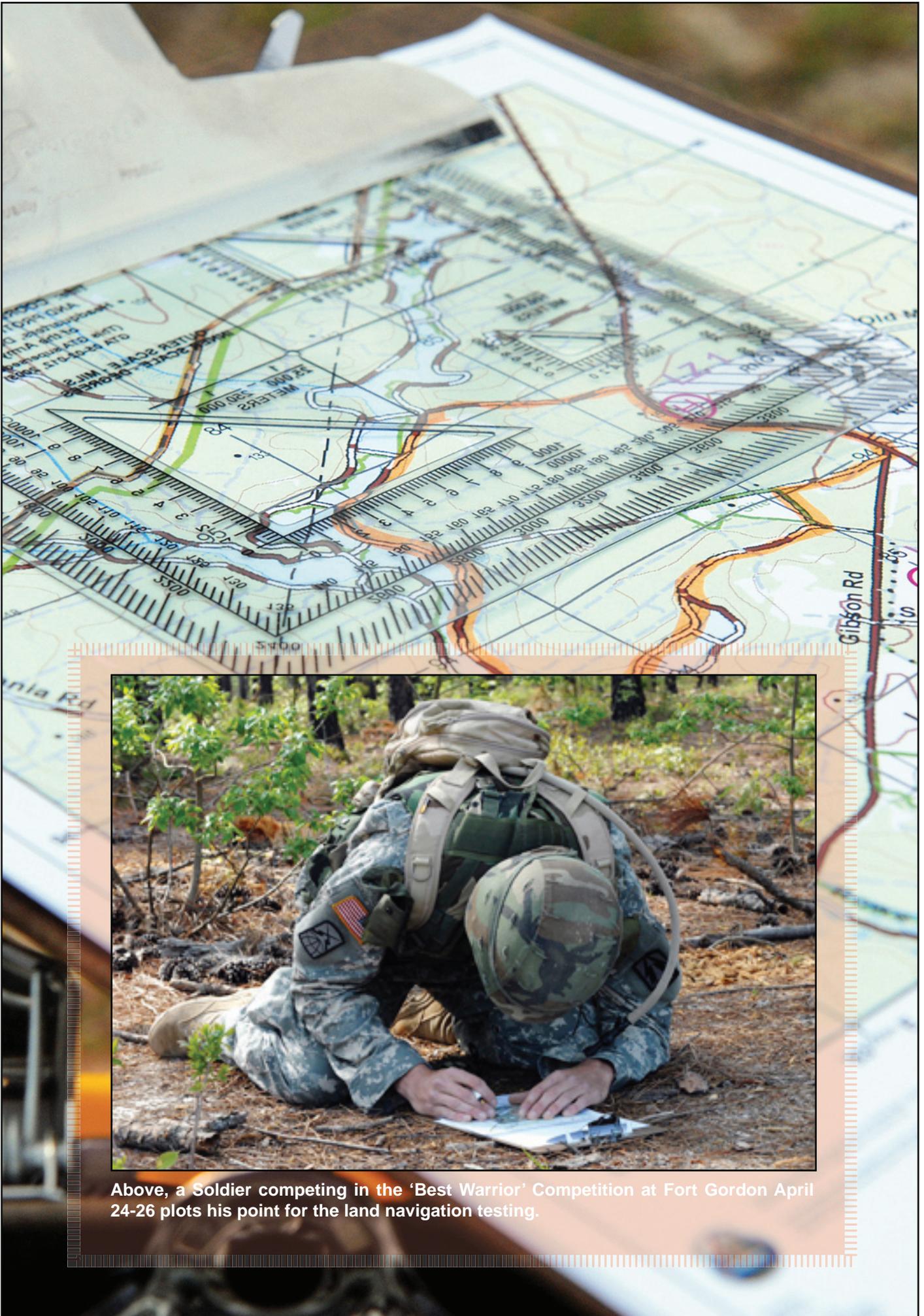
The Soldiers competing understood the value of having a variety of skills at their finger tips.

"These things are so important," said Pfc. Genesis Miner, the junior-level 'Best Warrior' for the 650th RSG who is a chemical specialist with A Co., 98th Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Wainai, Hi. "The basic skills will save you if your equipment fails."

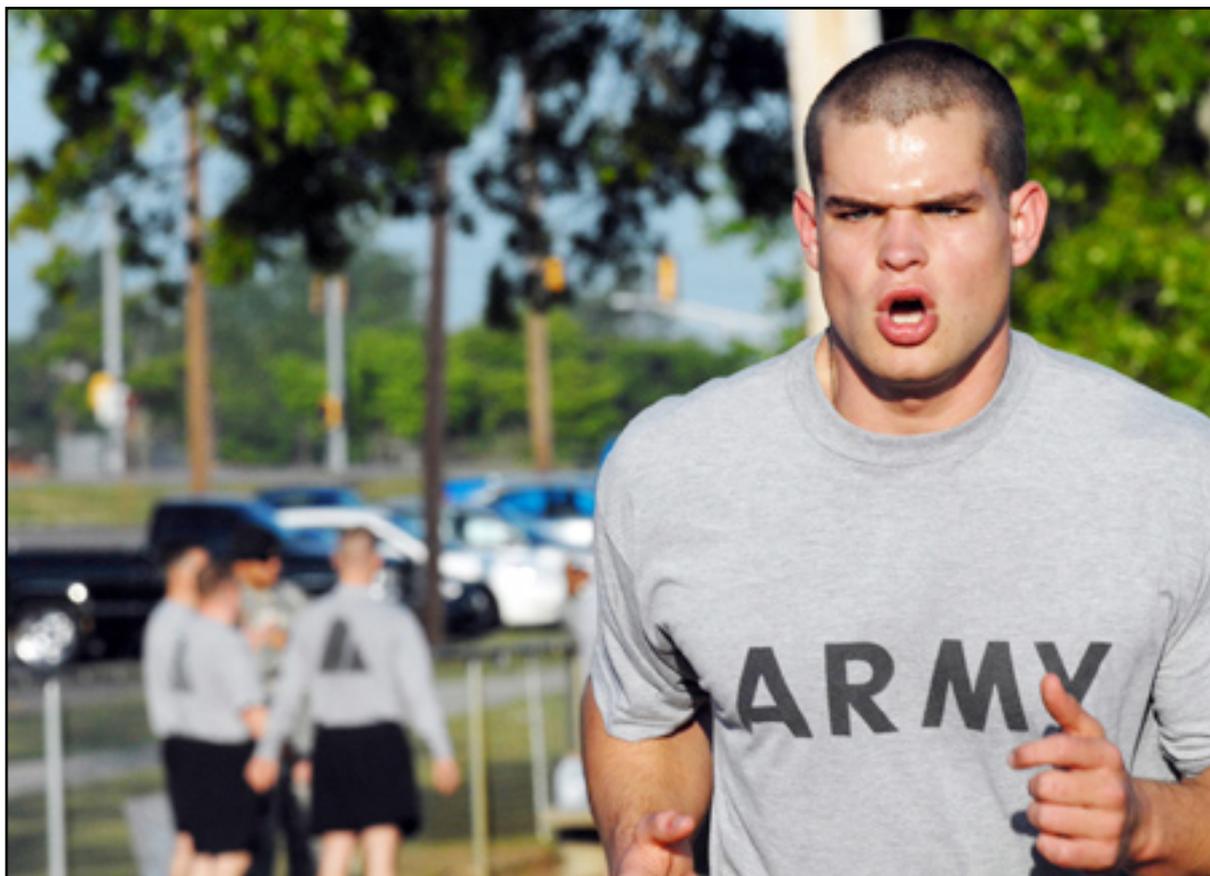
Practice and more practice are critical to knowing what to do when things get heated or equipment breaks, said competitor Sgt. Kurt Rosell, the junior-level 'Best Warrior' for the 359th Signal Brigade and the overall competition who is a communications shop section sergeant with C Co., 392nd Expedition-

See Competition, page 8

COMMAND & COMMUNICATE



Above, a Soldier competing in the 'Best Warrior' Competition at Fort Gordon April 24-26 plots his point for the land navigation testing.



Pvt. Michael Cannon, a chaplain's assistant with the 324th ITSB at Fort Gordon, Ga. focuses on the finish line of his 2-mile run, which was part of the 335th Signal Command's (Theater) 'Best Warrior' competition hosted by the 359th Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon April 24-26.

Competition, from page 6

ary Signal Battalion in Baltimore, Md. Testing Soldiers on Warrior Task Training “keeps it fresh in your mind. So when you have to do it, it is second nature.”

This array of proficiency is vital to a good non-commissioned officer, said Sgt. Francisco Gutierrez, the noncommissioned officer-level ‘Best Warrior’ for the 650th RSG and the overall competition who is a supply sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 98th Expeditionary Signal Battalion in Mesa, Az.

“All the events in the competition let you know more about the Soldier than just a board.”

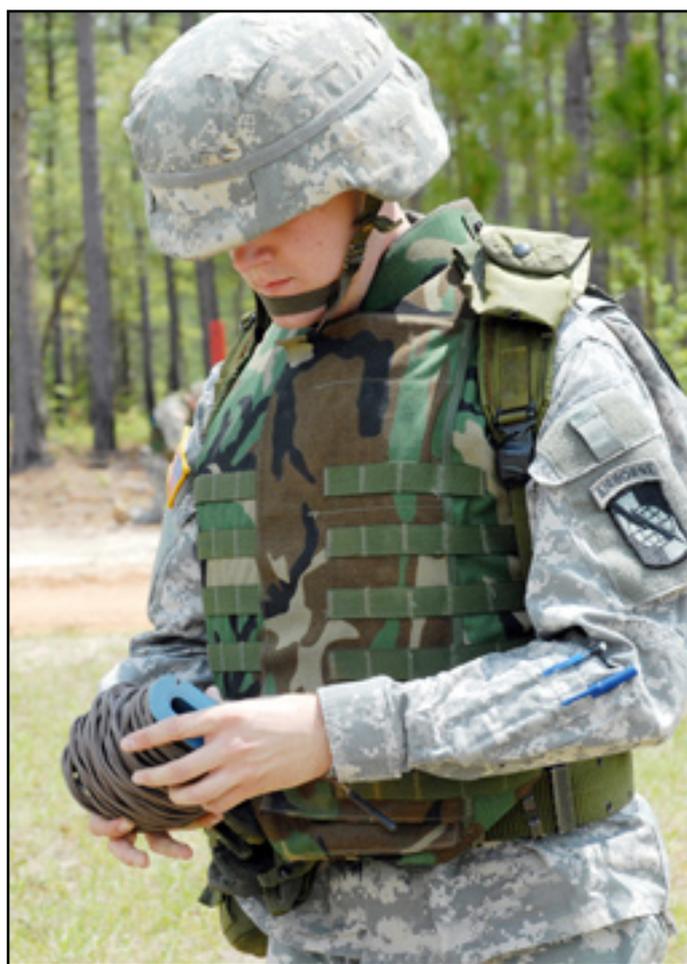
Showing that they knew their Soldier skills was not the only motivation for the competitors though. Many of them said they just wanted to do right by their units. “This is what we do. This is our job. I just want to make my unit look good. That is the most important thing to me,” said Spc. Joshua R. Pierce, a chemical operations specialist with the 310th Chemical Company in Greenville, S.C.

Being selected by their units to compete also gave many of the ‘Best Warrior’ candidates the feeling of satisfaction. “I am proud and honored because this competition sets us apart from the rest of the Soldiers and shows that my unit has confidence in me,” said Pvt. Michael D. Cannon, a chaplain’s assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 324th Integrated Tactical Signal Battalion in Fort Gordon, Ga.

Of course, as with any competition, there were “prizes” beyond the bragging rights. And for some competitors, that was even more motivation to push themselves a little harder.

“The ESS (Eye Safety Systems, Inc.) goggles are cool,” said Rosell. “I am doing this whole competition for those goggles,” he said with a laugh.

Whatever the motivation, it took a lot to prepare for the



Pfc. Joshua W. Lowery, a combat camera Soldier from the 982nd Combat Camera Company (Airborne) in Wilson, N.C. rolls up the wire used to employ a claymore mine during the Warrior Training Tasks testing of the ‘Best Warrior’ Competition.

See Competition, page 14

*“All the events in the competition
let you know more about the Soldier
than just a board.”*
-- Sgt. Francisco Gutierrez, 98th ESB



Above, Private 1st Class Genesis Miner, the junior-level ‘Best Warrior’ for the 650th RSG who is a chemical specialist with A Co., 98th ESB in Wainai, HI, pushes to get the highest qualification score in the 335th Signal Command’s (Theater) ‘Best Warrior’ Competition held at Fort Gordon.



Above, Pfc. Genesis Miner, the junior-level 'Best Warrior' for the 650th RSG who is a chemical specialist with A Co., 98th ESB in Wainai, HI, creates cover and concealment during the Warrior Task Training testing of the 'Best Warrior' Competition at Fort Gordon April 24-26. Below, Sgt. Francisco Gutierrez, the NCO-level "Best Warrior' for the 650th RSG and the overall competition who is a supply sergeant with HHC, 98th ESB in Mesa, Az. writes his essay on leadership while out in the field during the 'Best Warrior' Competition.





Above, a 'Best Warrior' competitor looks over his zero target to determine what adjustments to make to his weapon before competing in the weapons qualification portion of the 'Best Warrior' Competition held on Fort Gordon April 24-26.

Bush Signs \$162 Billion Supplemental War Funding Bill

By John J. Kruzal

American Forces

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2008 - President Bush today signed a \$162 billion supplemental bill that principally will fund U.S. military operations abroad.

Bush thanked congressional leaders of both parties for agreeing to provide what he described as "vital funds" to men and women in uniform serving in harm's way.

"I appreciate that Republicans and Democrats in Congress agreed to provide these vital funds without tying the hands of our commanders and without an artificial timetable of withdrawal from Iraq," he said.

The bill takes shape as Iraq experiences the lowest levels of violence since March 2004. The legislation also comes to fruition as the last of the five Army brigades to deploy with the "troop surge" in Iraq prepares to return next month.

Bush announced the temporary 33,000-troop surge in January 2007 to tamp down violence in Iraq and help prepare Iraq's national security forces to maintain security. The first surge brigade returned home in March, and the final redeployment next month will reduce the number of brigades in Iraq to 15.

"We welcome them home," Bush said, referring to redeploying troops. "And with this legislation, we send a clear message to all that are serving on the front line that our nation continues to support them."

The funding also provides servicemembers a more generous education package, which for the first time could be passed to family members if troops opt not to use it themselves. Bush said transferability of GI Bill education benefits helps fulfill a debt of gratitude the nation owes military families.

"They endure sleepless nights and the daily struggle of caring for children while a loved one is serving far from home," he said. "We have a responsibility to provide for them, so I'm pleased that the bill I signed today includes an expansion of the GI Bill.

"It will help us to meet our responsibilities to those who support our troops every day, America's great military families," he added.

Other items in the legislation include a \$465 million initiative that partners the United States with Mexico and other Central American nations in an effort to crack down on violent drug-trafficking gangs. It provides nearly \$2.7 billion in relief for states that experience disasters, such as the recent flooding and tornadoes in the American Midwest. The bill also expands unemployment insurance benefits.

The president praised the legislation as an example of successful bipartisan support for members of the U.S. military.

"This bill shows the American people that even in an election year, Republicans and Democrats can come together to stand behind our troops and their families," he said.

359th Soldier presents national award, meets Dr. Henry Kissinger



Mike Shampanier

Dr. Henry Kissinger greets Maj. Rebecca Gimenez, Ph.D., the personnel adjutant officer for the 359th Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon (who co-chaired the event with Nancy Kissinger and Annette de la Renta) at the Tower of Hope "2008 Lighting the Path Gala" held on April 3, at the Broad Street Ballroom in New York City. Gimenez presented an award at the event that raised close to \$300,000 to fund the training and care of service dogs to assist combat-wounded veterans with double and single amputee injuries, helping them to live happier and more independent lives.

Mowers, blowers and trimmers! Oh my!

By Terri Helus

U.S Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. (July 1, 2008) – Whether you find yard work a relaxing task or a laborious chore to get done as quickly as possible, taking time for proper precautions can prevent outdoor maintenance duties from ending with a visit to the emergency room.

Seems caution would be a keyword when operating a gas-powered machine with a loud motor and whirling blade, however, according to a Consumer Reports poll, Americans are exhibiting some risky mowing behavior.

Results indicate 79 percent of consumers polled don't wear, or rarely wear, ear protection, 44 percent have damaged their mower by running over an object, 24 percent said they'd been injured while mowing and 12 percent said they drank beer while mowing. Considering these statistics, it's no wonder there are an estimated 86,000 lawn mower injuries every year requiring emergency room treatment. "Taking proper precautions before beginning yard work and making good decisions while operating mowers, leaf blowers and other maintenance tools are equally important safety elements," said U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Command Sgt. Maj.

See Mowers, page 17

392ND CHANGE OF COMMAND

New leader-same great Soldiers, tradition



Photos by 1st Lt. Michelle Lunato

Lt. Col. Van Milne, accepts the guidon and then passes it to Col. Janice Haigler, deputy commander, 359th Signal Battalion.



Lt. Col. Timothy Cassibry, outgoing commander, 392nd Signal Battalion takes one last look at "his" Soldiers.

The Change of Command ceremony has been a time-honored tradition dating back to the passing of the scepter, a symbol of authority, from the old Caesar to the new in the progression of the Roman Empire. The United States Army adopted the custom of passing the colors from the British, and instituted it in the 18th Century when General George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army at Boston on July 3, 1775.

The purpose of the change of command ceremony is to pass the command and control of the company from the old commander to the new. Additionally, the passing of the colors emphasizes that the organization is more important than one individual - though the commander may change, the organization remains constant.



Soldiers of the 392nd made up the color guard for the ceremony, which was held at Fort Meade, Md.



Left, Cpl. Glen Galas, a signal team chief with B Co. 319th ITSB in Dublin, Ca., pushes himself during the physical test portion of the 335th Signal Command's (Theater) 'Best Warrior' Competition at Fort Gordon, Ga. April 24-26. Soldiers also competed in weapons qualifications, land navigation, military knowledge and essay writing.

Competition, from page 8

the competition, said the Soldiers. As Reservists, Soldiers need to be self motivated, said Cpl. Glen Galas, a signal team chief with B. Co., 319th Integrated Signal Battalion in Dublin, Ca. It is import for Soldiers to "work on their PT (physical fitness) regularly, brush up on their WTT (Warrior Task Training), and read the Army Study Guide." That is all easier said than done, stated Galas who is balancing a civilian job, being newlywed and preparing for his first baby all while training for the competition.

Win or lose, the 'Best Warrior' Competition was fun and challenging, said Staff Sgt. James R. Selesnick, the NCO-level 'Best Warrior' for the 359th Signal Battalion who is a combat camera NCO with the 982nd Combat Camera Co. (Airborne) in Wilson, N.C.

"Regardless of if you come in first, it is a good way to focus your energy, brush up on your skills and test yourself."

Stepping up to the challenge of representing their units and assessing their own expertise was just one step to being more prepared for a deployment, said many of the competitors. Pierce

said the competition helped him be more equipped for deploying later this year, which he looks forward to.

"That [deploying] is what I am supposed to do. It is an honor to defend my country...I just want to serve my country like I said I was going to do."

Whether competing for the 'Best Warrior' title or preparing for a deployment, Cannon stated that all Soldiers should avoid the temptations of slacking off, live the Army values, believe in what they do and always give their best. "It is not our slogan anymore, but you should always be all that you can be."

Best Warrior Competition Winners

335th Overall Soldier - Sgt. Kurt Rosell
 335th Overall NCO - Sgt. Francisco Gutierrez

209th Regional Support Group

Soldier: Pvt. Matthew Parks, HHC-Belton, Mo.
 NCO: Sgt. Daryl Hale, HHC-Belton, Mo.

359th Signal Brigade

Soldier: Sgt. Kurt Rosell, C Co., 392nd ESB, Baltimore Md. ;
 NCO: Staff Sgt. James Selesnick, 982nd Combat Camera Co. (Airborne) Wilson, N.C.

415th Chemical Brigade

Soldier: Spc. Andrew Churchill, HHD, 92nd Chemical Battalion Decatur, Ga.
 NCO: NONE

650th Regional Support Group

Soldier: Pfc. Juanita Minor, A Co, 98th ESB, Wainai, Hi.
 NCO: Sgt. Francisco Gutierrez, HHC, 98th ESB, Mesa, Az.



Above, Pfc. Keyera Barnes, a human resource specialist with the 359th Signal Brigade in Fort Gordon, Ga., speaks with Michael Buczyner of NBC Augusta. Below left, Sgt. Kevin Corder, a system team chief with the A. Co., 319th ITSB in Sacramento, Ca., adjusts his M16 on the zero range before competing in the weapons qualification round. Below right, Staff Sgt. Jamie F. Menard, platoon sergeant for B Co., 324th ITSB in Fort Gordon, Ga. signals the tower that Sgt. Ervin E. Simmons, an information technology specialist with the 359th Signal Brigade in Fort Gordon, Ga. is ready to fire.



The two overall winners (Gutierrez and Rosell) will compete in the Army Reserve Command Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis. in July. See <http://www.usarc.army.mil/ncoy-soy/> for more information. Winners from this will go on to Fort Lee, Va. in September for the Department of the Army Best Warrior title.

JAG advice for an election year

Backing your candidate: the do's & don'ts

Complied by Cpt. Daniel S. Digby

359th Signal Bde JAG

"The U.S. military must remain apolitical at all times and in all ways," wrote Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mike Mullen, the nation's highest-ranking officer, in the coming issue of Joint Force Quarterly, an official military journal that is distributed widely among the officer corps.

"It is and must always be a neutral instrument of the state, no matter which party holds sway," stated Admiral Mullen.

Political activities of officers and enlisted members of the Active Army, the USAR, and the ARNG are governed by DODD 1344.10 and AR 600-20.

"Partisan political activity" is defined as *"activity supporting or relating to candidates representing, or issues specifically identified with, national or State political parties and associated or ancillary organizations."*

"Nonpartisan political activity is defined as *"activity supporting or relating to candidates not representing, or issues not specifically identified with, national or State political parties and associated or ancillary organizations. Issues relating to constitutional amendments, referendums, approval of municipal ordinances, and others of similar character are not considered as specifically being identified with national or State political parties."*

Soldiers should participate in our democratic process -- within limits. Active duty and Reserve soldiers should vote, and several programs exist to help personnel to register and cast absentee ballots. However, actively campaigning for a specific political candidate or partisan objective is not permitted. These prohibitions do not apply to members of the National Guard or Reserves, unless they are currently serving on active duty.

For the purposes of political activity restrictions, **active duty** is defined as: *Full-time duty in the active military service of the United States regardless of duration or purpose, including: full-time training duty; annual training duty; and attendance, while in the active military service, at a school designated as a Service school.*

What Active Duty Members Can and Cannot Do (not a complete list):

Can - Register, vote, and express a personal opinion on political candidates and issues, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

Can - Promote and encourage other military members to exercise their voting franchise, if such promotion does not constitute an attempt to influence or interfere with the outcome of an election.

Can - Join a political club and attend its meetings when not in uniform.

Can - Sign a petition for specific legislative action or a petition to place a candidate's name on an official election ballot, if the signing does not obligate the member to engage in partisan political activity and is done as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

Can - Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing the member's personal views on public issues or political candidates, if such action is not part of an organized letter-writing campaign or a solicitation of votes for or against a political party or partisan political cause or candidate.

Can - Make monetary contributions to a political organization, party, or committee favoring a particular candidate or slate of candidates, subject to the limitations of law.

Can - Attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings or rallies as a spectator when not in uniform.

Can - Display a political sticker on the member's private vehicle.

Cannot - Participate in any organized effort to provide voters with transportation to the polls if the effort is organized by, or associated with, a partisan political party or candidate.

Cannot - Speak before a partisan political gathering, including any gathering that promotes a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.

Cannot - Participate in any radio, television, or other program or group discussion as an advocate for or against of a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.

Cannot - Serve in any official capacity or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.

Cannot - March or ride in a partisan political parade.

Cannot - Sell tickets for, or otherwise actively promote, political dinners and similar fundraising events.

Cannot - Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles signed or written by the member that solicits votes for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause.

Cannot - Make monetary contributions directly to a political candidate.

Cannot - Make a contribution to another member of the Armed Forces or a civilian officer or employee of the United States for the purpose of promoting a political objective or cause, including a political campaign.

Cannot - Solicit or receive a contribution from another member of the Armed Forces or a civilian officer or employee of the United States for the purpose of promoting a political objective or cause, including a political campaign.

Cannot - Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for a partisan political cause or candidate.

Cannot - Display a large political sign, banner, or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on the top or side of a private vehicle.

Cannot - Attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces.

Cannot - Use contemptuous words against the officeholders described in 10 U.S.C. 888 (10 U.S.C. 888 lists the following officeholders: President, the Vice President, Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department, the Secretary of Transportation, or the Governor or legislature of any State, Territory, Commonwealth, or possession in which the military member is on duty).

Article 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) makes it a crime for commissioned officers to use contemptuous words against the above officeholders. Commissioned officers who violate this provision can be court-martialed for a direct violation of Article 88.

DOD Directive 1344.10 - *POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY*, extends these same requirements to all individuals on active duty. Active duty enlisted members and warrant officers who violate these provisions can be charged under Article 92 of the UCMJ, Failure to Obey an Order or Regulation.

All work and no play...



1st Lt. Michelle Lunato

The transfer of the Good Idea Fairy's wings is significant in many ways. The history, traditions, and accomplishments of the unit wings represent every Good Idea Fairy who believes in changing the unit's training or mission with the small phrase of "wouldn't it be nice." The GIF is normally of Lt. Col. rank, especially since they have recently received their full lobotomy. A true GIF will interject their input **ONLY** after the training has been developed, staffed, approved, and resourced. This wastes countless hours of work by their staff, only to revert to the original plan 15 minutes before execution. In the above ceremony, Col. Janice Haigler, deputy commander, 359th Signal Brigade passes the wings to the incoming training officer, Lt. Col. Dion Moten, who assumes the embodiment of the GIF, with all the rights and responsibilities thereto. The outgoing GIF was Lt. Col. Van Milne.

Mowers, from page 12



Tod Glidewell. "There are simple steps everyone can take before tending to the lawn and garden to ensure safe, productive results."

- Dress accordingly. Consider yard work a potential contact sport and wearing long pants, substantial shoes, gloves and close-fitting clothes. Shield eyes from projectiles with protective goggles and wear ear protection that prevents damaging sounds from reaching your ears without eliminating the sounds you need to hear. Protect exposed skin with sunscreen and wear a hat that provides shade without being constricting.

- Assess work area. Remove stones and sticks from the yard and don't forget to police up toys, sprinklers and watering hoses.

Gas-powered mower blade spin 2,000 to 4,000 times per minute and debris launched by the mower can reach speed of 100mph. String trimmers, leaf blowers and edgers can also turn debris into projectiles. Flying debris, which can break bones or cause severe lacerations, is the most common cause of yard work-related injuries.

- Get to know tools. Read operator's manuals before using any power equipment. Knowing how to properly operate equipment, and being aware of its limitations, is as essential as following manufacturer safety instructions.

- Eliminate distractions such as music. Clear the area of people and pets. Every year, bystanders, mostly children, are injured or then they are run or backed over by a mower.

- Exercise yard tool common sense. Never reach under the mower or into the discharge chute while the mower is running and do not attempt to move a running mower by pushing it with your feet. Don't tamper with or disable any of the manufacturer's safety features and do not operate equipment if it is damaged or malfunctioning in any way. Never allow anyone to ride on the mower you are operating. Handle fuel carefully – move outdoors to fill up engines and only refuel when equipment has cooled off.

Casual attire – great to beat the heat, but not appropriate for outdoor chores.

"While yard work might not sound like a hazardous activity, real risks exist when operating power tools or using garden implements," said Glidewell. "Even one second of carelessness or inattention can have devastating consequences. Incorporate composite risk management principles in completing lawn maintenance tasks and execute your yard work mission safely."

New Government Travel Cards Coming Soon...

- * All government travel card holders will receive new cards beginning in August 2008.

- * Current cards expire on Nov. 29, 2008 at 2359 EST.

- * New cards issued by Citi will be ready for use on Nov. 30, 2008 at 0000 EST.

- * New travel cards will be mailed to the address on file with Bank of America prior to the conversion.

- * If you do not receive a new travel card by Oct. 31, 2008, call Col. Janice Haigler at 706-791-5906.

- * **IMPORTANT:** Verify receipt of your new card immediately upon receipt by phone or on-line to ensure that you are able to use it on Nov. 30, 2008.

- * If you will be traveling during the Nov. 29-30 change-over, charge all official travel expenses up to and including Nov. 29 on your old Bank of America card. Charge official travel expenses incurred after 0000 on Nov. 30 to your *new* Citi card.

- * You must pay all outstanding charges on your Bank of America card before Nov. 29, 2008. You will still owe any remaining balance to Bank of America after the change-over.

VALID RECEIPTS FOR TRAVEL VOUCHERS

Regulations require receipts for *ALL lodging expenses*, regardless of the amount, and for all individual reimbursable expenditures of \$75 or more.

To be valid for substantiating a travel claim, the receipt **MUST** show:

- * The name of the company providing the goods or services.
- * The date the specific services were rendered or purchased.
- * The unit price of the items/service.
- * The total amount due.
- * The total amount paid.

If the receipt does not contain all of these requirements, it will not qualify for travel reimbursement.

Documents that are NOT considered valid receipts include:

- * Charge card statements.
- * Hotel bills given to the traveler before checking out.
- * Rental car contracts that are signed when picking up the car.
- * Travel itineraries emailed to the traveler before an airline reservation is ticketed and charged.

Know the Brigade...

The 359th Signal Brigade

The 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, headquartered at Fort Gordon, Georgia, exercises command and control over Army Reserve Soldiers in nine states.

The brigade has a distinguished history dating back to 1944 when it served admirably in Brazil and was decorated with the Meritorious Unit Commendation Award for its accomplishments.

Major subordinate units include 324th Integrated Theater Signal Battalion, Fort Gordon, GA; 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Baltimore, MD; 982nd Combat Camera (Airborne), East Point, GA; 842nd Signal Company, Milton, FL; 820th Tactical Installation Network Company, Mesquite, TX; 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Gillem, GA; 317th Military History Detachment, Fort Gillem, GA; and 45th Military History Detachment, Fort Gillem, GA.

Serving under the command of the 335th Signal Command (Theater) in East Point, GA, the brigade's

Soldiers have covered the globe on deployments and training exercises. Recent deployments and exercises include OIF/OEF, Bright Star, Sharp Focus, Beyond the Horizons, and Grecian Firebolt.

The brigade's mission is to deploy worldwide to install, manage, monitor and defend theater-level communications systems and networks for joint and combined operations.

This support to the warfighter is critical in our fight against terrorism. Without communications, commanders would fail.

In this day and age, communication must go beyond the battle field. Strategic information is needed by our government while status information is demanded by the public. The operational commander not only needs the means to communicate then, but also the know how.

The 359th Signal Brigade maintains a diverse force to enable commanders. In addition to providing critical communication services, the



brigade deploys Soldiers who can gather historical lineage, escort media on the battlefield, and photograph/video events as they unfold.

From contingency signal support to combat documentation to media relations, the 359th Signal Brigade trains and deploys under the same motto:

"Command and Communicate!"

Patch and Insignia Symbolism

Patch: Orange and white are the colors traditionally associated with Signal units.

The flash symbolizes the unit's mission and connotes speed and accuracy.

The blue globe signifies the unit's worldwide capabilities.

This shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on Jan. 12, 1988.



Insignia: The yellow diamond with the green border and the blue disk suggested by the National Flag of Brazil allude to the unit's service in Brazil during 1944-1945.

The scarlet refers to the award of the Meritorious Unit

Streamer for that service.

The electronic flash symbolizes the basic mission of the organization.

This insignia was originally approved for the 359th Signal Group on July 10, 1970 and redesignated for the 359th Signal Brigade on Jan. 20, 1988.

Brigade Lineage

The 359th Signal Brigade was originally constituted Oct. 10, 1944 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 359th Signal Battalion.

In Nov. 1, 1944, the battalion was activated to Brazil where they earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation for their distinguished service.

On Oct. 21, 1945, the battalion was inactivated.

Then in September of 1955, it was redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 359th Signal Group, allotted to the Army Reserve, and assigned to the First Army, which was later redesignated as the First United States Army.

The group was activated at New York, New York on Nov. 1, 1955.

On Jan. 30, 1956, it was affiliated with RCA Communications, Inc.

Inactivated again on March 1, 1963 at New York, New York, which also terminated the affiliation agreement.

On Jan. 31, 1968, the 359th was activated again at Syracuse, New York.

It was then reorganized and redesignated on March 15, 1972 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 359th Signal Group.

On Sept. 16, 1987, the group was reorganized and redesignated as the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 359th Signal Brigade.