



THE

BRIDGE

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Equipped for Expansion

COMMAND NOTES

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall

Spring is a time of new beginnings. It is a time of change. This is a season of change not only in the environmental sense but for the 416th Theater Engineer Command as well. Our command which has long been known as primarily an Engineer Command is, at least in the near term, significantly changing to include command and control of two Expeditionary Sustainment Commands. With the deployment of the 377th Theater Support Command Headquarters to Haiti in support of Operation Provide Comfort, the 103rd and 310th ESCs are now members of the 416th TEC. I want to give a warm welcome to all the members of these two great units and let you know we will do everything we can to support you. These additions increase our membership by more than 12,000 additional soldiers to total nearly 25,000. This virtually doubles the size of our command and now includes many non-Engineer Reserve units that have many different operational roles in the Army Reserve.

In today's high operational tempo, many of our units are now shifting deployments from Iraq to places in Afghanistan. Our Deployable Command Post Two (DCP2) rotation is just one of many of our units heading there in the next several months. The sacrifices made by the families of these Soldiers deserve the highest praise and respect. Taking care of things at home while their loved ones are deployed make them true heroes on the "home front" while their heroes are deployed forward. Operation Yellow Ribbon has been a very important program that has kept Soldiers and Family members connected through every step of the deployment process. My thanks go to all who have presented the program and especially to those who have participated in it to strengthen the fabric of our Army Family.

We are always proud to wear the uniform, especially in times like these when our Nation depends upon us to serve in so many challenging places. What you do is very important for our country. The Army is an institution where everyone is important and everyone has the opportunity to fulfill their aspirations. I am humbled and grateful to serve with you. Thank you for maintaining the standards of an Army that is the envy of the world. Finally, Gaby and I do not want to forget to send our best wishes to all our injured and recovering Army family, hoping for a very speedy and lasting recovery.

Essayons!



Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command

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NCOs Taking Care of Soldiers

The 2010 NCO Summit was held in Texas again this year and we had over 300 attend. This is the second Summit that we have held and the company level leadership was the focus of the Summit. We did this to provide our company level NCO's with the tools and training to enhance their ability to be better effective leaders. As I have stated in the past we, as Army Reserve Soldiers, are being called upon to do more than we have ever done before in the history of our existence.

Many things affect our readiness as Reserve Soldiers and it is the duty of our Leadership to ensure that our Soldiers are properly prepared to perform their mission. We do this with quality training that is relevant to our mission. We do this by keeping our Soldiers actively engaged during Battle Assembly (BA), annual training and checking on them between Battle Assemblies. As Leaders we must know our Soldiers, their families and give them ownership of the unit. In the perfect world every BA would be filled with adventure and everybody would be actively engaged but this does not always occur. It is the collective responsibility of all the Soldiers in the unit to do their part to help with morale, training, family readiness, physical fitness and individual readiness.

When I visit units that are deploying I spend as much time talking to Soldiers as I can and I ask them about their civilian occupations, their families and their interests. We have Soldiers that are school teachers, plumbers, bus drivers, mechanics, cooks, carpenters, students, firefighters and many more skills to numerous to mention. It is overwhelming to think about the amount of talent that is in our Army Reserve force and the contribution the Army Reserve Soldier has and is making to our Country.

My challenge to each and every Soldier in the 416th for 2010 is to support your unit and your Leadership. Work together to make your unit better by keeping a positive attitude, keeping yourself up to date on Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES), Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), Weapons Qualification, medical readiness, training, logistics, and individual records. While at BA and new Soldiers come to the unit, welcome them and help them to be a part of the unit. If you know of a Soldier in your unit who is having some problems help them out. Let them know that you care and get them additional assistance if they need it.

Lastly, stay safe; make sure that you wear your seat belt and shoulder harness when driving to and from BA. Take frequent rest breaks if your commute to the Reserve Center is long and have a battle buddy so you can check on each other.

Thanks,
Command Sgt. Maj. Reeve



"It is the collective responsibility of all the Soldiers in the unit to do their part to help with morale, training, family readiness, physical fitness and individual readiness."



CHAPLAIN REQUEST FORM

The 416th Command Chaplain's Office is concerned about the difficult issues in your life. It's our desire to help you be the best that you can be. Please check the area(s) that you're seeking help, guidance or advice with and we'll get in touch and provide support.

***** THIS FORM IS FOR SOLDIERS AND OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBER*****

Requesting Counseling:

- * Marriage: _____
- * Pre Marital _____
- * Depression _____
- * Grief _____
- * Suicidal Thoughts _____
- * Family Issues _____
- * Spiritual Guidance _____
- * Job Conflicts _____
- * Chain of Command Issues _____
- * Stress Management _____
- * Prayer Request _____

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Please note that all communication between you and the Chaplain or Chaplain's Assistant remains **confidential**.

ADDITIONAL SPACE:

If your need has not been addressed in this form please provide a brief explanation here:

cut here



416th TEC is on the Grow Again!

By Maj. Bruce Townsend



DARIEN, IL. – The 416th Theater Engineer Command is growing once again as it welcomes two brigade-size elements into the fold. The 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) based in Des Moines, Iowa, and the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command based in Indianapolis, Ind., have been reassigned to the 416th TEC. The move was necessary as the US Army Reserve deploys forces to support Operation Unified Response for disaster relief in Haiti.

The 377th Transportation Command, based near New Orleans, La., has been mobilized to deploy to

Haiti as a major logistical headquarters in the movement of supplies and aid into that earthquake ravaged nation. The two ESCs were part of the 377th Transportation Command (TransCom) before the mobilization. With their reassignment to the 416th TEC for the duration of the deployment, the 416th becomes the largest Operational and Functional (O&F) Command within the reserves, and has effectively doubled in size from about 12,000 Soldiers to nearly 24,000 Soldiers.

The 103rd ESC has units in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska. The 310th

ESC has units in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Each ESC will continue to wear their distinctive unit patches, and will likely return to the 377th TransCom when the mission in Haiti is completed.

The other major units which fell under the 377th have been reassigned directly to USARC or to the US Army Reserve Joint Special Troops Support Command (USARJSTSC), based in Salt Lake City, Utah. ■

389th Welcomes New Commander

by Spc. Jeremiah Richardson



It was six degrees below zero. Nearly a foot of snow covered the ground of Ft. McCoy, Wisc. While most wouldn't brave to venture into this kind of weather it was an important day for the soldiers of the 389th Engineer Battalion to be dressed-right-dressed and standing tall for their new incoming commander. Lieut. Col. Matthew Baker stood ready and eager to accept the battalion's colors in the 389th's change of command ceremony.

"I'm excited to be back with the

troops", said the Commander. Baker also said he was very happy to be walking into a squared away unit and was very satisfied with the condition the previous leadership of Lieut. Col. James McCarthy had left the unit in. Most officers only get one Battalion Command their entire careers and the 389th which is scattered throughout the upper Midwest presents its own unique challenges. They consist of vertical and horizontal construction units with a sapper company (think explosives) coming online soon. He

mentioned among his first challenges are to get to know his staff, build a good working relationship with them, develop and mentor commanders.

With four active drilling companies and a 5th coming online soon the challenge of getting all those parts moving in the same direction can seem daunting. "It's the battalion commanders job to get his troops ready to go to war", said Lieut. Col. Baker. "But I don't see it as work, I see it as a challenge." ■



(left to right) Incoming Commander Lieut. Col. Matthew Baker, Command Sgt. Maj. Laurel Weyenberg, 372nd Engineer Brigade Commander Col. John Lendrum, Outgoing Commander Lieut. Col. James McCarthy participate in the 389th Engineer Battalion Change of Command Ceremony in Ft. McCoy, Wisc.

Waikiki's Army Museum, Hawaii's best kept secret

By Loran Doane U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs

The 416th Theater Engineer Command has been given the unique opportunity to work with the Army Corps of Engineers on a project to restore the US Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort DeRussy Hawaii. The project will involve approximately 120 vertical construction and support personnel during construction from April 18th to July 14th 2010.

FORT DERUSSY – The Army Museum of Hawaii, located in Fort DeRussy's

Battery Randolph, in the heart of Waikiki, is a 19th century U.S. Army coastal defense gun battery that once served as a first line of defense against enemy attack on Oahu's southern shore.

"Even though Battery Randolph has been here for nearly a century, some of our island's newcomers, visitors and even local folks have yet to discover the treasures and rich military history on display here," said Judith Bowman, museum director.

The battery was built between 1909 and 1911 and gained international, national, state and local significance at a time when British, French, Russians, Germans, and even the Japanese, all had ships in the Pacific, and were expressing interest in Hawaii.

At the time, the United States was

expanding its defenses westward as other nations were looking to Hawaii as an economic and militarily significant port of call in the middle of the Pacific for their merchant and naval vessels.

Fort DeRussy was part of a series of fortifications whose mission was to defend Pearl Harbor and Honolulu Harbor from attacking battleships. It comprised two artillery batteries, Battery Randolph to the east and Battery Dudley to the west.

"Besides drawing in members of the armed forces, tourists from around the world flock to the museum daily as a way to step back in time and relive history." Bowman said. "Some are interested in the late 1700s and early 1800s when King Kamehameha united the seven Hawaiian islands under a single rule, while others come to learn about the role their parents or grandparents played in World War II.

Visiting from Montreal, the Frigon

family decided to take a break from the frigid conditions at home and enjoy a week in a little more temperate climate.

"We could have gone anywhere," said son Stephane Frigon, "but we wanted to see paradise."

Travelling with his parents, Benoit and Francine, and with young son Zack in tow, the family decided to pop into the museum when they eyed it while strolling down Kalia Road in Waikiki.

We enjoy history in general," explained Stephane. "This visit gives us an opportunity to learn some American history and see what the museum has to offer."

"Many visitors entering the facility don't realize that this museum is more than just about its exhibit galleries or the cannon and tanks displayed outside," Bowman said. "The building itself is an artifact and a significant part of Hawaiian history."

In its heyday, Battery Randolph had two 14-inch guns and Battery Dudley had two six-inch guns mounted on disappearing carriages. When they were installed, they were the largest guns in the entire Pacific from California to the Philippines.

"The disappearing carriages allowed the guns to remain hidden from sight of approaching battleships by solid concrete walls called parapets, capable of withstanding a direct hit from a 2,000-pound artillery shell," explained Dorian Travers, museum curator. "To get the gun into the firing position, the artillery crew tripped a





lever attached to a 50-ton weight. As the weight fell, it lifted the gun tube into battery (the firing position), and the gun was then ready to fire again."

A crew of roughly 14 artillerymen would load a ¾-ton shell in the breech, and then load 340 pounds of gun powder behind that.

After lobbing the 1,556-pound shells up to 14 miles out to sea, the recoil automatically pushed the gun carriage back down behind its concrete parapet, protecting the Soldiers and gun from low-angle naval fire. The gun was then reloaded again.

"A well-trained crew could fire a round downrange every 30-seconds," Travers said. "As one round was impacting its mark, the second round was already half way in flight to hit the target again."

Protecting Soldiers inside the battery, the overhead concrete was up to 12-feet thick. On the ocean side of the battery, concrete was the equivalent of 30-feet thick. The measurements were derived from a calculation based on 15 feet of concrete and 45 feet of sand, in which three feet of sand equates to one foot of concrete.

Were these weapons, based on 1890s technology, accurate?

"They were very accurate," Travers said, emphatically. "Observation points on top of Diamond Head and Tantalus were used to triangulate the distance, direction and speed of potential adversaries via telephone to the plotting room at Battery Randolph.

"The guns were capable of hitting a 20-foot target from six miles away — the equivalent of hitting a bus in Kaneohe, or on a wall 60-feet away,"

he explained, "with a bullet the size of a pinhead, all without the aid of a computer."

In today's dollars, this weapon system would be a bargain to operate. In 1914 terms, when a Soldier's average daily salary was \$2 per day, it cost a pretty penny.

The cast iron practice projectiles cost around \$55 each, whereas the armor-piercing projectile cost about \$780. For both systems, the powder charge propelling the projectile was \$230.

Although an engineering marvel and weapon for its day, the emplacement proved its obsolescence with the advent of aircraft carriers. No longer did attacking navies need to bring their ships within eyesight of the beaches in order to effectively engage targets.

Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese planes devastated the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet in their attack on Pearl Harbor, and on the central and leeward parts of Oahu, without firing a single round at the defenses at Fort DeRussy. There was no need.

With the end of World War II came the realization that the fort was no longer capable of meeting the needs of the U.S. military in Hawaii. The giant guns were cut up and sold for scrap, having never fired a shot in anger or defense.

Battery Randolph was eventually abandoned and briefly became a warehouse storage facility.

Efforts were made in 1969 to demolish the batteries and free up the prime real estate for other useful purposes.

Battery Dudley was razed to the

ground, but Battery Randolph proved more stubborn. Its concrete walls repeatedly defied destruction, and the demolition company contracted to remove the structure eventually went bankrupt in the process.

"In 1976, the Army designated Battery Randolph home of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii," Bowman said. "We continue to expand and improve exhibits in the museum, keeping the Army's history alive, current and relevant.

"You cannot find a better educational venue to learn about the history of the U.S. Army in Hawaii and the Pacific, and the vital role Hawaii's citizenry played in the defense of our nation."

The U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii is located in Honolulu, along the ocean side of Waikiki's Kalia Road. It is situated adjacent to the Hale Koa Hotel, at the corner of Kalia and Saratoga roads.

The museum houses a gift store that sells military memorabilia, books, clothing, military unit insignia, and World War era music, all reasonably priced.

The museum is free of charge and open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and closed on some federal holidays, but open on military holidays.

Audio tours are available.

Validated parking is available across the street from the museum, and disabled parking spaces are provided in front of the museum.

Group tours can be arranged by calling 438-2825. ■

Soldier Comes Home, Recaptures Her Past

By Bob McElroy USAG Humphreys Public Affairs

HUMPHREYS GARRISON, South Korea – Sgt. 1st Class Ruth Wong of the Contingency Response Unit doesn't know when she was born and who her real parents are but she knows Korea was her first home.

Abandoned as an infant in February 1963 she has grown-up to become a senior non-commissioned officer in the Army, mother of three and grandmother of one.

Her life's journey has brought her from the steps of a Chechon City municipal building to the Headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C. and now back to Korea to participate in exercise Key Resolve.

Wong had the chance to visit Checon where she spent her first seven years and regain a piece of her past.

Wong, a fulltime Army Reservist, was born in South Korea in February 1963 but orphaned soon after birth.

Although she doesn't know for sure, she believes her mother wrapped her in a blanket and left her on the steps of a municipal building in Chechon, south of Wonju.

A police officer found her and brought her to an orphanage run by a young American missionary named Jane White. White took her in, cared for her and named her Ruth after the biblical Ruth. She gave Ruth the surname Baik, which means White in Korean.

Life at the orphanage in 1963 was austere. Money was scarce and the orphanage depended on donations from individuals and churches in

America and whatever donations for money or supplies White could obtain from either the Korean government or nearby American military units.

White did not have formula for the babies she took in so she fed them powdered milk the Army gave her. She put a little bit of oil in it to give it a bit more taste and nutritional value.

The orphanage was a single mud and stick building with no running water or indoor plumbing. White said that in the winter she could scrape the frost off of the inside walls and, when it rained, the ceiling would sometimes turn to mud and pieces would fall from it.

While they didn't have the plushiest accommodations what the orphans had was love, from the woman they still call their mother, Jane White.

White believes God called her to open the orphanage in part because of "a special love" that He placed in her heart.

"She was my first mother, before I was adopted," Wong said.

Wong found a home and a family at the Chechon orphanage and, when she was seven years old, an American couple, the Strauchs from Grand Island, Neb. adopted her and another girl, Candace.

Wong and Candace flew to Nebraska and found themselves in a place which was a world apart from Chechon. They had beds of their own, indoor plumbing and hot and cold running water.



Above - Sgt. 1st Class Ruth Wong as a child in the kitchen of the Chechon Children's Home in South Korea. (photo courtesy of Jane White)

Page 11 left photo- When Sgt. 1st Class Ruth Wong returned to the Chechon Children's Home she got a big hug from Mrs. Kim who took care of her when she was a baby. "You look just the same as you did then," Kim said with a smile. (photo courtesy of Bob McElroy)

Page 11 right photo - Sgt 1st Class Ruth Wong is reunited with her first mother, Jane White, at the Chechon Children's home. (photo courtesy of Bob McElroy)

The first night there we slept on the floor because our beds were uncomfortable, Wong said. My American mom said that Candace and I used to spend hours playing with the bathroom faucets. We'd never seen such a thing and were amazed that you could turn them on and get hot water or cold water.

Wong had a normal American upbringing, attended school and church and learned to play the piano, violin and guitar. But as she assimilated into American life she lost a part of her heritage – the ability to speak Korean.

I wanted to speak Korean with Candace but she didn't want to, Wong said. Candace said "we're in America now, we should speak English."

Although she lost the ability to speak her native language Wong never lost her identity as a Korean or the connection she felt to the country of her birth. When she was in the 11th grade she signed up for the Army's delayed entry program. Her goal: to return to Korea as a Soldier.

Following high school graduation she entered the Army and after completed basic training and advanced individual training, she returned to Korea as a personnel specialist in the 2nd Infantry Division in 1983. One of her visits was to Chechon and Jane White.

The years had been good to Jane White and the orphans in her care as well. The Chechon Orphanage had grown from a single mud and stick building to a modern three story brick building that housed 40 children and a small staff.

Wong enjoyed her visit to the orphanage in 1983 and had the opportunity to see photos of her and her sister Candace before they were adopted. Unfortunately she was unable to get copies of the photos then.

En route to Chechon Saturday Wong expressed concern about getting copies of her childhood photos. She said that White had experienced health problems and she was worried for her and connections to her past.

"I don't want the memories of my past to go with her," Wong said.

When she arrived at the Chechon Children's Home White greeted Wong with a long hug and a huge smile. The two chatted about Wong's time at the orphanage and life in Korea in 1963. Then came a surprise, White had photos and negatives of Ruth and Candace.

As they sat together on a sofa in White's modest quarters Wong gazed at the black and white photos, smiling.

"Every time I write to her I say I need my pictures," Wong said, still smiling.

"Well, I know but I take care of kids, sometimes I'm too tired to work on picture," White replied

"I know, I know," Wong said

White turned to Wong, stroked her hair and smiled. "Now you can sleep tonight," she said.

"Oh, thank you, I'm so happy," Wong said as she hugged White. "These are so [such] wonderful pictures. I never thought I'd get to see my baby pictures again." ■



Northern Exposure

By 1st Lt. Robert Mikyska, TEC Training Support Officer – Special to the Bridge

Lt. Col. Donald Gardiner, the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) Provost Marshal, recently completed a year long training adventure with the Canadian Armed Forces.

From August 2008 to July 2009, Gardiner served our longtime peaceful neighbors to the north as a teaching member of the Canadian Joint Command and Staff Programme (JSCP). JSCP is the manner in which Canadian Armed Forces Majors and Lieutenant Colonels obtain their version of level two, Professional Military Education. The course is very similar to and modeled after the U.S. Army Intermediate Level Education (ILE), or the legacy Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

JSCP is different in that it is completely 'joint', Canadian land, air and maritime service officers are completely integrated into the course, regardless of their branch of service. Today's Canadian Armed Forces are now completely integrated as one military force instead of a Navy, Air Force and Army. In the course were also allied students from the reserve military forces of England, Germany, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and the United States Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and the Air Force Reserve. JSCP takes place at the historic Canadian Forces College (CFC) in Toronto, Ontario. The course has four

phases. The first phase is a weekend introductory event at the CFC. Phases two and three are distance-learning based using the internet, a blackboard-type interactive web-site and also requiring the completion of readings, written reports and research papers, and take over 300 contact and non-contact hours to complete. Both



Lt. Col. Donald Gardiner of the 416th Theater Engineer Command (6th from the left) stands in a group shot with members of the Norwegian, Canadian and Australian military.

phases are very labor intensive, and traditionally have had over a 30% attrition rate. Phase four is the capstone exercise and is a sixteen-day in-resident program at the CFC. Gardiner served as a member of the Directing Staff (DS), as the Canadians call it, better known in the U.S. Army as a small group instructor. During phases two and three Gardiner, on his own time, logged-in the student's assignments, graded them, and provided constructive feedback on their work. Nine of the twelve students Gardiner instructed completed the course, and one of those non-completions was due to a short notice deployment to

Afghanistan. During phase four, Gardiner served as his small group's primary instructor for all topics including the final exercise, all using the Canadian Forces Operational Planning Process (CF OPP). The CF OPP is very similar to the US Army Military Decision Making Process (MDMP). Gardiner, who also serves a Military Technician at the 416th TEC Headquarters, said that it was difficult to switch back-and-forth between the MDMP and CF OPP since he uses MDMP on a daily basis when he develops projects for the 416th Command Group, and then had to grade students' papers at night using the CF OPP. Gardiner had

completed the course himself in 2006-07, and was asked to return as a guest international instructor this past year. He was joined on the international staff by a New Zealand Logistics Lieutenant Colonel, a French Field Artillery Lieutenant Colonel, and a US Air Force Reserve KC-135 Pilot. Gardiner reiterated that it was a once in a lifetime experience that pays large dividends in U.S. Army Reserve and the Canadian Armed Forces relationship. Officers interested in competing to be selected for the program can find the information each year in late summer or early fall on the Army Reserve 2xCitizen site under Additional Professional Military Education. ■

FORSCOM Commander addresses progress in Iraq during visit to Chicago

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Chicago, IL. – The Union League Club of Chicago held a special luncheon for Maj. Gen. Joseph Anderson, the Chief of Staff of Multi-National Force – Iraq. Dozens of ULCC members, local organizations and college representatives attended the two hour event focusing on Anderson's recognition and a brief from Anderson on the future of force activities in Iraq.

The U.S. envisions for Iraq to be a sovereign, stable and self-reliant country, with a government that's steadfast and just. The U.S. also wishes to continue to grow a partnership that contributes to the peace and security of the country. "The Iraq embassy is the leading political and economical arena for the region" said, Anderson. "Our partnership is with the largest embassy in the world and we are the lead security in the arena for this region." Under the Presidential Guidance, Anderson is preparing for the end of combat operations in Iraq by August of 2010 and training the Iraqi Security Force in protecting their country.

Anderson spent the majority of the brief on the reduction

of the force in Iraq. Currently, there are about 111,000 service members in Iraq. Upon the completion of the elections the number will fall below the 100,000 mark in May. The U.S. plans to have only 6 brigades and 50,000 troops by the end of 2010. The Presidential Guidance is to remove all U.S. troops by the end of 2011.

Great leadership and experience is what Anderson credits the success of the current mission accomplishments in Iraq to. "We have phenomenal soldiers and leaders from not only the Army but from all of the services." said Anderson "Many people have served multiple tours, very experienced, very capable in the best Army we ever had." Anderson also praises, not just the technical advances, but the tactical executions that leaders have been implementing in accomplishing their mission and the reduction of serious injuries and casualties.

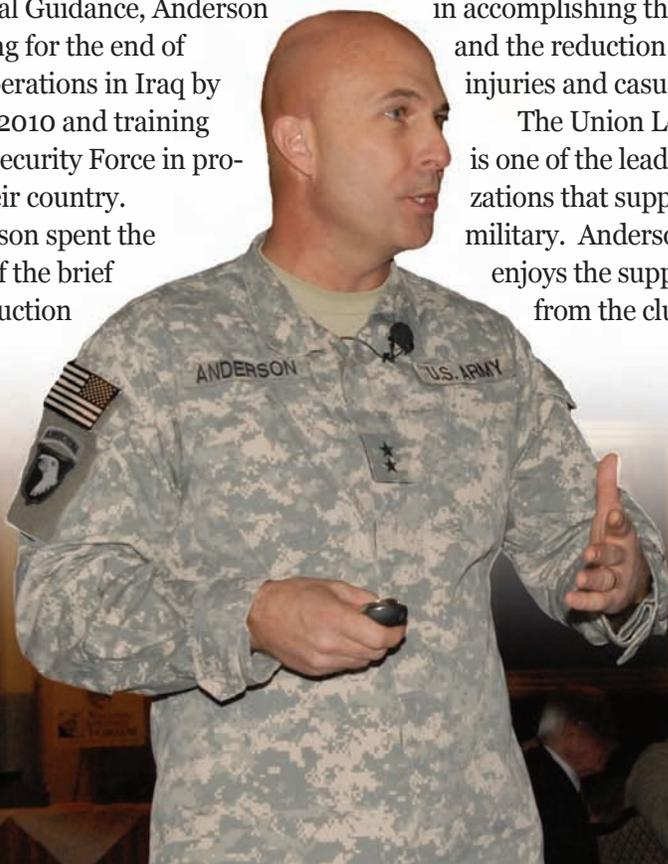
The Union League Club is one of the leading organizations that support the military. Anderson says he enjoys the support he gets from the club along



Maj. Gen. Joseph Anderson, (middle) Chief of Staff, Multi-National Force-Iraq, speaks with John McCabe, (left) General Manager and Chief Operating Officer for the Union League Club of Chicago, and Ross Docksey (right), Chairman of the USO of Illinois, prior to his presentation during a luncheon hosted by the Union League Club, in partnership with the National Strategy Forum, Jan. 19.

with the USO, the American Legion and other sub-charter organizations. "It is a very generous club and there are many benefactors to this organization." "I don't know about any other club in my 28 years in the Army that does what this club does."

Exactly 24 hours from the end of the luncheon, Anderson will be in Iraq again to lead his troops in the restoration and the stability of the security of Iraq. Anderson sees progress in education, health care, governance and the quality of life. Anderson feels that the countless troops that had stepped into the country made it all happen. "This mission will not be successful without their hard work and commitment", said Anderson. ■



Maj. Gen. Joseph Anderson, Chief of Staff, Multi-National Force-Iraq, highlights the progress being made in Iraq during his presentation at a luncheon held in his honor at the Union League Club of Chicago Jan. 19.

AROUND THE ARMY



BAGHDAD – Command Sgt. Maj. Verna Henderson, from 16th Eng. Brigade, shakes hands with Sgt. Justin Sikma as he is presented with a Letter of Appreciation, the brigade coin, the Ohio State National Guard Safety Impact Coin, and the Army Achievement Award. Sikma discovered an unexploded ordnance at a job site Jan. 12 and safely shut down the project site, ensuring no Soldier was injured by the ordnance.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joel Condra, 317th Eng. Co., USD-C

Patriot Guard line the walls of the auditorium for the 367th En Bn farewell ceremony.



Pfc. Shawn Edmonson, FSC 367th Eng Bn passing time waiting for the bus to arrive in St Cloud, Mn. The 367th is mobilizing for deployment to Iraq



Members of the 463rd Engineer Detachment trains along with the Houston Fire Department



Staff Sgt. Frank Anderson and Sgt. John Dufner of the 367th Eng Bn load a shipping container for preparation for mobilization to Fort Bliss, TX for deployment to Iraq.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ty Emmans, 367th En Bn, introduces himself and his dad, Dennie Emmans (right) to all the Patriot Guard members that were out supporting the 367th Farewell Ceremony.



CAMP MABRY, Texas — Brig. Gen. James H. Doty (right), Commanding General, 420th Engineer Brigade, offers congratulations to Lt. Col. Wyatt A. Lowery during his promotion ceremony, here, Feb. 19. Lt. Col. Lowery is the commander of the 980th Engineer Battalion. Photo by Maj. Anmarie B. Daneker, 211th MPAD

Novel Strain 2010

By Maj. Andrew Harmon and Spc. Jerimiah Richardson

Members of the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) participated in EXERCISE NOVEL STRAIN 2010 conducted from January 12 - 14 to exercise their newly developed operational plan (OPLAN) for Pandemic Influenza (PI) response. The 416th TEC was chosen as one of two Army Reserve Commands to act as a Regional Joint Task Force (RJTF) Headquarters in the event of a major pandemic. In response to a major pandemic, U.S. Army North would order the activation of the 416th TEC as RJTF Charlie. As RJTF Charlie, the TEC Headquarters element would provide command and control (C2) over all military units assisting civilian authorities in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions V and VIII (a 12 state region).

To develop the Operations Plan, a team of 14 TEC Soldiers volunteered to come on active duty to review the current U.S. Northern Command or USNORTHCOM and Army North or ARNORTH OPLANs and to develop a Region Charlie specific OPLAN for the TEC HQ. Part of their 60 day mobilization included Defense Support to Civil Authorities or (DSCA) training, FEMA training, and multiple training sessions with U.S. Army North and U.S. Northern Command. Integrating the DSCA philosophy into the newly developed OPLAN was a key learning point for the TEC staff. Generally, the military is “in



416th Theater Engineer Command HHC Commander Maj. Andrew Harmon points out different unit operations in a staff briefing during Operation Novel Strain 2010

charge” in theater operations. However, in DSCA, the civilian authorities such as FEMA and HHS (Health and Human Services) are the lead agencies in any response.

For EXERCISE NOVEL STRAIN 10, the RJTF C team established a Tactical Operations Center at the Parkhurst Army Reserve Center. RJTF C manned the TOC throughout the exercise and established a battle rhythm with the ARNORTH staff. During the exercise, RJTF C provided direction to its assigned units and communicated all required reports to higher HQs. The exercise also gave the RJTF C team a chance to work directly with their Defense Coordination Officer/Elements or (DCO/E) who work directly with FEMA and other federal agencies in any pandemic influenza or DSCA response.

The experience gained from the exercise was valuable. MAJ Andrew Harmon, RJTF Charlie Operations Officer said, “It’s definitely a different way of doing business. Working with a new higher HQ and on plans where the military is not the lead element requires a lot of communication and coordination.” ■

Why we plan . . .

Lessons Learned from 1918 Pandemic Influenza Outbreak event in the past 100 years has had such a negative impact worldwide.



The 1918 influenza pandemic, also known as the “Spanish Flu” was a highly contagious and deadly disease. The virus was H1N1, and caused an estimated 40 million deaths worldwide in less than one year. From 1918-1920, it killed somewhere between 50 million and 100 million people across the globe; no other event in the past 100 years has had such a negative impact worldwide. ■

This was an emergency hospital set up at Camp Funston, Kansas, during the 1918 influenza epidemic. (Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., Image NCP 1603).



Enlisted Leaders Attend 416th NCO Summit

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

ADDISON, Texas – Over 200 Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from the 416th Theater Engineer Command attended the second annual 416th TEC Senior NCO Summit in mid January. During the summit there were 31 presenters and 39 subject areas including Veterans Affairs and Freedom Team salute. The event took place over three days in the “Lone Star” state.

Sergeants Major, First Sergeants and NCO's in high leadership positions shared ideas on how to overcome difficult problems the command sees on an everyday basis. “Subjects that the presenters talked about are relevant to some of the issues that we are having right now”, said Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Smith of the 487th Chemical Battalion. “This gives us a chance to work through communication issues with the staff. Find out where the blocks are and find the results.”

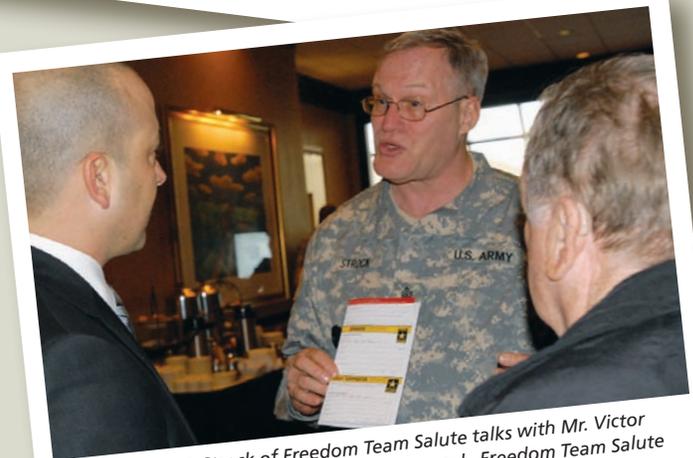
Staff members of the 416th TEC sat down with the leaders to help resolve some issues units are dealing with that need attention. “Interaction with the Soldiers was a lot better than last year”, said Miguel Guzman of the G-8 finance section for the 416th. “Not everyone has the same pay problems. Working with them one on one resolved certain pay issues for themselves and in most cases their Soldiers”.

Networking was one of the most important aspects during the conference. Many of the leaders enjoyed hearing from their peers on issues and also appreciated suggestions that will help foster an environment for improving leadership for their units. Newly promoted Command Sgt. Maj. Laurel Weyenberg, of the 389th Engineer Battalion, felt that interacting with other Sergeant Majors will help her lead troops. “This is a new exposure for me”, said Weyenberg. “We are getting a lot of great training and I am getting great feedback from my First Sergeants.” “We are just connecting with other NCO's and trying to figure out what is going to work for all of us.”

The lack of communication can make it hard for any two parties to work together. With today's technology, communication is easier for some but cumbersome for others. Face to face communication seems to work best for most of these leaders. “Knowing your Soldiers” are three words in the NCO creed that should be strongly followed by all NCO's. During this conference getting to know peers has not only strengthened communication between the leaders but has strengthened the cohesion of the 416th TEC NCO Corps. ■



Command Sgt. Maj. of the 416th Theater Engineer Command Larry Reeve stops at the Military and Family Life Consultants booth during the 416th TEC Annual Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Summit in Addison, Texas.



Sgt. Maj. John P. Strock of Freedom Team Salute talks with Mr. Victor Lezza of the 416th Theater Engineer Command. Freedom Team Salute program recognizes the enduring bond between soldiers, family community and veterans.



1st Sgt Charles Gondiero of the 672nd Engineer Company, Command Sgt. Maj. James Rodgers of the 863rd Engineer Battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Knute Weick of the 416th Facility Engineer Group visits a multi-tool exhibit during the summit. The summit brought senior NCO's throughout the command to combat issues and share ideas within the conference.



Dealing With The Media: A Guide For Family Members

Sometime during your Soldier's mobilization and deployment, reporters may want to talk to you and other members of your Family. Here are some tips to help you make the experience of being interviewed a success.

IT'S UP TO YOU! When a reporter asks to talk to you or your children, the choice to agree or refuse is completely up to you. If you'd like to talk about being a military spouse, the hardships of separation, the Family Readiness Program, etc., you're free to do so. If you think being interviewed would be too stressful for you or your children, just say so. You are under no obligation to talk to reporters, ever. But if you're comfortable with the idea your viewpoint can help present a more complete picture of today's military.

KEEP SECURITY IN MIND. It is fine to talk generally about mobilization and deployment and what your spouse does. Avoid details such as the exact number of Soldiers in the unit, what type of weapons they carry and their exact destination. If you aren't sure whether or not to answer a question, don't. Contact the Public Affairs Office for guidance at any time. A good reporter won't mind waiting a few minutes for an answer.

AVOID RUMORS AND SPECULATION. They won't add anything to your viewpoint and will subtract from your credibility.

WHAT ABOUT COMPLAINTS? Everyone has at least one or two—but if you want to complain about your spouse's unit or mission, be sure to tell the reporter you're speaking only for yourself.

WHAT ABOUT "OFF THE RECORD"? Talking to a reporter "off the record" is almost always a bad idea. It's too easy to lose track of what you said when, and find something that you didn't mean to make public in the media. The best general rule is, if you wouldn't want to see it in the media, don't say it.

"WE'D LIKE TO HELP". If you do talk to a reporter, or are asked to do so, you may take a minute to let us know, we can help you prepare and would appreciate knowing about it if you contact us after the fact. We look for news stories about our units and Families, both for our historical files and to forward to others in the organization and the right publics.

If you have any questions, need information or just want to tell us about your experience, contact your unit Public Affairs POC or Chain of Command or you may also contact the 416th TEC's Public Affairs Office (800) 315-6327 ext. 248 or CELL: (630) 729-4107 email: mary.aaron@usar.army.mil ■

367th Engineer Battalion Deploys

By Pfc. Lindsey A. Schulte

ST. CLOUD, Minn. – The 367th Engineer Battalion held a farewell ceremony here on January 16 before deploying to the Middle East. Approximately 300 soldiers and their families filled the crowded auditorium at the 367th Yellow Ribbon Farewell Ceremony at Steward Hall on the St. Cloud State University campus. While deployed, the engineering unit will perform reconstruction and deconstruction projects and provide surveying and combat support missions throughout Iraq, requiring convoy movements from one location to another

“Finally getting to do something you were meant to do,” is how Sgt. Samuel Sanchez described this opportunity. Sanchez spent seven years on active duty without deployment before joining the 367th.

This may be the last chance the unit will have to serve in Iraq.

“You may be the last of the engineer battalions that deploy to that theater,” said Col. John Lendrum, commander of the 372nd Engineering Brigade during his speech.

To prepare for deployment the 367th participated in 19 days of pre-mobilization training at Fort McCoy, Wis. The soldiers trained in individual tasks during convoy movements to engineering locations essential for a successful mission in Iraq. Other training included weapons qualification and familiarization with the Defense Advanced GPS Receiver



Spc. Jeff Pratt, HSC 367th En Bn, talking with local news station before the farewell ceremony for the 367th deployment to Iraq

(DAGR) satellite signals navigation system.

The 367th will complete their training at Fort Bliss, Texas before leaving for Iraq later in the month and will emphasize more convoy movement procedures.

“It’s exciting to be able to use our training,” said Spc. Alexander K. Poor.

Many of the troops have never been deployed before. Poor and some of his comrades said they are looking forward to earning their first combat patch.

This will be one of many firsts all of which show the sacrifice that is a part of every soldier’s life.

“There will be a lot of firsts that are going to be missed,” said

Command Sgt. Maj. Ty V. Emmans, referring to graduations and births of sons and daughters while the soldiers are away. Emmans, himself, might miss the birth of his first child as well. “The mission comes first,” he said.

When speaking to the assembled troops, Emmans made it evident that he and his non-commissioned officers (NCO) would do their part to guarantee a successful mission.

“You take care of your soldiers. They will take care of you,” Emmans instructed his NCOs. The audience answered him with motivated agreement.

A resounding HOOAH filled the crowded auditorium. ■



Operation Bright Star '09

By 1st Lt. Nathan Alba, 409th EN CO (V) Executive Officer and 1st Sgt. Patrick McCarthy, EN CO (V) First Sergeant

Army Reserve Engineers of the 409th Engineer Company (V) deployed to Cairo, Egypt for Operation Bright Star on two consecutive rotations for Vertical Engineer support from October 3rd to November 4th 2009.

The 409th Engineer Company sent a total of 25 Soldiers to support Engineer operations at Cairo West Airbase during Operation Bright Star, a Joint Exercise involving over 12 different countries known as ARCENT's largest, and USCENTCOM's premier, OCONUS exercise.

During Operation Bright Star, Soldiers of the 409th Engineer Company (V) worked directly with the ARCENT and Facility Engineer Team in completing multiple vertical construction projects and tasks to include carpentry, electrical, and HVAC support for Cairo West Airbase. The Bright Star exercise was crucial for Reserve Engineer Soldiers to practice their MOS training overseas, which often times they are not afforded the time or resources during a normal Battle Training Assembly.

The 409th Engineer Company (V) deployed to Cairo, Egypt for Operation Bright Star in four phases. The first phase consisted of the ADVON made up of 1st Sgt Patrick McCarthy and Sgt. 1st

Class Vonfeldt deploying on September 26, 2009. The 2nd phase was the deployment of two separate rotations deploying to Bright Star. The 1st rotation deployed on October 3, 2009 and the second rotation deployed on October 17, 2009. The 3rd phase of the Operation was the redeployment and transition of the 1st and 2nd rotations. The 4th and final phase of the Operation was the redeployment of the 2nd rotation with all their equipment by November 4, 2009.

On arrival of the ADVON, they assisted Lt. Col. Schaper and Lt. Col. Plybon from the 416th ARCENT in the initial layout and arrangement of the unit's work area and layout. When the equipment arrived, they containers were inspected and arranged in a logical working layout. Working relationships were established with the local contractors, security forces, and Corps of Engineer representatives. The hierarchy was established for work on various areas so that when a problem did arise, the correct person or company was notified.

When asked of what valuable experience the 409th Engineer Company (V) Soldiers learned from an operational perspective, Sgt. 1st Class Vonfeldt said "Operation Bright Star provided

invaluable practical experience in facility management. Military operations occur within countries operating on 399/220 Volt 50Hz three phase systems. Vertical Engineers require practice on balancing neutral loads, properly grounding buildings, and seizing breakers to protect the wire are necessary skills. Skills learned during operation Bright Star are necessary for every Engineer company that is placed in a maintenance operation in the Middle East."

When the Soldiers of the 1st rotation arrived, the initial priority of work was to complete the site preparation for receiving work orders and performing the required construction. The Soldiers were required to manage their BOM so that the resources would last for the duration of the exercise. Work orders and plans were processed by the FET and submitted to the company for execution. All work orders received were completed on time and delivered promptly. The basic responsibilities of the 409th Engineer Company (Vertical) during the Operation Bright Star Exercise were to assist in the maintenance of the electrical and HVAC systems of Cairo West AFB, and the completion of construction work orders from the 25th Facility Engineer Team.

As the 409th began daily Operations, they provided electrical support and expertise for the base during the conduct of the exercise. New electrical installations performed by the

Above: Lt. Col Pat Hines, commander of 1-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, from Fayetteville, N.C., prepares to touch down in the desert near Alexandria, Egypt, during a strategic jump exercise as part of Operation Bright Star 2009. The strategic jump included participants from Egypt, Germany, and Kuwait, and was one of many events held to foster teambuilding among the Bright Star participants. The U.S. is part of an 11-country coalition participating in the biannual event spearheaded by Egypt and the U.S. Central Command and Third Army/US Army Central. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Craig L. Collins.

local electricians were supervised by the 409th electrician, Sgt. 1st Class Vonfeldt, and when the standards for safety were not met, the contractors were told how to properly install components to make them safe. The condition of the existing electrical system in the buildings was not up to safety standards, so the 409th enforced safety regulations that forced the locals to upgrade the systems to make them safe. Diligence on the part of the 409th resulted in no serious safety violations, and a few minor problems that were quickly corrected.

HVAC was another area of emphasis for the 409th. The existing HVAC units had been in storage for an extended time and needed cleaning and repairs. The 409th supervised the cleaning, repair, and installation of the units, and monitored their output. Numerous problems with the HVAC units were reported to the contractors, and their repairs were monitored by the 409th. The ductwork in one of the permanent structures was in pretty bad shape, so the 409th sent a team over to reconnect, repair, and monitor the ducts to correct any on the spot issues.

The construction section of the 409th was kept extremely busy for the duration of the exercise. Work orders were submitted, processed and sent to the 409th for execution. Preplanning and experience was



*An Egyptian Mechanized Company attacks multiple targets during a Combined-Arms Live-Fire Exercise conducted as part of Exercise Bright Star 2009 in Egypt, Oct. 14, 2009.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Epright*

crucial in the purchase and loading of the BOM that would be required for the duration of the exercise. The 409th was always able to complete the work requested using the asset that were available on-hand. Sometimes the material did not match up the plan requirements, so the Soldiers recut the wood they had on hand for use on the project they had to complete. There were a few items that were not on hand, in that situation, the local purchase option was exercised. Items were purchased on the local economy, with a few lessons being learned along the way.

On each rotation of Operation Bright Star, we were fortunate to have two NCOs' that are/were employed by Construction companies and brought that skill set to compliment their military MOS skills in order to complete multiple construction projects. On the first rotation, Sgt. Nathan Fisher and Sgt. Christopher Novak were

both former construction employees that were able to implement their prior construction knowledge of carpentry and finishing to the multiple projects. On the second rotation, Staff Sgt. Quintin Mese took the lead with his vast carpentry experience to ensure all pending projects were completed by the last project day of October 31, 2009.

Soldiers from the 416th ARCENT, 25th Facility Engineer Team (FET), and the 409th Engineer Company (V) came from all over the states to include Georgia, Colorado, Texas, and Alabama to complete all the necessary training objectives in a five week mission.

Continued on page 27



389th EN BN Soldiers Train to Fight

By Staff Sgt. Leah Crubel

February 2010 was a month packed with training for 389th Engineer Battalion Soldiers. They kicked off the beginning of the month sending select Soldiers to Company Intelligence Support Team (CO-IST) training in Iowa City, IA. Immediately following CO-IST was the February Battle Assembly. Some of the Soldiers then attended IED training at the 411th Engineer Company in Iowa City the following week.

Soldiers were selected from each company in 389th EN BN to be part of the CO-IST training instructed by a group from Ft. Huachuca, AZ. Through instruction, class participation, and practical exercises utilizing the programs Axis Pro and TIGR, Soldiers gained more knowledge on how they can fight a war not only in the field but through intelligence analysis as well. This gave them and the team from each company a better understanding of what roles they play and how they can effectively work together as analysts during counterinsurgency operations.

Battle Assembly commenced the weekend following training. Headquarters, Headquarters Company 389th EN BN's operations went around the clock from first formation on Saturday to the final on Sunday. The BA involved the Army Physical Fitness Test, mass immunizations, a 24 hour Command Post Exercise or CPX, evaluation processing, preparation for weapon qualification range in March, (SINCGARS) radio training, Laser Marksmanship (LMTS) training and meetings in preparation for extended



Spc. Joseph Merfeld of Headquarters, Headquarters Company of the 389th Engineer Battalion relaying information to his convoy commander in a recent IED training held in Iowa City, IA.

combat training or (ECT) at Ft Irwin, California. During the 24-hour CPX, soldiers were given scenarios as if they were deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. With these scenarios they communicated with the different sections using the Command Post of the Future system. Soldiers who are new to the unit were able to get a preview of what their key roles would be during extended combat training or a deployment.

Following BA, Soldiers dispatched HMMWVs and drove to Iowa City for IED training. After instruction in the classroom, Soldiers trained in a field environment, reacting to IEDs during convoy operations. They gained

knowledge on the identification of potential IEDs, deployment of IEDs, and the tactics, techniques and procedures needed when there is an IED threat.

HHC 389th EN BN's newly assigned 1SG Wesley Ernst said, "I was impressed with training that was conducted. I think the Soldiers got a lot out of the scenarios that they were given." All of these skills learned and future training during Extended Combat Training is giving commanders, first sergeants and their Soldiers an increase in situational awareness and the confidence to be successful on missions throughout a deployment. ■

463rd Engineer Detachment (Firefighters) Conduct CCMRF Collective Training

By Mr. Donald Gardiner, TEC Civil/Military Projects Officer

Recently the 463rd Engineer Detachment Firefighters conducted a three-day exercise to continue to refine their individual Soldier tasks and continue work on their collective level unit proficiency. The 463rd is on a two-year rotation to immediately mobilize and deploy to provide Urban Search and Technical Rescue support to the US Army Reserve's Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF). The 463rd is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and is part of the 980th Engineer Battalion. From February 18th through the 21st, the thirty-two Soldier unit conducted extensive training at the Houston Fire Department Training Academy near Houston's Hobby Airport.

During the four days, the unit, in conjunction with the Houston Fire Department, the US Army Maneuver Support Center and School (MANSCEN), US Army North, and

the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), practiced their skills in using literally hundreds of technical tools and highly technical skills to simulate rescuing people from confined spaces. The Soldiers did so while simulating being in a chemically contaminated environment which required them to wear chemical protective suits and masks, in addition to their normal fire-fighter gear and protective helmets.

During the final exercise scenario the Soldiers were practicing supporting FEMA and they were required to first conduct a chemical reconnaissance of a building that was a suspected drug lab. The building had also partially collapsed after an earthquake. After the reconnaissance, the Soldiers used sensors to locate two bodies inside. First however, the firefighters had to breach a large cement block that had fallen over the buildings only safe entrance. The Soldiers drilled a small hole in the cement, placed a

camera inside to see what was on the other side and after determining that the other side was safe, they then cut a hole in the cement block to safely get Soldiers inside the building. Soldiers had to do all this in three separate shifts because they were only allowed to spend forty-five minutes at a time in the chemically contaminated "hot" zone.

Once inside, the Soldiers were required to properly search the building and vent the building so that there was fresh air inside. Finally, the Soldiers had to shore up the buildings structure so that they could find the two trapped individuals and extricate them to safety. "It was the most realistic exercise that the unit has yet to conduct at the collective level." said the 463rd Eng Det commander, 1st Lieut. Yazim Feliciano. "Our Soldiers look forward to doing more difficult training during their CCMRF assignment." ■

Pfc. Sean Evans of the 463rd Engineer Detachment uses a diamond-bit drill to bore a hole in cement under the supervision of a Houston Fire Department Heavy Rescue expert.



Inset: Sgt. 1st Class Daryn Morton of the 463rd Engineer Detachment watches as one of his fellow Soldiers uses an airbag to raise a slab of concrete during bracing and lifting training.

277th Engineers Build Bridges, Bridge Gaps

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

BAGHDAD – On the banks of a rushing river in northeast Baghdad, clouds of dust hang in the air and hulking machines transform the landscape in preparation for a new bridge being built by Army Reserve Soldiers of the 277th Engineer Company, July 30.

Though a suspension bridge already spans the fast-flowing river, it won't support most Coalition forces vehicles, explained Spc. Shane Brassell, a heavy equipment operator from Whitney, Texas, assigned to the 277th Eng. Co., 46th Eng. Battalion, 225th Eng. Brigade.

"The bridge they have now is not big enough and not strong enough to get our MRAPs [Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles] through," said Brassell. "So we're helping put up another bridge that's going to be stronger and safer for our guys."

Being able to move through the area safely and quickly is imperative for the Soldiers stationed on either side of the river as well as for Iraqi Security Forces located here.

"It's a main thoroughfare for Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police and it's right next to Taji, which is a big base for them and it will help them get their equipment through much easier," added Brassell about the importance of the bridge for his ISF partners.

Maj. Andrew Hilmes, the executive officer for the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st

Cavalry Division based just south of the river that resupply at Camp Taji, agreed with the assessment. "It shortens the distance and travel time," he said. "Less time on the roads is less exposure to threats."

"It will also give future units the capability to rapidly haul a lot of equipment through Baghdad," continued Hilmes, a native of Sarasota, Fla.

Though the implications behind the success of a new bridge are easy to be seen, the coordination, effort and sweat that go into a project such as this in a combat zone aren't taken lightly.

This portion of the river is deceptively deep, with a fast and deadly current that could easily swallow a piece of equipment, explained Brassell as he ground-guided a crane just a few feet from the 10-foot drop into the river.

Along with the treacherous terrain, it was riddled with large concrete blocks buried deep within the soil that needed to be moved, he added.

"We're lucky enough to use the D-9 dozer. It's the biggest engineering piece of equipment in the Army and because they're so big and it's a weight issue, we don't always use them," Brassell said. "We still struggled a little bit, but we got good operators."

One of those operators, Spc. Franklin Cardenas, marveled at the size of the concrete blocks. "A lot were buried in the ground and we had to work them up and push them out...they weigh more than a Volkswagen Bug," added the Luling, Texas native as he pointed to a colossal pile of broken concrete slabs.

"It's dangerous," said Cardenas, a heavy equipment operator, also assigned to the 277th Eng. Co. "But I have a lot of belief in our security force and we really rely heavily on them. I have a lot of trust in them...but we have to stay vigilant too and you need to know what's happening and



Army Reserve Soldier, Spc. Franklin Cardenas, a heavy equipment operator exits the D-9 bulldozer after clearing enormous concrete slabs from beneath the earth in preparation to build a stronger and safer bridge in northeast Baghdad, July 30.

keep your head on a swivel."

A rotating security element of 1st Cav. Div. Soldiers keeps a watchful eye on the engineers every minute of the day.

"Since day one, we've closely coordinated their security," explained Hilmes. "Not only is the 277th an external unit, but also a Reserve unit...we've worked with them a few times already on the JSS [Joint Security Station] and they've offered to help out anyway they can...as far as we're concerned they're members of the team."

The teamwork between the cavalry Soldiers and the engineers is apparent and just another example of Soldiers helping Soldiers get the mission accomplished.

"It brings a feeling of comfort knowing that my guys are going across there safe and the ISF will be safe too," said Brassell as he tried to remove dirt from his brow but only succeeded in adding another layer of mud.

"There hasn't been a lot of griping from the troops because I think they understand the long term benefits of this bridge," said Hilmes with a smile. "This is another one of those things to better protect the force and keep Soldiers out of harm's way."

In order to do that, Reserve Soldiers help active duty Soldiers, cavalry scouts protect engineers and troops keep troops out of harm's way. ■

Spc. Shane Brassell, an Army Reserve heavy equipment operator looks on as a fellow Soldier clears an area of debris in preparation for a bridge being built on the banks of a river in northeast Baghdad, July 30.



Joint, Dual Mission Paves Road for Future

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

FOB CONSTITUTION, Iraq – Bulldozers and graders tore up chunks of earth as 6th Iraqi Army engineers and 277th Engineer Company Soldiers toiled together during a five-day heavy machinery training class at Forward Operating Base Constitution March 24.

“While we were out here, we found a road buried,” said a smiling San Juan, Puerto Rico native, Sgt. 1st Class Bifredo Barros, a platoon sergeant for 277th En. Co., 46th En. Battalion, 225th En. Brigade. “So we started to question what else we were going to find.”

What engineers of the 6th IA and 277th En. Co. also found was friendship.

“When we first started the training, it was a little tense, but then we started opening up,” said Spc. Aaron Velasquez, a heavy construction equipment operator assigned to the 277th En. Co. and who hails from San Marcos, Texas. “We just try to be as friendly as possible, they do the same to us, now it’s just like we’ve known each other for years. We’ve got a great friendship.”

Getting dirty and sweaty while training together helps forge friendships, but cooperation is vital to upgrade the Iraqi’s heavy machinery skills and complete the first phase of a horizontal construction project for U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers living here.

“The Soldiers treat us very well and we cooperate with them,” said 2nd Lt. Nassim Rashid, an engineer assigned to the 6th IA En. Bn. “We are comfortable with the Americans and they treat us well. We are one team.”

The engineers from both militaries teamed up together to accomplish two missions at once, added Barros.

“They are actually doing some real work in prepping the ground for an upcoming project,” continued Barros as an IA Soldier in a bulldozer flattened out the land behind him to mitigate the drainage of the soil. “We’re going to do it in such a way that the water is going to run away from the buildings.”

Along with preparing the soil, the training that the IA engineers receive will help them work their own equipment they are acquiring in August, added Barros. In order to do this, the classrooms are the vehicles.

“We sit with them inside the vehicles; it’s a lot of hands-on training,” said Velasquez. “We just basically throw them in the mix! They’ve taken it to the next level and they’ve responded pretty well to the training.”

The focus of this type of training has been to teach the IA

engineers how to instruct other Iraqi Soldiers on the vehicles because they will be the primary trainers for the rest of their unit when their equipment comes, added Barros.

“At this point, they are actually correcting each other without any of us intervening to let them develop their trainer skills to help grow up their own army,” said a dirt-covered Barros.

“I wish that these future classes are the same with us and the Americans, because we can agree to

work toward the same goals,” said Pfc. Hadair Abaas, a 6th IA engineer wearing a sweat-ringed desert camouflaged IA uniform. “We’ll help this country and our people and we will all benefit.”

Helping the IA engineers become self-sustaining while starting a project to help FOB Constitution Soldiers live better is demanding work for the 277th En. Co.

However, uncovering an asphalt road while working allows for some humor on the job site, according to Barros, “We were just making fun of it and trying to find out where this road will take us.”

With the friendships cemented and the experience gained, they may not know where this road will take them, but the Iraqis will now be prepared to travel that road because of the training from Americans. ■



A 6th Iraqi Army engineer Soldier (left) learns important hand and arm signals from San Antonio native Sgt. Augustine Deluna, a heavy construction equipment operator assigned to the 277th Engineer Company, 46th En. Battalion, 225th En. Brigade.

Picture Video Warriors

Congratulations to the 211th MPAD for having so many winners in the recent Army Reserve Brumfield Excellence in Journalism Awards. Public Affairs broadcasters and photo journalists from around the Army Reserve sent in their best products to compete to be the best in many categories of creative excellence.

AWARDEES FROM THE 211TH MPAD

PRINT

2009 ARMY RESERVE MILITARY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
Staff Sgt. Mark C. Burrell

■ Category G: News Article

FIRST PLACE

“Mile-long Training Trek Concludes Combat Lifesaver class”
Sgt. 1st Class Ron Burke

SECOND PLACE

“All American’ Troopers Pass on Tools in Cold Steel Academy”
Staff Sgt. Mark C. Burrell

■ Category H: Feature Article

FIRST PLACE

“Bradley Mechanic Defies Logic with Illusions”
Sgt. Joshua M. Risner

SECOND PLACE

“Dragons Defend with Fire and Steel”
Staff Sgt. Mark C. Burrell

■ Category I: Commentary

THIRD PLACE

“Together We Stand, Divided We Fall”
Sgt. Joshua M. Risner

■ Category J: Sports Article

FIRST PLACE

“Beautiful Game Fosters Partnership”
Sgt. Joshua M. Risner

SECOND PLACE

“Bikes Over Baghdad: X-Games Athletes visit Baghdad”
Staff Sgt. Mark C. Burrell

■ Category M: Photojournalism

FIRST PLACE

“Federal Police Learn Hands-On Techniques”
Sgt. Joshua M. Risner

SECOND PLACE

“DSTB Mechanics Keep Warriors in the Fight”
Sgt. John Soles



Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell of the 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment waits for a photo opportunity in Camp Liberty, Baghdad. Burrell worked as a print journalist in both deployments to Iraq.

BROADCAST

■ Category D: Radio News Report

FIRST PLACE

Nasi Wa Salam Receives New Fire Station
Sgt. Ashley Anderson

SECOND PLACE

M-777 Howitzer Fires Excalibur Round
Sgt. Erik Fardette

■ Category E: Radio Features Report

FIRST PLACE

Hispanic Heritage Celebration
Sgt. Erik Fardette

SECOND PLACE

Women’s Equality Day
Sgt. Ashley Anderson

■ Category L: Television News Report

FIRST PLACE

Joint Cache Search
Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

SECOND PLACE

Engineers Teach Robotics
Sgt. Ashley Anderson

■ Category M: Television Feature Report

SECOND PLACE

Hispanic Heritage Celebration
Sgt. Erik Fardette

■ Category N: Television Sports Report

SECOND PLACE

Soccer Game Shows Progress
SGT Ashley Anderson

About who the **BRUMFIELD EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM** award is named after



LTC Wetzel Brumfield

USAR PA doctrine guru.
Awarded posthumously

Nominated by: SGM Mary Starmer

Wetzel "Scoop" Brumfield was a leader in establishing reserve component MOS-qualification courses for enlisted journalists and developed the first operational PA doctrine for press camp headquarters operations. He was responsible for training development and force structure — including unit structure and equipment, overseas

deployment training, and skill qualification for USAR officer and enlisted public affairs personnel for call-up and deployment. He participated in the development of Army and DOD PA doctrine. As such, he was considered the USAR "guru" of Army public affairs warfighting doctrine.

Another significant PA assignment was the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve — which emphasizes the "Total Force." He served the 89th Army Reserve Cmd., in Wichita, Kan., and the 15th Support Brigade at Fort Lewis, Wash., as PAO. He finished his career as chief of policy, plans and professional development, PAO, U.S. Army Reserve Cmd. Brumfield died in 1997. ■

Operation Bright Star 2009 *Continued from page 21*

During the AAR conducted by the 409th Engineer Company (V), there were many positive comments about the Bright Star Exercise. One of the comments by many of the 409th Engineer Company (V) Soldiers; was this was their first time overseas for Army training. For some of the Soldiers, this was their first time out of the State. For many of the Soldiers, this was also their first time working in a Joint Training environment with other Soldiers from different parts of the world. Some of the comments that were mentioned regarding any future Bright Star exercises were the 409th Soldiers would have liked to be more involved with the tactical side of the exercise.

Due to the incredible work effort from the 409th Engineer Soldiers, the Cairo West Airbase facilities were always operational and all assigned construction work orders and tasks were normally completed ahead of schedule.

Aside from the Engineer aspect of the Exercise, the 409th Soldiers were allotted time to go on a MWR trip which including seeing the Giza Pyramids in Cairo, the Sphinx, and the Egyptian Museum.

The overall mission that the 409th was tasked to provide was an invaluable



An Egyptian Mechanized Company attacks multiple targets during a Combined-Arms Live-Fire Exercise conducted as part of Exercise Bright Star 2009 in Egypt, Oct. 14, 2009. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Epright.

learning lesson for the Soldiers and leadership. Many situations were similar to situations that are faced daily when a unit is mobilized and deployed. The difference in power requirements, power generation, safety enforcement, and materials (BOM) availability were remarkably similar to that in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. MOS skills were honed and sharpened, lessons learned in schools and during training were reinforced and excellent training was received by all. An added benefit was the

increased readiness of the 409th due to the real life work they were performing. The Soldiers comments were overwhelmingly positive and they would be more than willing to participate in another Bright Star.

Members of the 409th Engineer Company (V) expressed they were proud and felt privileged to have been a part of the Bright Star Exercise and looks forward to future opportunities to participate in an OCONUS exercise. ■

Parting Shots

