



THE

BRIDGE

Volume 2, Issue 4 Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command Winter 2009



**Fearless Farewells
Bountiful Beginnings**

Command Success for 2009

Happy Holidays, to all the members of the 416th Theater Engineer Command family!

As 2009 draws to a close we've happily welcomed the return of our Soldiers of the Deployable Command Post (DCP) – Iraq, and have said a hopeful “farewell” to the 372nd Engineer Brigade as they moved forward to Afghanistan. These and other 416th Soldiers serve bravely and proudly around the world. Wherever U.S. forces go, Army engineers are there to support them from start to finish. We could not have more reason to be proud of our Soldiers or to be a member of the Engineer Regiment. One of the most gratifying aspects of being in the engineer community is knowing that wherever our Soldiers serve they leave their place of duty better than they found it. Our family members also serve bravely here at home, as they take on the responsibilities of their loved ones who deploy.

Though we have so much to be thankful for and happy about, there are many among us who have suffered devastating losses that are hard to bear, especially at this time of year. We all may find added strength in knowing we are an Army community that shares the good times and the bad. Nobody needs be lonely or



alone in a unit where there is such strong compassion, charity, and good will. Let us take the time to make sure nobody remains in need during this season. If you, or somebody you know, needs help call and let it be known. There is certainly someone who will be there to help.

I'd be remiss if I didn't share a reminder about safety awareness. Whether living coping with the icy streets of the north or the flood hazards of the south, let's all be mindful of the safety hazards where we work and live.

Gaby and I wish each and every one of our Army family members every good wish for peace and happiness.

Happy Holidays!

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TOP: Spc. Shiloh Becher and Sgt. Cody Brunet take a break between stations during the Army Reserve's Best Warrior Competition.

RIGHT: Col. Jared Olsen, Chief of Staff 416th TEC, trots in front of the Capitol during the Army ten-miler.

COVER:
Center: Spc. Dejah Vaughn of the 412th TEC laying concrete for a tent pad in support of Castle IRC.

Top Left: Spc. David Hutchinson meets Congressman Michael McCaul in Washington D.C.

Top right: Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall welcomes back deployed Soldiers of the 416th TEC.

Bottom Left: The outgoing 416th TEC commander Brig. Gen. Jimmy Fowler receives the 416th colors from Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Reeve.

Bottom Right: Spc. Shiloh Becher prepares during the Army's Best Warrior Competition.

BACK COVER: Collage from photos of 2009.
Welcome Home Deployable Command Post!



PHOTO BY
SGT TROY JOHNSON



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Training and Counseling; Key to Leadership



I was able to attend the latter portion of the Soldier/NCO of the year competition in Ft. Lee Va. to observe our Soldier, Spc. Shiloh Becher compete. His selection as Soldier of the year to represent U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) was just one more example of the fine Soldiers we have in the 416th Theater Engineer Command.

If you are not familiar with the stress that these Soldiers go through to reach the Department of the Army level and compete from there look into it because it is intense.

Although Spc. Shiloh Becher did not get selected as the Soldier of the Year; his representation of his unit and the command was remarkable.

As I travel to our down trace units to visit our Soldiers during their Battle Assemblies (BA) at their mobilization stations or on their ranges, I converse with all the ranks to better understand their needs and what our leaders can do to improve in areas you require assistance with. One thing that I always hear from our Soldiers is they are proud of what they are doing to protect our nation and they want to be trained and gainfully engaged.

The Army Reserve has reached its end strength goal and this is good news for an all volunteer force. It is now the job of your leaders to keep our Soldiers in the ranks, and strengthen our force from within. It takes everybody working together to accomplish everything that is required of our reserve force.

Things have changed over the years with the Army Reserve, and it will continue to change

It is now the job of your leaders to keep our Soldiers in the ranks, and strengthen our force from within.

as we progress. We focus on the individual Soldier and require him or her to accept responsibility for their readiness and training. Many things are accomplished through computer based training and this type of training will only increase due to the improvements made with the systems and because it is cost effective.

Take time to look at your career, where you want to go, and how you will get there. Ask the right questions and get the right answers to help us to help you.

Lastly, congratulations to Spc. Shiloh Becher and to all who assisted him in representing the Command.

Command Sgt. Maj. Reeve

416th Soldier Wins Warrior Ethos Essay Contest

By Spc. Ernie Nieves

The warrior ethos has always been part of my life and as a husband to an awesome wife, father to great children and grandfather; it has become my personal standard. My essay is about my personal experience growing up and the second chance I received to make a difference.

I will always place the mission first

My first mission in life was to stay alive in the neighborhood I grew up in. I know that a few here can share similar experiences. Growing up in a single parent home in Chicago felt like a constant action movie where the characters that were killed would not return. When I was 8 years old I joined a gang, became its leader at thirteen, and never had a chance at a normal childhood. Street gangs are a vicious cycle that drains the life of children everyday. Although it taught me about fidelity, commitment, and the importance of putting the mission above everything, it lacked values, true meaning, and satisfaction. On a side note, it amazes me that the term "Blue Falcon" is used so much in the military and yet it is not an option in the streets.

My wake up call came when I realized deep in my heart that I could not live with the fact that my son and/or children to come would be affected by the consequences of my everyday actions. This is when turning my life around became my primary mission.

I never accept defeat. I will never quit.

Before I was 16 years old, I had been stabbed, shot three different times, kidnapped, and hit by several cars. Yes, life was definitely not normal by any stretch of the imagination. As I got older, I realized that life was worth living for. I learned that being dealt a bad hand of cards did not mean that I had to fold my hand early. I refused to continue to living that lifestyle.

As hard as it was, I began an up hill battle to change. It was not easy being a normal person after being an authoritative figure for so long and at an early age. I was told by my peers, adults, and family that I would never change. The only destination that told me I had was

death or prison. Everyday, I had to fight the good fight. I stripped myself of the only thing I knew, "POWER." I refused to believe that a person could not change. If someone could make it out of there, it had to be me.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

During this madness I call childhood, there were many around me that did not make it. I've seen people shot and dead right in front of me. I've had my best friend die in my arms while talking to me and another friend shoot himself in the head while we were in the living room talking.

I made a decision to never allow another person to take their own life. With the experiences I've gone through, it inspired me to begin to counsel grammar and high school kids on gang prevention. I went from neighborhood gangster to neighborhood father. I will never give up on anyone even though many at one point gave up on me.

In closing, keep in mind that soldiers come from all different backgrounds and deserve to have someone by their side. My question to you is will you be the supported or the support? Will you be the encouraged or the encourager? Will you be an average Joe or will you be an NCO?



Spc. Ernie Nieves, of the 416th Theater Engineer Command, won the "Warrior Ethos Essay" contest during Warrior Leadership Course. Nieves inspires his entire G-8 section as a very motivated and cheerful Soldier with the determination in helping to raise eight children.

321st Engineer Battalion Receives Valorous Unit Award

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura



BOISE, Id – Soldiers of the 321st Engineer Battalion participated in a distinct awards ceremony. Instead of seeing individual Soldiers receiving awards, the 321st Engineer Battalion was recognized and awarded the Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism in action against armed enemies in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The VUA streamer was placed on the 321st colors by the Deputy Commanding General of the 416th Theater Engineer Command, Brigadier General Joe Chesnut and the commander of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Colonel Robert E. Dickson. The Valorous

Unit Award is the unit equivalent of the Silver Star and is the second highest unit decoration of the Army. “Soldiers in this unit did not know that they would get an award at the very end.” said Dickson, “They knew that they were Soldiers and they knew what they needed to do.” “And because of their patriotism and their valor, and the heart that they brought into their job, that’s what brought this Battalion back home.”

According to the published orders: The unit provided route clearance operations for Multi-National Corps-Iraq providing assured mobility for Coalition and Iraqi Forces. In doing so, the Battalion

significantly reduced casualties resulting from improvised explosive devices for both friendly forces and the Iraqi civilian population. The unit’s actions also allowed for the free and unrestricted conduct of

“The greatest honor of my military career was to lead you into combat. Wear this medal with honor and always remember the fallen.”

– Col. Michael Hoxie
321st Eng. Bn. Commander
Operation Iraqi Freedom

combat operations within the area of operations, ultimately helping to reduce the frequency and number of attacks carried out by insurgent forces.

This award didn’t come without a price. In accomplishing their mission, the Battalion suffered over 100 casualties, and the lives of six Soldiers were lost. Three Soldiers were chosen to accept the award from Brig. Gen. Chesnut. 1st Lieut. Tim Peterson, Sgt 1st Class Cory Chartier and Staff Sgt. John Holubeck were pinned the VUA ribbon on their right collar on behalf of the 321st. “We have Soldiers who cannot wear the uniform anymore and they gave up more than I did.” said Chartier “It’s an honor to receive the award but at the same time I feel that I am not worthy to represent the fallen.”

Story continued on page 23...



Brig. Gen. Joe Chesnut and Col. Robert Dickson places the streamer of the Valorous Unit Award on the 321st Engineer Battalion Colors. The Awards Ceremony was held at the Idaho National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Theater in Boise Idaho on Nov. 22, 2009

Family Readiness Group Helps Soldiers and Family in Resume Writing

Story by Jennifer Burch

In an effort to increase family member participation Family Programs has developed a training initiative where we will offer various workshops, classes, and fairs for Soldiers and family members. Over the November 416th Theater Engineer Command's (TEC) Battle Assembly weekend the 416th TEC Family Programs Office held its first workshop of their 2010 Family Programs training initiative, resume writing for a group of 863rd Engineer Battalion Soldiers and 416th TEC youth.



Jennifer Burch, 416th Family Programs, assists Spc. Mark Yu of the Forward Support Company, 863rd Engineer Battalion in preparing a resume.

With both workshops we stressed the importance of resumes and marketing yourself since your resume, cover letter, and application are often the employer's first impression of you and what they use to gauge if you will be selected for an interview.

The Soldier Resume Workshop focused on a few of the many types of resumes available, how to break down your resume by sections, and what should be included in your resume. During the class the Soldiers split up into groups and worked on exercises to assist the Soldiers' thinking process on how to display all the skills they have to offer employers. We also focused on what skills and knowledge the Army has provided the Soldiers that can be utilized in any civilian occupations. Wanting to capitalize on the many strengths the Soldiers' Army careers have to offer, we also focused on

translating their military experience into civilian terms the private sector is more familiar with. The Soldiers had an opportunity to explore different websites and tools to help them translate their Army occupational skills into equivalent civilian occupations.

The youth workshop primarily focused on activities, life and school experiences they can use in their resume relevant to jobs they may apply for. The youth also had an opportunity to break up into groups and work on different resume building exercises, as well as ways to increase their experience to their specific job interests. It is very common today for colleges and universities to request a resume from prospective students that reflect their extra-curricular activities, volunteer, and work experiences for admission or scholarship consideration. In the youth workshop we also incorporated how their experiences now can be incorporated into not just resumes but college applications as well. Since there was a handful of youth that are under the state required age for employment we also covered ways they can market themselves for employment that does not have age requirements (babysitting, yard maintenance, etc.) and different strategies to expose them to a number of career interests.

Family Programs will be offering a follow-up Resume Workshop in December for the youth that attended in November which will be focused on building their specific resume based on information we gathered from the previous workshop. In addition to offering more resume writing workshops for our youth, Family Programs will also be offering additional Resume Writing classes for Soldiers. Other topics included on the Family Programs training initiative for Soldiers and their Families are: Health Fairs, Education Fairs, interview tips and job search strategies, financial management (developing spending plans/budgets, living on your own, debt, etc.), conflict resolution, and parent focused workshops. If you are interested in scheduling any of these workshops or are interested in seeing other topics offered contact your local Family Programs Representative at your brigade.

A Star Is Born



Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura, 416th Public Affairs Office

DARIEN, IL- A star was shining bright on a beautiful July morning as the Deputy Commander for the 416th Theater Engineer Command, Col. Joe E. Chesnut was promoted to Brigadier General.

Commander of the 416th, Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall pinned Chesnut in front of his family, peers and Soldiers from the command. “It’s been great, tremendous preparation for it, a beautiful perfect day.” said Chesnut. A one-star flag was then unveiled by Command Sgt Maj. Larry Reeve and the presentation of the general officer belt and buckle was handed to Chesnut from Crandall.

Chesnut began his military career after completion of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) in 1980 where he was given his

commission as a 2nd Lt. After attending Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, he was then assigned to the 223rd Engineer Battalion in West Point, MS. He has spent the majority of his career leading reserve units in his home state of Mississippi. Chesnut is looking forward to his duty in Illinois.

“It’s about teamwork, about building relationships and having people you can count on,” said Chesnut “as long as we can continue to do that we will be a tremendously successful organization and I am looking forward to be part of the team.”

Chesnut has served in numerous operations worldwide, spanning from Jordan and Iraq in the middle east, to Mongolia and East Timor in Asia. He also served in Hungary for Operation

Joint Endeavor and a couple of operations in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He is prepared to take on difficult challenges and the Army has provided training that will meet his expectations. One of the most challenging feats he has faced is the U.S. Army War College. “The training I got makes a better Soldier out of me.”



Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall gets assistance from Jimmie Chesnut as they pin the star on newly promoted Brig. Gen. Joe Chesnut.

Friday Night Lights Dedication to Fallen Hero

Story and photos by Spc. Jerimiah Richardson

Guttenberg IA - On Labor Day weekend, a small town in northeastern Iowa gathered together to remember one of their fallen heroes. While other cities across the country might celebrate the weekend in quiet contemplation, the town of Guttenberg had a reason for celebration. A soldier named Stephen Shannon lived in this town, and his death two years ago in Iraq affected nearly all of the 1,913 residents. Most of the town knew him or his family in some way and shared his family's grief. But on Friday September 4th, during their first varsity high school football home game in two years, the citizens of Guttenberg were cheerful and festive as they opened the 1.7 million dollar Corporal Stephen D. Shannon Athletic Complex in honor of their fallen Bronze Star soldier.



Congressman Bruce Braley appeared at the opening ceremony and offered words of encouragement to the parents of Stephen and the community of Guttenberg. "I'm so proud [of] the way that Stephen's death pulled this community together and turned this place into a healing field", said Braley. The parents of Cpl. Shannon, Dan and Joan Shannon spoke at length about the life story of their son and his inspiration for them to live a better life. "With this dedication, it's bittersweet to realize Steven is gone, but in many ways it's like he never left", said Dan Shannon.

The Tri-state sky divers from Kenosha, WI descended with the American Flag that flew over Stephens' former base in Iraq and handed it over to a Military Color Guard led by his former Squad Leader, Second Lieutenant Brian Bell (formerly Staff Sgt). Bell, who was in the RG-31 MRAP hit by the IED that killed his friend, then handed the flag over to be raised permanently above the athletic complex. A firework show capped off the ceremony. "It's actually hard to keep my composure right now, this is very emotional", said Bell.

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In August of 2007, committees from the community got together and decided they wanted to hold fundraisers to build the memorial in honor of Cpl. Shannon. The citizens of Guttenberg and over 500 donors from around the country gave their time and money to make the stadium and memorial site possible.

Clayton High School Football Coach Chad Harbaugh summed up the effort for his former player, "It's nice to see everything come together and get finished the right way. It was a lot of work for the whole community, and it has been a labor of love."



ARMY RESERVE ENGINEERS CONSTRUCT A BETTER FORT DIX

CASTLE IRC 2009

Story by By Maj. Shawn Hubbell, 416th TEC Plans Officer

Army Reserve engineers executed the largest construction-based exercise on the eastern seaboard this summer with the completion of Castle Installation Related Construction (IRC) 2009 at Fort Dix, N.J.

The 416th Theater Engineer Command employed 11 units with nearly 600 soldiers from July 18th to August 1st toward improving training areas within the nearly 70-year-old Fort Dix installation as part of the annual operational training exercise.

Castle IRC, which rotates yearly between Fort Dix, N.J., Fort McCoy, Wis., and Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., provides technical training for engineer vertical, horizontal and support companies in addition to concrete, survey and design and facility engineer detachments. The exercise is designed to enhance

Soldiers' engineer technical skills at the platoon and squad level. Participating units executed construction projects from a prioritized list of troop construction missions that best supported their units' training objectives through this Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) year-2 exercise.

Units came from as far away as Montana, California and Puerto Rico and supported each other's training objectives throughout the two-week mission.

"I can't say enough about the positive training value units received," said Capt. Michael Wayne. Wayne is an engineer plans officer with the 467th Engineer Battalion and played a key role in planning this year's mission.

"We had five different units working in tandem," he said. "When weather was an issue, and it certainly was

early on, the commanders made the appropriate scheduling changes for longer hours on the dry days."

The 416th Theater Engineer Command serves as the executive agent for Castle IRC on behalf of the United States Army Reserve Command. As such, the 416th TEC is responsible for planning and resourcing the exercise and providing guidance, oversight and funding. Engineer units under three Major Support Commands, 412th TEC, 1st Mission Support Command and 416th TEC, participated in the exercise.

The 416th TEC assigned overall command and control of the mission to the 467th Engineer Battalion, which falls under the 412th TEC. The 489th Engineer Battalion, which falls under the 416th TEC, took on the responsibility of project management.

Wayne said the participating companies assisted each other as needed during the exercise which helped foster a great team environment.

"As I visited job sites it was incredible witnessing projects come to life that only a few weeks ago were a set of construction plans," Wayne said. "Soldiers were smiling from the opportunity to refine their skills in their MOS."



Staff Sgt. Andre Smith of the 315th Engineer Battalion pushes concrete in construction of a tent pad. The combined efforts of units of the 416th TEC and 412th TEC helped construct a total of 24 tent pads in support of Castle IRC, Fort Dix N.J.

The construction of an 81' x 41' pre-fabricated classroom building provided technical training for Soldiers in the career fields of carpenter/masonry, electricians, plumbers and heavy equipment operators. Soldiers in these same military occupation specialties (MOS) also honed their skills with the construction of several pre-fabricated chemical latrine buildings. The construction of an 80' x 62' K-Span building, which resembles a large Quonset hut, provided Soldiers with specialized training on the Automatic Building Machine, in addition to welding, plumbing and electrical and concrete work. "The project is going extremely well. We had no hitches and holdups of materials and supplies," said Staff Sgt. Michael Vanecek of the 672nd Engineer Company. "It is a very well ran operation." Vanecek and his platoon assembled a Kelly Building which is used for latrines out in the field.

The construction of twenty four, 18' x 36' tent pads required the capabilities of two engineer concrete detachments and their mobile concrete mixers. Soldiers from the concrete detachments, one from Puerto Rico and the other from Pennsylvania, produced and placed nearly 360-cubic yards of concrete in support of the vertical Soldiers who were conducting the finishing work on the concrete pads. A host of road improvement projects provided solid MOS training for heavy equipment operators assigned to the engineer horizontal and support companies involved in the exercise. While providing valuable MOS training to the engineers, one road improvement project

also helped mitigate a Soldier safety hazard by stabilizing the road surface along an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Training Lane used by mobilizing units during their validation process.

Overall, Soldiers expressed positive comments toward the training mission during the After Action Review (AAR). "With annual training, it is nice to get out and see the different posts,"

done," said 1ST Lieut. Patrick Mast of the 372nd Engineer Company. The four to five inches of rain made it challenging for most of the outdoor projects not only from a technical aspect but from safety issues as well.

"Safety was always at the forefront of everyone's mind," said Wayne. "From the battalion staff, to company leadership, to the safety officer present there was a constant reminder for the Soldiers to conduct themselves safely."



Spc. Christopher Freeman of the 672nd Engineer Company cuts a 2x4 for a Ft. Dix range tower.

said Staff Sgt. Blake Buchanan of the 372nd Engineer Company. "And do jobs available so we can teach our younger soldiers." Units had approximately 10 days to complete their individual projects.

Bad weather slowed many of the projects down but the motivated soldiers worked long hours to complete their mission. "We sometimes had to work 12 to 15 hour a day. We did whatever it took to get the (K-SPAN) job

The customer for this Fort Dix-based exercise was the Department of Public Works. Joe Thomas, the troop construction coordinator within DPW, attended all of the planning conferences prior to the exercise and attended every construction meeting during execution, answering technical questions and ensuring engineers had the proper building materials to do their job.

Story continued on page 22...

Soldier's Wife Witnesses Husband's Battlefield Promotion

DARIEN, IL – Kerri Halstead with her daughter Kaelin observed an event very few family members can witness, a battlefield promotion of her husband Sgt. David Halstead on a live video teleconference.

On July 18, 2009 at the Gulf Region South District Headquarters, Contingency Operating Base Adder, Tallil, Iraq, Sgt. Halstead is the first person in the division's five-year history to be promoted under the provisions of a battlefield promotion. A battlefield promotion is only available to Soldiers who are serving in a combat area. Halstead has been serving as part of the 416th Theater Engineer Command's (TEC) support for Operation Iraqi Freedom since 2008.

Kerri was notified from the 416th TEC Family Support Group that her husband was getting promoted to Staff Sergeant just a few days prior. I wanted to surprise David by witnessing his promotion, she stated, "I talk to him every day and it was hard for me to keep it a secret."

"We talk through our webcams at home mostly every day," said Kerri. "But this time it was exciting to see how shocked he was. I was very proud of him."

Kerri along with her family watched the promotion ceremony clutching their two-year old



Kerri Halstead with daughter Kaelin watching the Battlefield Promotion of Staff Sgt. David Halstead

Kaelin in her lap. Family members are not normally allowed to see their loved ones in a combat environment but thanks to the use of the 416th TEC's video teleconference capability it has made it convenient for Halstead's entire family to view such a historic promotion.

"I did not know my family was going to be there," said Halstead. "It was a really special moment to have them here to be part of this promotion. I was not expecting this at all and I would like to thank everyone behind this."

Halstead participates in reconstruction efforts in Iraq. His office is responsible for a \$56 million plan restoring active projects in three provinces. "He ensures that the project visits are planned and conducted on time," said GRS Command Sgt. Maj.

Michael Sangren. "This requires coordination, planning, and supervision. He is tenacious in problem solving, never accepting defeat."

A battlefield promotion program is used to promptly promote those Soldiers who have excelled in their duties in a combat environment with an extraordinary feat. The selection for promotion was set at a theater level. "I am proud of what I am doing over here," said Halstead.

Halstead took leave during Father's day surprising his two-year old daughter Kaelin. Kerri thought it was a great idea to surprise him in return. "David is an easy going guy and he is the greatest dad and husband in the world."

See - Smurf

By Lieut. Col. Donald Gardiner, TEC Provost Marshal – Special to the Bridge

What is CCMRF? It is pronounced “see-smurf”, but it is not a little blue person in a funny hat that might show up on your doorstep trick-or-treating on Halloween night. CCMRF is the dedicated chemical, biological, radiological and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) consequence management response force (CCMRF). CCMRF is part of the US Northern Command’s (NORTHCOM) defense support to civil authorities (DSCA).

U.S. Army Field Manual 3-0, *Full Spectrum Operations*, incorporates civil support as an integral part of the Army’s operational concept. Just as Soldiers and civilian leaders must understand offensive and defensive operations, an understanding of civil support techniques is now an imperative task as well. The Army has a long history of supporting civil authorities such as staffing essential government operations during postal, air traffic controller and garbage worker strikes. Federal forces have also supported state and local authorities during the aftermath of Hurricanes Ike, Andrew and Katrina, and in response to other natural disasters.

CCMRF has visibility at the highest levels of both the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. Last year, the US Senate reported that, ‘Efforts to establish forces to manage the consequences of CBRNE incidents should receive the highest level of attention with the Department of

Defense, and the additional forces needed for CBRNE consequence management should be identified, trained, equipped and assigned to US Northern Command as soon as possible.’



The mission of CCMRF is to provide rapid response capability to assist local, state, and other federal authorities following a catastrophic event. CBRNE incidents pose a great

and very real security challenge in the United States. A terrorist attack or accidental CBRNE incident could be catastrophic and likely would overwhelm local and state authorities very quickly. Federal military forces have capabilities that, in a catastrophic CBRNE event, may be otherwise unavailable to states and localities. A CCMRF is a joint force usually organized under a two-star headquarters. It is composed of three subordinate colonel-level task forces: operations, medical and aviation.

Task Force Operations is formed around the nucleus of an active duty army brigade combat team or maneuver enhancement brigade, augmented by active Army and Army Reserve logistics and specialized CBRNE units.

Story continued on page 22 ...

Sgt. Cristian Lopez of the 449th Fire Truck Team rappels down a side of a building.



Navistar is Our Newest EPI Partner!



Navistar Defense Parts Group Vice President Merrit Becker speaks with 416th Theater Engineer Commander Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall about the newly forged Employer Partnership between Navistar and the Army Reserve.



Navistar Defense Parts Group Vice President Merrit Becker signs an Employee Partnership agreement with the Army Reserve as Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall looks on.



The commander of the 416th Theater Engineer Command Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall signs an Employer Partnership on behalf of the Army Reserve with Navistar Defense as Navistar Parts Group Human Resource Manager Catherine Goodwin looks on.



FACT SHEET

The Army Reserve Employer Partnership Initiative:

- ★ Helps drive employment opportunities for Soldiers by formalizing the relationships between the Army Reserve and private sector businesses, each sharing common goals of strengthening local communities, supporting Army Reserve Soldiers, and growing a stronger economy.
- ★ Businesses and the Army Reserve can collaborate on mutually beneficial staffing solutions to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce.
- ★ Civilian Employers and the Army Reserve have a link to talented, highly capable Soldier-Employees who are trained and experienced in real-world situations, giving a competitive edge for the Employer and the Army Reserve in the marketplace and in defense to our Nation.
- ★ Signature initiative of Chief of the Army Reserve Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz to assist Soldiers with their civilian careers and professional development in recognition of their dedication to our country and their selfless service.
- ★ Launched in April 2008 as a mechanism to build and augment skills used by Soldiers in both their civilian and military occupations.
- ★ Open to all Employers across the United States who value the unique strengths and work ethic of Army Reserve Soldiers.
- ★ Includes Partners spanning a variety of industries, in particular those in which the Army Reserve maintains core competencies, such as health care, logistics, transportation, information technology, telecommunications, skilled trades and law enforcement.
- ★ An interface between Employers and the Army Reserve to advance discussions about employing members of the Army Reserve and how to effectively accommodate Employers and Soldiers when called to active duty.
- ★ Results in a highly skilled Soldier-Employee who makes immediate and meaningful contributions in the civilian workplace and serves the Army Reserve in critically understaffed military occupational specialties.
- ★ Sustains a viable operational Army Reserve, capable of caring for Soldiers and Families, while meeting the economic and security needs of our Nation.

Additional information about the Employer Partnership is available online at www.ArmyReserve.Army.mil. To learn more about the initiative, Contact Sgt. Maj. Nelson Idefonso at (703) 601-0898 or e-mail ARCareers@usar.army.mil.

WWW.ARMYRESERVE.ARMY.MIL

309th Engineer Company Soldier Awarded Distinguished Police Medal

Story and Photos by Sgt 1st Class L. Maurice Miller, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center

OSAKIS, Minn. – “He has a gun!” yelled Officer Uhl over the phone to police dispatch as the suspect grabbed a shotgun.

A struggle ensued with both men trying to gain control of the loaded weapon. Uhl gave the suspect verbal commands to desist which were not heeded. Uhl then tasered the suspect on the side several times but because of the amount of clothing worn had only a minimal effect. Temporarily losing his hold of the shotgun, the suspect attempted to wrestle the taser and the gun away from Uhl while also trying to strike him in the face.

Eight minutes later, five other law enforcement officers arrived and the suspect was successfully handcuffed and hauled away.

Earlier, Uhl had been called to the scene because a family member requested a welfare check on the suspect, who was an alcoholic with a court ordered no-drink sentence and potentially suicidal. This occurred on June 12, 2008.

In a letter written by the Osakis Chief of Police in January of 2009, Mark Gilson nominated Officer Uhl for the highest award for “bravery and heroism in risking his own life in this dangerous situation.”

On April 9, 2009, Members of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association presented Officer Uhl with the Medal of Honor during the Executive Training Institute Annual Awards Banquet held in Rochester, Minn.



Staff Sgt. Calvin Uhl of the 309th Engineer Company received the highest award from the members of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association. Uhl who works as a police officer for the Osakis Police department received the (Police) Medal of Honor during the Executive Training Institute Annual Awards Banquet for his heroism in wrestling a shotgun from a potential suicidal victim.



Officer Uhl on patrol.

Officer Calvin J. Uhl, 38, is also a platoon sergeant with the 309th Engineer Company based in Brainerd, Minn. He was active duty Army for nine years and was deployed in 2003 with the 309th in Iraq.

“All that time on active duty,” Uhl chuckled during an October interview in his patrol car, “and no deployment. Then I join the quiet life of a reservist and I end up going.”

Patrolling through Osakis, a town of just over 1500, Uhl waves to citizens and stops to chat with a resident at the post office. The conversation ended with a friendly hug.

Story continued on page 23...

Around the Army

Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits to Dependents (TEB)

Who is eligible for TEB?

Users of the Post-9/11 GI Bill will find a quirk in how Congress designed one of its most popular features: the option to transfer benefits to family members. For example, spouses of active duty members who hope to use transferred benefits to attend private colleges will be delighted at the value of the benefit for them. It will cover full tuition and fees, with no

ceiling, and therefore will be worth far more than benefits transferable to college-bound children or even benefits available to veterans using the full plan themselves.

On the other hand, active duty spouses who use transferred benefits to attend public colleges or universities will have a more modest education package than other GI Bill users including eligible children because active duty spouses will not qualify for the GI Bill's monthly living allowance or the annual stipend for books and supplies.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Please select Form 22-1990 to apply. This form requires that individuals currently eligible for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill, MGIB-Selected Reserve or the Reserve

Educational Assistance Program, make an irrevocable election from their existing program to Post-9/11 GI Bill. Once the transfer has been made to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the service member cannot revert back to the original GI Bill. The entitlement to the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be equal to the number of months you have remaining under MGIB. However, if you exhaust all of your MGIB entitlement, then you may be entitled to a maximum of 12 additional months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

All applications to transfer benefits will be made through the Transferability of Educational Benefit (TEB) website. For more information on eligibility and application procedures, see the Department of Veterans' Affairs web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

H1N1

As shipments of some 3.7 million doses of H1N1 vaccine ordered by the Defense Department continue to arrive from the manufacturer, more than enough will be available for all military personnel and their beneficiaries. Immunization for both seasonal flu and H1N1 is mandatory for all military personnel and it is highly recommended for beneficiaries. First priority for the vaccine will go to deployed forces, then to ships, trainees and health care workers based on prioritizations. Priorities for beneficiaries in the United States will follow federal and state guidelines, whether beneficiaries opt to get the H1N1 vaccine at military treatment facilities or at non-military clinics. In either case, since the vaccine is free, and there will be plenty of it, it will not matter whether they get their shot from the military or civilian supply. *(News brief taken from Defense Media Activity, Judith Snyderman)*

DTS

When it comes to filing travel vouchers the rules are, those individuals that are full-timers must process their vouchers within 15 days after completion of travel and TPU members have 35 days must do the same. If you did not perform the duty you must cancel immediately. If you did not perform the duty but had a confirmed flight and did not cancel prior to the start date of the flight, you will be charged a SATO fee, so in that case you must submit a voucher. Any questions, contact your unit administrator or visit:

<https://www.defensetravel.osd.mil>

Army and Community Working Hand in Hand

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class, L. Maurice Miller, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center

Kankakee, Ill. – Soldiers from the 317th Engineer Company participated in an Army Community Covenant Agreement on October 3rd before deploying to Iraq.

Soldiers stood in formation while their commander, 1st Lt. Richard Hamilton, signed a commitment of mutual support with local officials and other Army representatives to uphold the resilience of the troops and their families during this time of sacrifice and separation.

According to literature on the subject, the Army Community Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life

for Soldiers and their families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer to other states. It is a formal commitment of support by state and local communities to Soldiers and families of the Army – Active, Guard and Reserve.

The Army Community Covenant is tailored to the local level, with leaders at both local and state levels participating in covenant signing ceremonies recognizing the strength of Soldiers, their families, and the support of the local community.

Retired Brig. Gen. Jack Kotter, currently United States Army Reserve Ambassador of Illinois, attended and spoke to the Soldiers. It is good to be here and publicly

pledge our support to the troops and their families before they deploy overseas, he said. Kotter also stated that signers of the agreement will send care packages overseas and will help stage a welcome home ceremony when the unit returns.



Left to right: Lt. Col. John Box, Commander, Chicago Recruiting Battalion, Lt. Col. James Carmean, senior ROTC instructor at Olivet Nazarene University, Mr. James Ryan, Commander, Kankakee County American Legion, and 1st Lt. Richard Hamilton, Commander, 317th Engineer Company, sign multiple copies of the Army Covenant Agreement, a pledge to support the resilience of soldiers and families of the 317th Engineer Company.

Spc. Daniel Kooyenga, 25, of Evergreen Park, Ill., is one soldier who will deploy. With the bad economy, Kooyenga had trouble getting steady work. When he learned the 317th was bound for Iraq, he reenlisted for a year and a half to go with them. "I love the structure of Army life, anyway," he said. "If it has wheels and moves dirt, I use it." A prior service soldier with already one deployment in his belt, he taught at the engineer school at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. while on active duty and is thinking seriously of staying in until retirement.

Photos from the Field

315th Engineer Battalion Activation

The 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Alexander, Commander Col. Robert Dickson, and newly appointed 315th Engineer Battalion Commander Lieut. Col. Eduardo San Nicolas advance to receive the battalion's colors during the 315th activation ceremony.



World War II veteran Alfredo Trinidad is greeted by leaders of the 315th Engineer Battalion at the 315th's Activation Ceremony. Mr. Trinidad served with the 315th Eng. Bn. when it fought with the 90th Infantry Division across Europe in WWII.

The 315th Engineer Battalion Commander Lieut. Col. Eduardo San Nicolas receives his battalion colors from 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Commander, Col. Robert Dickson in a ceremony at Camp Pendleton Calif. on Oct 17th.



Take a Look at Your Hands!

By
Chaplain (COL) Timothy M. Samorajski
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Take a moment to look at your hands! A remarkable passage in the Old Testament states that the LORD will never forget us, that we are “engraved in the palms of His hands.” As we look at our hands, we notice the lines that extend from one side to the other. I’m struck that no amount of washing or scrubbing can ever remove them. They are a part of us for life.

In the same way, God is a part of us for life. In fact, His intense interest in us is for all eternity! First, God is intimately involved in our creation. In Psalms 139: 13-14 we read, “For Thou didst form me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and that my soul

knows full well. How wonderful to realize that the God of the universe is directly and personally involved in our very formation.

Secondly, we understand from the Bible, that God desires to be an intimate part of our earthly life. In John 10:10 we read, “The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I came that you might have life, and might have it abundantly.” All of us are born with a God shaped void in our Souls that only God can fill. The image from the book of Genesis of how God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the garden paints a perfect picture of the type of communion God desires with us.

Finally we understand from Scripture that God desires a relationship with us that extends beyond our human life into all eternity. In John 3: 16 we read, “For God so loved (insert your name) that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have *everlasting* life. God loves us enough to have sent



His beloved Son into the world to die for our sins so that we may live with Him forever. In my role as a hospice chaplain, it’s always comforting to attend the funeral of a believer and understand that they are in the very presence of God, able to receive His love in a way not possible in this life.

So are you tired of human friends that are so often here today and gone tomorrow? If so, then look to the LORD who never slumber or sleeps and who remains closer than a brother. Take a moment to look at your hands!

*They are a
part of us
for Life.*

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR CONVENTION COMES TO CHICAGO

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura, 416th Theater Engineer Command

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society held its 51st Annual Congressional Medal of Honor Convention in Chicago, Ill. Over 50 Medal of Honor Recipients across the nation attended the convention. Assigned to each recipient was a service member who helped escort these men and their family members around the fine city of Chicago.

Most of the recipients arrived by plane and were greeted by their escorts at the airport. Many of the recipients were welcomed to Chicago with open arms, but for Mr. James A. Taylor and his wife Sandy, they were welcomed with a water cannon explosion. As their plane pulled up to the gate, Chicago fire engines surrounded the plane and sprayed water with their fire hoses ceremoniously over the aircraft. On any other day, this would be an emergency procedure but for this day it was a ceremonial tribute for Taylor. As Taylor deplaned, he was met with a salute from his military escort, Sgt 1st Class Andy Yoshimura a 416th Theater Engineer Command public affairs Soldier, and then a swarm of salutes from Chicago firemen.

When Taylor walked in the terminal hundreds of passengers waiting for other flights gave him a well deserved standing ovation. During their five days in Chicago, the recipients stayed busy with



many activities stemming such as the Commit to Courage Opening Ceremony at Soldier Field, a visit to Wrigley Field, and finally finishing off with the Patriot Award Dinner. Taylor stated he thought the most important event was the public outreach event in which he visited students at Paul Revere Accelerated Middle School in Chicago. "I really enjoy talking to young students who will be our future leaders." said Taylor, "Just talking to the kids is an enjoyment to what I do."

Another important day for Taylor and the recipients was a memorial service at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago for those Medal of Honor Society members who had passed away this year. Taylor had the responsibility

to escort the widow of James E. Swett who was his friend and fellow Medal of Honor recipient. "She is a close friend to our family and we are here to support her." said Taylor.

The week ended with the Patriot Award Dinner emceed by Gary Sinise. This sold out black tie event recognized all of the Medal of Honor recipients in attendance and also recognized civilians who had contributed their hard work toward the military.

True leaders always look after their Soldiers. Capt. Taylor did such November 9, 1967 in Vietnam when he rescued wounded men in three separate burning vehicles.

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Castle IRC ...continued from page 11

“He [Mr. Thomas] was a pleasure to work with and was one of the reasons this exercise went so smoothly,” said Wayne. Most companies had multiple projects to execute during the two-week exercise and the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps ensured Soldiers took every advantage of the training opportunity.

“I witnessed many NCOs take the time to train Soldiers how to perform tasks and then allowed them to perform the task,” said Wayne. “I also found that many of the Soldiers had civilian skills that directly corresponded to their MOS. On MOS proficiency a reserve unit stands well above and beyond an active duty unit.”



See-Smurf

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It is capable of CBRNE detection and decontamination and provides engineers, transportation, logistics, communication and public affairs support to local, state and federal entities. Currently one CCMRF task force is operational. The second task force will become operational in October, 2009. Numerous 416th TEC elements have participated in the past and others will participate in the second CCMRF task force this fall.

The 416th TEC participation consists of numerous Engineer Firefighter Detachments and Headquarters on a constant 72-hour recall for two years. 416th TEC Firefighters will provide Technical Rescue Operations which include: Hazardous

Materials Response, Rope Rescue, Vehicle and Machinery Technical Rescue, Structural Collapse Response, and Confined Space and Trench Rescue.



416th Firefighters have completed various National Incident Management System

(NIMS) training, and the USARC and 416th TEC plans call for the firefighters to respond to incidents and work side-by-side with their civilian firefighter counter-parts. One of their main roles will be Search and Extraction (S&E), otherwise known as technical rescue, from a catastrophic event.

TEC Firefighters are currently receiving numerous civilian and military training above and beyond that normally required MOSQ and BNCOC/ANCOC training for the Firefighter, 21M, MOS.

Interested parties can find more information about CCMRF at www.northcom.mil, or by contacting the 416th TEC Operations Section.

Police Award

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“There it is right there. That’s where it happened,” Uhl said, as he pointed to the house where he fought the suspect over the three-and-a-half foot shotgun and earned the Medal of Honor.

“When I saw the shotgun, I thought, ‘that’s not right, that’s the world’s longest cigarette,’” said

Uhl, modestly making light of the real danger of the situation.

Elaborating more on the incident, Uhl said, “He never once tried hurting me by shooting me. He wanted to shoot himself. I kept my hand over the guard to keep him from doing so. He did try to hit me in the head, but he was just

trying to get away.”

“I do appreciate the fact he didn’t try to kill me,” Uhl said.

The story does seem to have a happy ending. “From what I hear, the man is doing well and is in treatment and stopped drinking. He wrote me a letter and apologized,” Uhl said.



Medal of Honor

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What does it mean to be Congressional Medal of Honor recipient? To Taylor, being a recipient of such an award does not change the leadership or the personality of an individual. “This award is worn on behalf of every service member that has worn a uniform.” said Taylor, “I am just the safe keeper of the medal. On any day during any time, a true soldier will do what I have done.”

321st Engineer Battalion

Valorous Unit Award

... continued from page 6

“The greatest honor of my military career was to lead you into combat.” Said Col Michael Hoxie, commander of the 321st during the time of deployment. “The Soldiers of this unit were common men and women doing highly uncommon acts for their country. Your actions saved countless lives and played a huge role in bringing security to Iraq. Wear this medal with honor and always remember the fallen.”

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps for the fallen Soldiers and the 321st Soldiers singing the Army Song. The ceremony itself and the countless streamers placed on top of the 321st colors represents the long history of what the unit has done in over 90 years and what is expected in the future. The new scarlet, white and blue streamer with the word “IRAQ” is now added to its rich history and will always commemorate the honor and respect for those who have fallen.



Brig. Gen Joe Chesnut pins the Valorous Unit Award on Staff Sgt. John Holubeck of the 455th Engineer Company.

Parting Shot

