

THE

# BRIDGE

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## Rebuilding Paradise

## COMMAND NOTES

*Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall*

Summer is here and hopefully with it will come many more hours of leisure and family time outside together. As always let's stay vigilant to the safety hazards of the season to prevent the spoiling of good times. Things are changing rapidly around the world. To date, the Army Reserve has more than 31,000 Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and 18 other countries. Eventually all these Soldiers will be coming back, adjusting to the civilian side of Army Reserve life, and many of them will be looking for work. I'd like to point out that the Commander of the Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, has created an Employer Partnership Office (EPO) that has partnered with over 1,000 companies and provides free job hunting and placement resources to those who served or are serving, as well as for their family members. The Illinois, Iowa and Michigan Representative works right here in our HQs building. Mr. Aderemi Olodun is a great resource available to all our Soldiers and he will welcome your contact and questions. Look for the EPO link on the AR websites (<http://www.usar.army.mil/arweb/EPI/Pages/default.aspx>) to locate the representative(s) that might be closer to your home.

As our units return, our command will focus on resetting and re-equipping our force to maintain the highest mission readiness possible. To do this we will need to continue to attract the very best Warrior Citizens to be a part of our volunteer force. We must continue providing for the well being of our Soldiers, families and Army Civilians to keep health and morale as high as possible. The Army Reserve has been engaged in the longest conflict in our nation's history for an all volunteer force. Over 85 percent of the AR end-strength has been deployed since 9/11 and during that time the Army Reserve has evolved from a strategic reserve to an operational force. The Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle process has evolved to improve predictability and reduce the turbulence for our Soldier's and families.

This last year has been a humbling and gratifying experience in service to the Soldiers and families of the 416th. It is an immeasurable privilege to serve with you in this era of the American Army. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer with your families, and ask that you remember those Soldiers and their families who are still "down range", protecting us and our Nation.

Essayons!



## THE BRIDGE

Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command

### COMMANDER

MAJ. GEN. PAUL E. CRANDALL

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MR. JAMES G. MURPHY

### 416th TEC COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

COMMAND SGT. MAJ.

LARRY E. REEVER

### 416th TEC CHAPLAIN

CHAPLAIN (COL.)

TIMOTHY M. SAMORAJSKI

### 416th TEC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MAJ. BRUCE TOWNSHEND

CAPT. MARY OLODUN

SGT. 1ST CLASS ANDY YOSHIMURA

SGT. JERIMIAH J. RICHARDSON

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER / MANAGING EDITOR

MAJ. BRUCE TOWNSHEND

CAPT. MARY OLODUN

### JOURNALISTS

1ST LT. TOMAS ROFKAHR

SGT. MAJ. JANET JONES

SGT. 1ST CLASS ANDY YOSHIMURA

SGT. 1ST CLASS CHRIS FARLEY

SGT. 1ST CLASS JOEL QUEBEC

SGT. JERIMIAH J. RICHARDSON

SGT. MATTHEW PRINCE

SGT. NATHAN HASTINGS

Spc. Kenda Miller

### CONTRIBUTORS

MS. KIMBERLY FRANKLIN

1ST LT. MICHAEL SKAAR

SGT. MAJ. RICHARD FLANAGAN

SGT. 1ST CLASS MARY KORINEK-PACE

SGT. TONY INTHAVONG

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### COVER:

Pfc. Stacey Salas of Lubbock, Texas and Pfc. Guy Kouaho of Dallas, Texas (by way of Cote d'Ivoire, Africa) prepare measurements on the roof of the Hawaii Army Museum in Honolulu. Less than 200 yards away are the white sands and swaying palm trees of Waikiki Beach. The Soldiers are assigned to the 284th Engineer Company out of Seagoville, Texas and are part of a two-month long project to restore the parapets of Battery Randolph to their 1911 appearance. Photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Joel Quebec

### RGHT:

The parapets sit partially finished surrounding an original 14-inch coastal gun during the construction project on Ft. Derussy's Battery Randolph.

### BACK COVER PHOTO:

Staff Sgt. Leah Crubel was awarded "Best Photo" taken during photo journalism training for the Unit Public Affairs Representative remote school. Photo is of her son Madden at a Chicago Bulls game concession stand at the United Center. Photo displays great use of lights. UPARs spent five days learning how to shoot photos, media relations and website management.



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# Junior Enlisted Promotions

Every Soldier that is assigned to an Army Reserve Unit is listed on a document that is called a UMR (Unit Manning Report). This document is a list of all the positions that are authorized for that unit. For example: if an engineer unit (vertical) is typically allowed to have 162 positions it includes everybody from the Commander of the unit to the Pvt. or Pfc. pipefitter. Soldiers that come into the unit are slotted on the UMR according to rank and military occupation specialty (MOS). When a Commander reviews the UMR and determines there are 15 vacancies of various MOS' they send a report to the 416th Theater Engineer Command, Headquarters (TEC HQ) requesting that these vacancies be filled. All vacancies are advertised regardless of rank. However, if you have more pipefitters than your UMR is allowing you to have you cannot advertise to have those positions filled. The vacancy process goes all the way to the recruiting station in your local neighborhood for sergeant and above positions that can be filled from Soldiers who are on the promotion list.

How do you get on the promotion list to get promoted? If you are a Specialist and have met the Time in Grade (TIG) / Time in Service (TIS) requirements and you feel you are ready to assume a position of greater responsibility then submit a promotion packet. However, there is more to it than just that, because you have to have a valid passing



Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Reeve talks to the Soldiers of the 367th Engineer Battalion in Fort Bliss, Texas prior to their deployment to Iraq. Photo by Spc. Angela Cadriel, 367th Engineer Battalion

***“Take advantage of the many opportunities that are out there and strive to become the best you possibly can.”***

Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) score on a DA 705 card, a valid PHA (up to date Periodic Health Assessment), valid weapons qualification, must pass Height and Weight (HT and WT) and must be Duty MOS Qualified (DMOSQ). Promotion eligibility requirements can be found in AR 600-8-19, Chapter 5-7. The higher your score on your APFT and weapons qualification the more promotion points you receive. You should begin to look at promotions to the next higher grade shortly

after you arrive at your unit of assignment, regardless of your rank. Make yourself a good candidate to be promoted by coming to Battle Assembly (BA) on time and in the proper uniform, passing the APFT, HT and WT and qualifying with your weapon. Take correspondence courses, take college classes, attend any military schools afforded to you and have a good attitude.

Every good leader wants to promote his or her Soldiers, and we want to see them learn and grow. If you are currently a specialist, I would recommend that you enroll in the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) and complete this course as it will better prepare you for promotion to sergeant. If you are a sergeant, I recommend the same avenue for Advanced Leader Course (ALC) as well, it be a step that you have completed ahead of schedule.

I frequently tell Soldiers as I travel to the units that the Army Reserve has more to offer today's Soldier than it has ever in its history. Take advantage of the many opportunities that are out there and strive to become the best you possibly can. As Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) it is our duty to execute the orders of the officers appointed over us. We need a good strong NCO Corps to execute these orders and to ensure that our country is protected.

Thanks,  
Command Sgt. Maj. Reeve

# Spiritual Resilience- No Matter What

Our's is a world full of catchy phrases which try to influence behavior by getting us to buy something, or try some new thing. What do you think about when you hear the phrase, "SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE?" Many might consider resilience a good thing, a necessary attribute in our challenging, unpredictable and changing world. But when we say someone is *spiritually* resilient, what do we mean by that? Why is it important? How is it developed in our lives?

From a religious viewpoint, spiritual resilience implies the ability to **renew** and **recover spiritual strength quickly**, even when severely challenged. It has as its origin a relationship with the living God. In the same way that a well conditioned physical body recovers more quickly from physical exertion than an out of shape body, a well conditioned *spirit* regains its footing even in the darkest hours of life.

The importance of spiritual resilience is obvious as we live life and experience its inevitable "ups and downs." We all enjoy and look to maximize the up times, and avoid or at least minimize the down times. Have you ever considered how much effort is made to avoid or minimize suffering? The difficulty is we can run but eventually cannot hide from dark times. Family issues, the loss of employment, health concerns, shattered relationships, the death of loved ones and even our own deaths are just a few examples of events that shake us to the core of our beings. Like the Psalmist of Psalms 121: 1, we ask where our help will come from.

The obvious starting point for spiritual resiliency is to come to the well of strength and healing made available through a relationship with the living God and to continue this activity throughout our lives. As we do, we come to understand God better. One of the Biblical names for God is "El Shaddai," the All Sufficient One. As the lover of our souls, we understand that God's sufficiency is enough for every circumstance, every need and for everything we feel we're failing at in our lives. Like the Psalmist from Psalms 121, we can confidently say, "May help cometh from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

So heard any catchy phrases lately?



***"From a religious viewpoint, spiritual resilience implies the ability to renew and recover spiritual strength quickly, even when severely challenged."***

# Stand Up for Safety!!

**S**tatistics and trend analysis have become essential components of most safety programs. Although I fully support these actions, I feel the time for analyzing our safety problems is past and now is the time to STAND UP FOR SAFETY and actively start solving our already identified problems. I believe that the real purpose of any safety program is to prevent or reduce the number and severity of accidents.

People have found many ways to get injured or killed. We in the Army Reserve are doing a good job preventing on-duty accidents but soldiers are getting hurt and killed away from the “job”. Two areas seem common to many of these occurrences, personal protective equipment (PPE) not being used and alcohol related issues.

PPE problems include seat belts not being worn while driving or riding in a car and helmets not being worn while riding a motorcycle. Motorcycle helmets and safe riding alone won’t prevent an accident. Training includes the required Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Basic Riders Course as well as the Advanced Riders Course and Sport-Bike Course. To find a nearby provider that offers these courses go to <http://www.msf-usa.org>.

Alcohol related accidents are primarily automobile or motorcycle related but all-terrain vehicles, weapons related occurrences, swimming and boating also account for too many incidents. ANY activity becomes more risky when alcohol is involved. I would be a hypocrite to suggest that people refrain from alcohol consumption at all times, but utilizing a common-sense approach is required. Find and utilize designated drivers (DD’s) that are reliable. Encourage the DD by paying their way to the event, their meal, gas, anything!! Sound expensive?? Try traffic tickets, legal fees, fines, court costs, not to mention medical bills and mental anguish from hurting yourself or someone else. Would you trust the safety and well-being of your young child or sibling with a known child molester? Of course not! Then why would you trust them in a car with someone who has been drinking?

Have you ever thought back in retrospect to a situation where you could have done something differently? Stop others from drinking and driving! Insist upon seat belt usage! Make the hard choice! Don’t make yourself live with the regrets that you will have when you stand idly by and let something tragic happen. STAND UP FOR SAFETY!!



*Sgt. Maj. Richard Flanagan is the 416th Theater Engineer Command Safety Manager*

***“Don’t make yourself live with the regrets that you will have when you stand idly by and let something tragic happen. STAND UP FOR SAFETY!!”***



# What is Your State of Readiness?

*The 416 TEC Family Programs Division has recently conducted an analysis of each unit's state of readiness as it relates to Family Readiness. Each unit commander works with the Family Programs staff to first determine their status of Red, Amber, Green (RAG) and then works toward becoming or maintaining the green.*



A unit's state of readiness is green if all the essential and required elements are in place.

The successful units have the following elements:

1. The Command Leadership is focused on and supporting soldiers and family members.
2. A strong Family Readiness Group is supported by the Commander. One of the top priorities for the Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers is to coordinate opportunities for communication and relationship building among family members.
3. A plan for the Commander to provide information, support and guidance to soldiers and family members.

Analysis of RAG is one tool in the Commander's tool box to determine the unit's state of family readiness.

The question for you is, 'What is your state of readiness?' Are you ready? How about your family, your employer and your friends? Are they all ready in the event their soldier goes away? It is not just about deployment. Are you ready in case your roof gets a leak, or if the car needs repair, if your town has a tornado or even in the event a family member dies?

You are the best judge of whether or not you are ready and if you decide you are not, how will you become ready? What does it mean to be ready?

As you determine your individual and family state of readiness, consider if you have all of the essential and required elements in place: Do you have all the necessary tools?

1. Names and contact information in case of an emergency.
2. Support and outreach- get involved, seek answers, spend time with others with similar circumstances, be part of the Family Readiness Group.
3. Plan for things to happen in life- natural disasters, plumbing problems, car trouble, death of a Family member, etc.

Who would you contact? Where are the telephone numbers and email addresses?

Remember, it's not just about preparing for the next deployment. Don't wait to get ready. Ensure the state of readiness for you and your loved ones is green now and at all times. To do that you may want to include the following items in your readiness tool box:

#### **Army Reserve Outreach and Support Center:**

1-866-436-6290

[www.myarmyOnesource.com](http://www.myarmyOnesource.com) • 1-877-811-2769

[www.militaryOneSource.com](http://www.militaryOneSource.com) • 1-800-342-9647

<http://american.redcross.org> • 1-877-272-7337

Contact your Family Programs staff member for assistance with locating resources. Your unit commander is also a great source of information and guidance as you establish and strengthen your state of readiness.

Kimberly Franklin  
Family Programs Director  
416th Theater Engineer Command



Sgt. Aaron P. Ellefson, bridge crewman with the 652nd Engineer Company, packs a box at the 652nd Engineer Company's facility in Ellsworth, Wis.

# The 652nd Engineer Company is Moving In



*Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Farley,  
88th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office*

ELLSWORTH, Wis.— The 652nd Engineer Company (EN CO) is deploying for the third time since 9/11.

This deployment doesn't involve a mass movement to Iraq or Afghanistan or even leaving the state.

The approximately 117 members of the 652nd EN CO is moving from the cheese curd capital, Ellsworth, Wis. and relocating to Hammond, Wis., where their new Army Reserve facility is close to being completed.

The roughly 24-mile move is starting this week, followed by a formal building memorialization on May 23 in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Dan Gabrielson and Spc. Bert E. Hoyer.

Both Gabrielson and Hoyer were 652nd Soldiers killed in action during the unit's first deployment to Iraq in 2003.

"We're excited about going to a new building that's ours. We're not leasing it. It belongs to the United States Army Reserve. I think it's going to be a big motivator for everyone. It's a building to be proud of," said 1st Lt. Dana Currier, commander of the 652nd EN CO.

The 652nd EN CO has been planning and packing as early as January for the move and now they are just waiting for the keys for their new facility.

"It's going to be a rough couple of weeks but it's going to be worth it in the end," said Spc. Matthew D. Thompson, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic that commented on the next two weeks of relocating work leading up to the grand opening.

Thompson also said he's looking forward to having everything located in one area and avoiding the time lost going back and forth between the three buildings that currently make up the reserve center.

The new facility will be a unique building that will house just the 652nd. Today, newer facilities are designed to house more than one unit or are shared with different

military services. The 26,000 square foot building was built to accommodate the needs of the 652nd.

The new building will be furnished with modern conveniences, to include an organizational maintenance bay with a heated floor, a work out gym, a weapons simulator, a covered wash rack for washing unit vehicles, and adequate parking for the units eight-wheel drive heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks (HEMTT).

With the building designed to meet the engineers' mission needs and being dedicated to two fallen 652nd Soldiers, the unit took the initiative and proposed to the city council that the street in front of the new facility be renamed "Engineer Way." The town co-op didn't have a problem with the change.

"I think the morale will increase a lot. The new building is going to be more user-friendly. We made this current facility work, but the new one will help out a lot," said 1st Sgt. William J. Dullea, 1st Sgt. of the 652 EN CO.

Dullea said the bittersweet part it leaving Ellsworth. "We thank the town of Ellsworth. They have supported us since we've been here.

"It's going to be a sad day when they officially move out of town," said Gerald L. DeWolfe, village president of Ellsworth. DeWolfe became a member of the unit in 1966 and retired in 1988. Dewolfe added the move will be felt by him and members of the community. "They're not moving far but they're not going to be in Ellsworth."

DeWolfe said he will have to make a trip to the new facility and drop off some cheese curds to show Ellsworth is still thinking of the unit and misses them.

The 652nd Engineers is inviting the public to attend the building memorialization on May 23 at 11:00 AM. ■

# Combat Law Enforcement with 493rd MPs

By Sgt. Matthew Prince, 304th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP RILEA, Ore. - On a cold, wet, and windy Friday morning in March, the soldiers of the 493rd Military Police (MP) Company kept captives on a tight leash.

The day began with company-level Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) exercises. With many buildings on site, combat veterans of the 493rd said the location provided an ideal environment to train for overseas operations. Soldiers had to secure multiple buildings and capture detainees, using paintballs as ammunition. They had three hours to repeat the exercise as many times as possible, while upholding the strictest standards of safety.

"You never know what the mission will be, whether combat support, detainee operations or law enforcement," said 2nd Lt. Robert Miller.

Miller, leader of 1st platoon, oversaw the fast-paced, coordinated, four-day exercise dubbed "A Bridge Too Far."

After the MOUT exercise, Soldiers conducted an after-action review (AAR) to reflect on areas of success and areas requiring improvement.

"We were able to pick up concepts fast, adapt and learn," said Cpl. Joshua Ahn of the company's 2nd platoon. "But we also had communication breakdowns."

After a break for meals, the troops

trained to search and process detainees. Operations took place in two secured buildings - one for shakedowns and one for intelligence gathering.

Though the 493rd regularly trains to assault and detain enemy combatants, many leaders said an exercise of this scale set new standards. Soldiers had never trained together on these tasks as a company. The complex coordination and new Soldiers' inexperience forced them to improvise and adapt as they refined procedures.

"The 493rd are quick learners and resilient," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Gardner after the exercise. Gardner, along with Staff Sgt. Olaf Marks, supervised the afternoon training.

Soldiers also corrected a lot of mistakes throughout the process.

"We get them trained so they don't make those mistakes in combat," Marks said. ■



Soldiers of the 493rd Military Police Company line up detainees outside a mock holding area in Camp Rilea, Ore. Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew Prince.



A weapons cache captured by Soldiers of the 493rd Military Police Company during Operation: A Bridge Too Far. Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Conley.

**"You never know what the mission will be, whether combat support, detainee operations, or law enforcement."**

—2nd Lt. Robert Miller

# Do You Have a UPAR?

Story by Sgt. 1st Class  
Andy Yoshimura

DARIEN, IL – If there seems to be a lot of picture taking around your unit these days, don't be surprised. Meet your new Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR). The 416th Theater Engineer Command Headquarters (416th TEC HQ) Public Affairs Office held their first UPAR Remote School training soldiers how to not only take photos but to assist with public affairs duties as well.

UPAR's are not qualified to handle your average Public Affairs Officer duties but they can assist in working with media, writing stories and taking photos of soldiers training in their units. The UPAR's can help give their units the visibility to what is happening around the Army Reserves and recognition to their surrounding communities as well.

"The UPAR program gives Soldiers an opportunity to feel more involved by involving our units local community participation directly with the many outlets available via the HQ's public affairs office," said Capt. Mary L. Olodun, deputy public affairs officer for the 416th TEC. "We designed this program specifically to help meet the growing public affairs

needs of our command (currently 24,000 plus Soldiers), as our public affairs military occupational specialty experts decrease due to deployments and recruiting challenges." Since the PA field is one of the few that requires ranks of E-4 and above, as well as a high general technical (GT: 107 and above), this increases the unlikelihood of recruiting exceeding expectations where PA requirements are concerned.

"The program provides confidence at the company level by having education and training from captivating instructors and speakers," said Sgt. Amanda Post, UPAR for Forward Support Company, 321st Engineer Battalion.

Instructors from the Defense Information School (DINFOS) squeezed three months of training in three days, focusing most of the training on photography. UPAR's armed with their cameras spent the majority for the training shooting photos of each other and getting critiqued on their works.

"I appreciated the way the UPAR class was designed in the sense of providing for interaction with our cameras and the availability of

instructors in a pleasurable learning environment," said Post.

"The UPAR class was very informative," said Staff Sgt. Leah Crubel, UPAR of Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC) 389th Engineer Battalion. "It was a great opportunity being instructed by a variety of Soldiers from the 416th TEC, DINFOS and the Army Reserves."

UPARs also had an opportunity to train with web management on both Army Knowledge Online and their external public website. Unit websites can help spread information to a wider audience. "The UPAR program has a lot of potential to spread awareness of what we do at the company level," said Crubel. "We can promote involvement between Soldiers, families and communities."

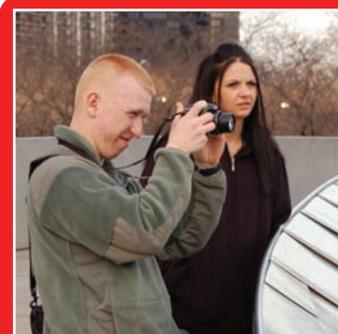
UPAR is an additional duty for most units, helping commanders prepare for any Public Affairs issues that might surface. If media shows up at an event at a unit, UPARs might not show up with a cape draped on their back, but with the training that they received, they can make it easier for their unit. Do you have one for your unit? ■



Spc. Aquanetta Russell-Williams of the 721st Engineer Company shows the function of her camera to Spc. Vanessa Dyer of the 672nd Mobile Augmentation Company. Photo by Sgt. Amanda Post (UPAR).



Sgt. Matt Spears of Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment 494th Brigade Support Battalion and Sgt. Tony Inthavong of Alpha Company, 494th BSB plays with the features of their camera. Photo by Sgt. Leah Crubel (UPAR).



Spc. Torson Iverson of the 493rd Military Police Company practices proper focusing and framing technique as Spc. Anissa Padilla of the 387th Engineer Company assists. Photo by Spc. Christopher Conley (UPAR).

# 439th Engineer Battalion Inactivates

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

BISMARCK, ND – Many great movies have great endings. For the 439th Engineer Battalion, their great history ended more on a sorrowful note with the casing of their colors. The 439th story and its enriched chapter closed after nearly 29 years of service to the Army Reserve and to the community of Bismarck. Soldiers past and present, family members and distinguished guests attended the 439th Inactivation ceremony held at the Bismarck American Veterans (AMVETS) Post in April.

The 439th was activated on November 16, 1981 in Bismarck and has played a major part in construction missions in supporting both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Soldiers of the 308th Engineer Detachment, 945th Engineer Detachment, 323rd Chemical Company and the 461st Engineer Company stood in formation for the last time as part of the 439th Battalion. The four units have already transitioned to their new units but was present paying respect to the inactivation of their former headquarters. "The inactivation is not a reflection on the individual soldiers" said Col. John Lendrum, Commander of the 372nd Engineer Brigade. "Soldiers of the 439th should be proud of what they have done and what they have accomplished."

During the ceremony, the acting commander of the 439th Maj. Roger Mathis lowered the Battalion colors as Lendrum and the acting Command Sgt Maj., Master Sgt. Roger Anderson, helped roll and case the colors.

The 439th was well recognized from the success of what their units have done overseas and stateside. Their units have deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Djibouti, and Uzbekistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). In 2004, their Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment (HHD) element was recognized by the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) as the most outstanding large unit in the Army Reserve. "We have people here in North Dakota that are above average in all aspects," said Anderson, "They want to learn and they want to train hard."

Anderson, who had been with the unit for 15 years, bragged on how well trained the 439th Soldiers are in preparation for deployment. "Soldiers have come back from mobilization and have told me that the 439th is a good unit

and the 439th is better trained than other reserve units."

The 439th has been activated and inactivated now four times stemming back to World War II. This decorated unit has been home to Missouri, New Jersey, Kansas and North Dakota. The unit has been credited with not only to the recent effort in the War of Terrorism, but has campaigned in the participation of World War II and the Korean War.

In 1981, retired Col. Richard Tschider was given a task from his commander to build the 439th. When Tschider was given this mission, he was the only soldier in the 439th. Tschider had the opportunity to handpick his group to build the unit. Tschider has mentioned that in order for a commander to build a good unit, the unit has to be a good team. "You are only as good as the people who are part of the organization and you are only good as you allow them to maximize their abilities," said Tschider, "I have thought about the wonderful people that we had in this unit and how we cared for each other."

The 439th was the only battalion size Army Reserve element in the state of North Dakota and was remotely located compared to other reserve battalions. Being isolated from other units actually brought not only the soldiers but the families closer as well. The inactivation of the battalion had saddened soldiers and their families but their cohesion with each other and the Bismarck community will stay intact. "This is home for us" said Anderson.

All of the former units for the 439th are now under the 367th Engineer Battalion in St. Cloud, Minn. The 439th colors are cased but will not officially inactivate till November of 2010.

Tschider expressed much thanks towards the current and past members of the 439th. "Thank you for being in the final act of such a fine organization." ■



372nd Engineer Brigade Commander, Col. John Lendrum (left) and Master Sgt. Roger Anderson (right) roll the 439th Engineer Battalion colors in preparation of casing as Maj. Roger Mathis (center) holds the colors. The rolling and casing of colors is part of the 439th Engineer Battalion's inactivation ceremony.



# Hail and Farewell, Mighty 103rd!

Story by Spc. Kenda Miller, 103rd ESC Public Affairs Office

**T**he Families of the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command bid farewell to the nearly 300 Soldiers ready for deployment during a departure ceremony held Sunday, April 25th at Lincoln High School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Soldiers of the 103rd ESC, an Army Logistics Headquarters in Des Moines, are the primary planners of support for Army units which includes the acquisition, storage, and movement of repair parts, food, oil and fuel, water, and other general supplies required to sustain ongoing operations.

Soldiers were seen off to Iraq with a few words from distinguished visitors including Iowa Congressmen, Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. Leonard Boswell, as

well as Gov. Chet Culver, and the City of Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie. Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall, Commander of the 416th Theater Engineer Command, the 103rd ESC's higher headquarters, attended and gave a few words of encouragement to the troops. The ceremony also included a live performance from the 312th Army Band from Lawrence, Kans., and support from the Patriot Guard Riders of Iowa.

Harkin acknowledged Soldiers and their families' sacrifices, saying "I hardly need to remind this audience that this is a new era for the Reserve and for the National Guard. You are shouldering a huge share of the

combat and support burden in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are making truly extraordinary demands on you and your spouses, families, and employers."

This is the 103rd's first deployment as an Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Their mission in Iraq is to reduce the footprint of the U.S. military presence in Iraq by providing logistical support and assistance with the responsible draw-down of equipment while simultaneously sustaining troops in theater. More than half of the Soldiers currently assigned to the 103rd have been deployed previously to Iraq or Afghanistan with different units in support other missions.

Sgt. Gregory Ruske, of Colorado Springs, Colo., said he feels confident and prepared for this deployment. This is his second deployment, the first was to Afghanistan. "Patriotism, that's why I do this; I'm just serving my country."



*Top: Members of the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command assemble into formation during their Farewell Ceremony held April 21st, 2010 at Lincoln High School in Des Moines, Iowa. Photo by Spc. Christine Bernat, 103rd ESC Public Affairs.*

*Left: Maj. John Thomas, Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander for the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command stands in front of his troops and the American Legion Color Guard during the playing of the National Anthem during the 103rd ESC's Farewell Ceremony. Photo by Spc. Kenda Miller, 103rd ESC Public Affairs.*

Ruske is a decorated veteran of 11 years and the recipient of a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

With such a large amount of experience and knowledge among the previously deployed Soldiers, the younger and less experienced soldiers have many mentors available to provide advice and useful information on what to expect during the deployment.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel H. Cordell, Senior Intelligence Sergeant for the 103rd ESC, and a Cordova, Ala. native, has a wealth of experience. He said this is his 5th deployment, three were in the Middle East and one was in Bosnia. "I take the younger soldiers under my wing and let them know there's nothing to be worried about." Cordell said.

Managing almost 75 Army Reserve units as well as having command and

control of over 6,000 soldiers throughout the Midwestern United States, the 103rd ESC currently has approximately 375 reserve soldiers already deployed from the Iowa area alone. With the deployment of these additional 300 soldiers and the projected deployment of nearly 3,000 more Iowa National Guard troops, Iowa will represent a significant amount of the forces supporting overseas contingency operations.

Staff Sgt. Shayla Scott and her husband Spc. Matthew Scott are deploying together with the 103rd ESC in support of the mission. Shayla Scott has served three and a half years in the Army Reserve and is on her second deployment while her husband, who is mobilizing his first time, has served for a year and a half. The couple met during her first deployment while she was on leave (vacation).

"My husband and I are very grateful to be able to see each other every day out there. We're fortunate unlike many others who are going to be separated from their families." Shayla said.

Many families said goodbye to a son or daughter, wife or husband. One family in particular said goodbye to both of their children. Spc. Melissa Johnson, native to Slater,

Iowa, and her brother, Spc. Travis Arterburn, native to Fontelle, Iowa, will be heading to Iraq together in support of the 103rd ESC's mission.

"There was a sense of pride seeing them both join, but now that they're both leaving my feelings are mixed. It leaves you with a little bit of a quandary about whether they are going to be okay," said Craig Arterburn, father to the brother and sister duo.

Melissa Johnson said it is likely that she will serve on the same base as her brother. "I am happy to go over there with my brother, I will have a lot of family support there, and I have a lot of family support at home," she said.

Toward the end of the ceremony Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, Commander of the 103rd ESC, shared his feelings with the family and friends of the soldiers, comforting and thanking them for the sacrifices they make every day to support their soldiers and their country.

"We are family, no soldier stands alone. We stand shoulder to shoulder; by God we are family. I swear to you today that we will take care of your loved ones to the very best of our ability." said Corson.

After the ceremony concluded, a reception was held at the Fort Des Moines Museum for the Soldiers and their loved ones. ■



*Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, Commander of the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, promotes Staff Sgt. Michael Lensch to Sgt. 1st Class with the help of Lensch's wife, Melissa and daughters Hailey and Natalie during the unit's Farewell Ceremony held April 21st, 2010 at Lincoln High School in Des Moines, Iowa. They will deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Spc. Christine Bernat, 103rd ESC Public Affairs.*

# Restoring Hawaii's Gem

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joel Quebec

FT. DERUSSY, HAWAII - The construction of Battery Randolph in Waikiki, Hawaii was completed 99 years ago. For 40 years the 14-inch coastal artillery guns, capable of firing their projectiles as far as 14 miles, served as deterrent for naval attack or invasion of Pearl and Honolulu Harbors. With the advent of air power launched from carriers and after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, coastal batteries became somewhat obsolete.

In 1969, there was an attempt to demolish the fortified structure to make room for the Hale Koa Hotel which stands approximately 500 meters to the west. It failed, and the company contracted to do the job went bankrupt trying. The building became the Hawaii Army Museum in 1976 the building itself being the largest artifact. The problem with the facility is that it's small and over the years the limited staff has collected more artifacts than they have storage space. In 2008, they were denied recertification as a museum due to this issue. That's where Army Reserve Engineer units from Texas come in. The 284th and 302nd Engineer Companies from Seagoville and San Antonio respectively, have landed in Waikiki to renovate the museum by replacing the parapets to their original outward appearance in 1911. The inside, upon completion, will provide the staff with over 7,000 square feet of badly needed office and storage space as well as an education center and a multi-purpose room.

The project got its start in May 2009 when Lt. Col. Michael Ferrill (retired, yet on his third recall to active duty) just happened to be at a meeting where curator Judi Bowman was reporting on the needs of her museum. Ferrill made a simple suggestion that Army Reserve engineers be used for such a project. "No one could fathom the idea at that level." He said. "The issue was to convince the chain of command that it could be done." Originally, the project was thought to need five years just to develop the concept, two years to develop designs and 18 more months to actually complete. Ferrill had experience in similar community-based projects before that also utilized reserve component troops and knew what he needed to get the job done. His suggestion was met with much resistance, basically telling him it couldn't be done. Even Judi Bowman was doubtful. "I'm still in disbelief." She said. However, seeing the Soldiers on the island and on the roof of the museum installing the beams and structure, she is finally coming to the realization that her dream will come to fruition.

Ferrill went to the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) and spoke to the leaders there and convinced them that the Reserve engineers could use a gainful mission that would not only hone their skills but be of a major benefit to the community. Maj. Shawn Hubbell, 416th TEC G-3 helped to convince the 416th commander Maj. Gen Paul E. Crandall that the project would utilize his Soldiers in the best way



Sgt. Alfred Washington welds the corner of the frame of what will become, on the outside, a reconstructed gun emplacement for coastal artillery and on the inside, an educational center and a multi-purpose room for other military units to use. The original emplacement was nearly solid reinforced concrete.



Pfc. Rodney Combs uses a high pressure air hose to clear dust and debris from freshly drilled concrete to make sure the bolts that will be used to secure the metal beams function properly. Pfc. Combs is from Dallas, Texas and a carpenter with the 284th Engineer Company in Seagoville, Texas.

possible. Ferrell never doubted success for a minute. "I had enough faith in the Reserve," he said, "and I saw the project completed before it began."

The areas where artifacts are currently stored, will become exhibits that were neglected before due to lack of space. They will be moved into the new facility upon completion. "Now we'll be able to make the GWOT [Global War on Terrorism--Iraq and Afghanistan] exhibits," said Bowman "as well as a Spanish-American War exhibit, Philippine Insurrection and maybe even the Boxer Rebellion." Bowman went up to the roof during the first week of construction and met with a group of Soldiers from the 284th who are on the first of three 21-day rotations to complete the renovation in 63 days, far less than the eight and a half years previously thought. She thanked the Soldiers for their hard work surprising many of them by saying, "I've been waiting 20 years for this."

Soldiers from the 284th arrived in Honolulu on May 8th and settled into the Hale Koa where they will be housed while they work at the museum. Waikiki beach is less than 200 yards away. When the unit was told of this mission, there were mixed reactions. Capt. Justin Brown, commander of the 284th, was excited for the unit to try something different. "To go to a different location besides CONUS (the Continental United States)." He said.

1st Sgt. Todd Spradlin thought the unit going to Hawai'i was a joke at first, until he saw the orders and realized "they weren't kidding."

The museum mission is different than the annual training the 284th would normally see. "This is a lot more



*Tools lay about during a site break on the construction site of Battery Randolph at Ft. Derussy Hawaii.*

complicated than most missions we've had," Brown explained, "building fairly simple buildings. This construction is well beyond most of the Army troop construction projects we've had in the past. We've only accomplished this through the NCOs that have pretty much fulltime jobs doing this in the civilian world."

To prepare, the unit built some walls similar to what they would have to make for the museum. "We're not used to working with metal studs." Spradlin explained. "So we

*Continued on page 31*



*Soldiers of the 284th Engineer Company in Seagoville, Texas begin renovation activities on the roof of the Hawaii Army Museum in Waikiki. The project will take a little over two months with three 21-day rotations of Texas-based Army Reserve engineers. Color-coded hard hats delineate responsibilities. Blue hats go to NCOs, white to officers, NCOs and other staff who will be on the project for the entire duration, yellow to lower enlisted Soldiers, red to officers and green are the safety personnel.*



*Taking great pains for safety, members of the 284th Engineer Company in Seagoville, Texas coordinate the lifting of a small bobcat forklift onto the roof of the Hawaii Army Museum in Waikiki. The bobcat allows the Soldiers to raise heavy metal beams into place where only human effort would be impossible or dangerous.*

# “I” Doesn’t Stand for Inactive in the IRR

*Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Farley, 88th Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office*

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. — Harry Caray, the late Chicago Cubs baseball announcer, was famous for saying “Holy Cow!” in excitement when commentating on baseball games.

One hundred and thirty-eight Chicago-area Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers who received an IRR muster invitation in the mail from the U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) in early April probably voiced an homage to Caray: “Holy Cow! I’m going to be deployed.”

There’s an urban legend about soldiers at musters getting handed deployment orders and same-day plane tickets.

The reality is that no one gets bused to the airport from a muster. A muster is a one-day event for which soldiers get paid about \$200. IRR soldiers come in civilian clothes to an Army Reserve Center or Veterans Affairs facility, update their records, and learn about their benefits, including promotion, schooling, health care and civilian job opportunities. They’re home in time for dinner.

In 2010, HRC will reach out to nearly 36,000 IRR soldiers, considered highly-trained and experienced assets of the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). IRR soldiers have already served in an active duty status or actively participated in an Army Reserve unit. Now they’re fulfilling the rest

of their Military Service Obligation (MSO) in the IRR. Every soldier who joins the Army has a legal MSO of not less than 6 and not more than 8 years.

HRC handles the muster program and started conducting musters in 2007. The initial musters focused on making sure the attending soldiers’ personnel records and medical screenings were updated. But during those early musters, said Lt. Col. Craig Smith, the HRC Muster Team Chief, they uncovered a lot of soldiers’ concerns and the musters evolved over time into a mission of outreach as well as records validation.

“What we found is you can’t, in good conscience, go out and ask soldiers how they are doing and find out they are not doing real well in a lot of different areas and not do something about it. It gave us the inspiration to start partnering with agencies that could address the concerns the soldiers had,” said Smith.

The outreach piece of the musters involves bringing in vendors and subject matter experts who can answer questions and provide information on benefits that are either new or went unaddressed during the demobilization process. Musters now resemble a career and education fair with vendor booths set up between muster stations.

Mustering IRR soldiers have the opportunity to meet with Employee Partnership Office representatives as well as staff from Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers to discuss civilian and federal job opportunities. Other vendors have included the Defense Commissary Agency, Department of Veterans Affairs, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and Military One Source.

“Part of the reason why we are here is to make sure that all returning service members participating in the IRR musters are aware the VA is here with them as a veteran, and if they return to active duty, we are here with them when they get back as well,” said Ivy Lloyd, Master of Social Work, and an Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom program manager for the Department of Veterans Affairs.



Brig. Gen. William D.R. “Razz” Waff, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Human Resources Command, talks to Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers during the IRR muster held in Arlington Heights, Ill on April 11-12, 2010. The HRC staff updates important personnel records and answers any questions IRR Soldiers may have during a muster.



*Sgt. Adam Priest, Minneapolis, Minn, a Human Resources Specialist with the 88th Regional Support Command's Soldier Readiness Process Detachment, assists Spc. Steven W. Gaski, Palatine, Ill an Air Defense Tactical Operations Center Operator/Maintainer and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldier, with verifying his personal information during the IRR muster held in Arlington Heights, Ill on April 10-11, 2010.*



*Sgt. John Garvens, Freeport, Ill, a member of the 85th Division Band, plays The Army Song during a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen (WHWC) award ceremony held for five Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers during the IRR muster held in Arlington Heights, Ill April 10-11, 2010.*

The muster was also a day for recognizing several soldiers for their service. The 88th Regional Support Command (RSC) has developed a program that Smith wants to see replicated by other RSCs supporting musters. The program involves reviewing the list of all attending soldiers and checking their personnel files to see if they were awarded the Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award after a deployment; and if not, to ensure they are publicly presented with the award at a muster. The presentation includes an encased American flag, a specially-designed commemorative coin and certificate, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a "Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen" flag.

During the Arlington Muster, five IRR soldiers received Welcome Home Warrior Citizen Award: Maj. John Agostini, Bartlett, IL; Cpl Jay L. Mudrak, Racine, WI; Lt. Col. Lisa Moeller, Downers Grove, IL; Sgt. Frank Dillinger, Joliet, IL; and Spc. Steven J. Satterlee, Elgin, IL.

Brig. Gen. Leslie A. Purser, deputy chief of the Army Reserve, said she observed that some IRR soldiers obviously didn't want to be there at first. "But once they walked around and saw all the opportunities that were available to them there was more pep in their steps and smiles."

Pfc. Antonio S. Villa from Hammond, Ind. was a supply specialist on active duty for three years and has been in the IRR for two years. Villa said he's been thinking about transferring to an Army Reserve unit (also known as Troop Program Units, or TPUs) but his girlfriend doesn't want him to. "She's worried about me deploying again," he said.

At the muster Villa learned that if he transfers from the IRR into a TPU, he'll get a two-year mobilization deferment. The same applies to soldiers who go from full-time active duty straight into a TPU. He also learned that TPU Soldiers qualify for health, dental and life insurance plans.

If Villa does transfer, he wouldn't be unique. In 2008, 2,900 IRRs who received muster orders transferred to TPUs. In 2009, 3,335 IRRs who received muster orders transferred to TPUs.

Brig. Gen. William D.R. "Razz" Waff, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Human Resources Command, said the musters can produce major savings for the Army.

Waff said that every trained, experienced IRR soldier who transfers to a TPU saves the Army anywhere from \$57,000 to \$69,400. This dollar amount includes Army recruiting and advertising costs as well as the expense of getting a new recruit through the Military Entrance Processing Station, Basic Training, and on to his or her first unit after Advanced Individual Training.

Since the first IRR muster in 2007, HRC has been transforming the "Holy Cow" moments into opportunities to hear about programs and benefits that will improve the soldier's quality of life. As the IRR soldiers learned during the Arlington Heights muster, it's a day well spent. ■

# A World of Difference

*Story and Photos by Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson*

The smell of barbeque grilled chicken and hamburger floats in the air. Children laugh with joy as a large family gathers to celebrate a bright spring day with a backyard volleyball game and a BBQ. In the midst of this chaotic family scene a single couple; Staff Sgt. Banesa Plazola and husband Sylvester with their daughter Skilynn, do their best to soak it all in. Having just returned from an informative conference there is an unspoken tension as things are going to change dramatically for them soon. In a few weeks, one of them will be thousands of miles away in a combat zone. The other, will be left to take care of their only child the best he knows how. The Plazola family hasn't experienced this before as a family. As individuals they've been deployed a few times, but this is different. "I worry about things", said Plazola. "I've tried to tell him everything he needs to know, but it's going to be hard because I know I'm going to forget something".

Plazola is a supply sergeant in the Army Reserve with the 416th Theater Engineer Command (416th TEC) and is undergoing a mobilization process as part of a Deployable Command Post, to get her and her family ready for deployment. As part of this deployment process she with her husband Sylvester and their daughter Skilynn attend a program called Yellow Ribbon. Yellow Ribbon which started in October of 2008 for the 416th TEC is part of the Army's solution to help alleviate and solve the issues that come up in a deployment for a family such as the Plazola's.

Just before their family BBQ, Plazola and her family spent the whole weekend at the first of seven Yellow Ribbon events. They like every other family of the Deployable Command Post two (DCP2), stayed together at a hotel in Schaumburg Illinois learning about essential resources, programs and services available to them as a deploying family. The Plazola's said attending the program was an unique opportunity. "This was different from active duty because I could actually talk to the individual's in-charge of Tri-care...and (different because) the fact they made themselves available for questions...to communicate what is available to us", said husband Plazola.

Yellow Ribbon conferences actually pull together 15 to 20 vendors such as Army One Source and Vets Center depending on the location. They also bring in many subject matter experts from the command such as Judge



*The Plazola family reacts to the many aquarium creatures at the Rainforest Café while taking their lunch break during the Yellow Ribbon conference held in Schaumburg Illinois.*



*Skilynn Plazola plays Twister with other children in the free child-care area of the Yellow Ribbon conference for the 416th Theater Engineer Command.*



*Husband Sylvester Plazola and wife Staff Sgt. Banesa Plazola observe one of the many presentations at the Yellow Ribbon conference.*

*Sylvester Plazola and Staff Sgt. Banesa Plazola participate in a family game of volleyball at a family Barbeque immediately following their weekend at the Yellow Ribbon conference.*



Staff Sgt. Banesa Plazola and husband Sylvester listen to one of the conference speakers at the Yellow Ribbon held in Schaumburg Illinois for the 416th Theater Engineer Commands' Deployable Command Post Two.



Foreground: Skilynn Plazola rides a tricycle at her family barbecue immediately following the end of the Yellow Ribbon conference. Background: Staff Sgt. Plazola and her husband participate in a family game of volleyball.

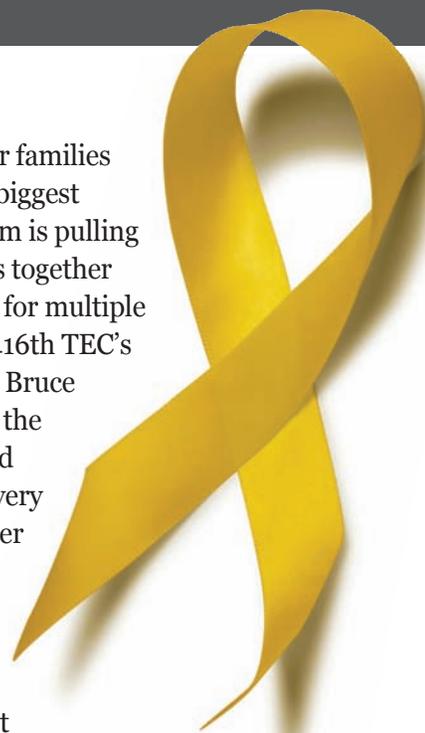


Skilynn Plazola takes her turn swinging at the family piñata while her parents Sylvester Plazola and Staff Sgt. Banesa Plazola cheer her on during a family Barbeque immediately after the Yellow Ribbon conference held in Schuamburg Illinois.

Advocates and finance for families to meet with. One of the biggest challenges for the program is pulling all the families and assets together from all over the country for multiple events. The Chief of the 416th TEC's yellow ribbon team, Maj. Bruce Townshend, summed up the effort with, "What I would really like to see is that every soldier and family member in this command knows what Yellow Ribbon is, what it can do for them and attends every possible Yellow Ribbon event with very few problems or issues getting to and from those events. And we're working really hard for that".

Plazola who has deployed before had a very different experience the first time she went overseas. "The first time I deployed they just focused on getting us out there I think. My family was very worried. There was no communication with my family. I don't even think I had any pre-deployment briefings". Yellow Ribbon however flies family members out to their events to make sure they are involved in every step of the deployment process. Plazola and her husband said the difference to them was that Yellow Ribbon actually let them know all the programs being offered and that they both were surprised at the services offered outside a military installation to Army Reservists. Armed with the new knowledge from the conference both Banesa and Sylvester said they can feel more involved and perhaps a little less nervous.

As the sun slowly sets on the Plazola's family BBQ, the many children from their various relatives are in a frenzy. Little Skilynn Plazola is blindfolded and ready to swing at a piñata as her uncle randomly changes the height of the candy-filled dream. Sylvester smiles confidently at his daughter and laughs as she swings wildly and misses. "You know I plan on going to all the Yellow Ribbons and I'll probably get involved in the Family Readiness Group." He then smiled at his wife and said, "I mean that's my best friend". ■



# Task Force Timberwolf G7 Raises the Bar

*Story and photos by Sgt. Maj. Janet Jones, Task Force Timberwolf Command, Public Affairs Office*

**F**orward Operation Base (FOB) Sharana is in the midst of an expansion that will double its size and triple its population, so G7's mission has been exponentially multiplied since their November arrival. Fortunately, their soldiers are up to the challenge.

Taskforce (TF) Timberwolf's G7 (under the 372nd Engineer Brigade) has built a reputation for work far above the standard. Every G7 Soldier interviewed for this article named the same reason for their success: the wide breadth of skills and experience brought by their section members, all hand-chosen for this deployment.

"When complex things come up, we have the guys who know it or know when they don't know it- one of the most critical things in engineering," said G7 Officer in Charge (OIC), Col. Whitney Wolf. Wolf is a practicing engineer in civilian life, as are most of the section members.

One area where this previously has been an issue is airfield engineering, a truly specialized field of expertise. TF Timberwolf's G7 is particularly fortunate to have the skills of Master Sgt. (promotable) Thomas Werner, whose civilian career is just that. Particularly in terms of safety, his experience is invaluable, especially with the enormous amount of current and planned airfield expansion.

According to Wolf, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, more so than active component Soldiers, tend to have more formal education in addition to work experience in what they are



*Sgt. Joseph Donald and Sgt. Bryan Franz, G7- 372nd Engineer Brigade, take a reading from the GPS to measure distances and plot points for their design.*

here to accomplish. Active component Soldiers generally receive basic technique schooling. The more extensive education and experience brought by our reserve Soldiers brings a tangible benefit in providing more complex and varied skills to design, survey and construction projects.

The G7 section is responsible for the planning, design engineering and oversight of all technical engineering in Regional Command-East. The military construction projects alone are estimated to cost \$121 million; these FOB Sharana expansion projects include a C17 airstrip, solid waste incinerator, fuel

offload station, ammo supply point and electric distribution grid. That's a ton of responsibility for this group of Army Reserve soldiers.

One major challenge that the G7 has overcome is the facility engineer team and the G7 section have two distinct jobs, G7 being responsible for the technical and design

work as well as surveying. To solve this issue, Wolf made the decision to combine facility engineer teams and G7 to create symbiotic benefits. But, he said, while the overall effect is positive, it also brings additional risk by not having a larger crew available for battle-field needs.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Scudder, G7 Operations Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), said the team has "overcome a lot of obstacles." Their skills and attention to detail have already saved significant effort and cost as they determined that existing plans for a new C17 airstrip would have negative impact from both wind conditions and proximity to adjacent construction. If it had been constructed as planned, "it would have displaced every military and commercial rotary helicopter we have," stated Wolf. And the C17 airstrip is critical in order to

bring in the material needed for FOB expansion, as well as providing increased supplies for the ballooning number of Soldiers.

"We'll expand here (FOB Sharana) more than anywhere else in Regional Command East. By November we'll be the second largest FOB in the region," said Wolf.

A statement by Scudder brought home the bottom line of G7's commitment. "I think the engineers will be the ones to win the war, because they also help the Afghans with their projects. We

are helping them establish governance by assisting in construction of their police stations, local government and district centers. We (with TF Builder and the provincial reconstruction team PRT) do workshops mentoring the Afghan local nationals."

These Soldiers not only get the job done, they get it done for the right reasons. ■

*Staff Sgt. Oshun Williams (standing on left) discusses placing the satellite dish on the GPS with Sgt. Bryan Franz, G7-372nd EN BDE.*



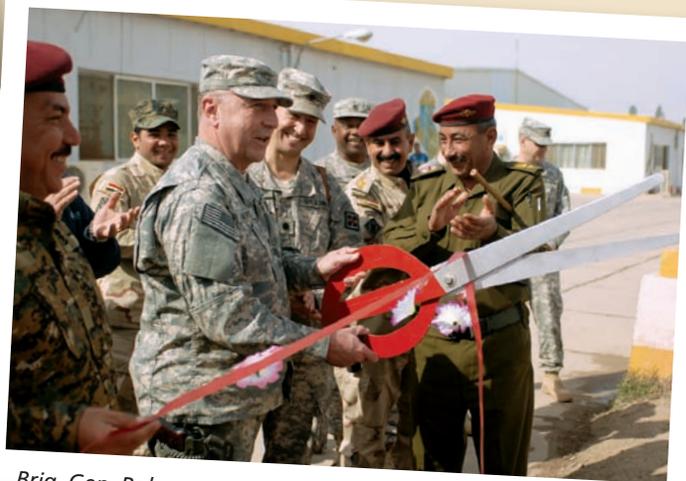
*Sgt. Bryan Franz, G7-372nd EN BDE, takes a reading from the GPS to determine the grid coordinates on the new FOB Sharana perimeter fence.*

## PHOTOS FROM THEATER

*Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Korinek Pace*



The Iraqi Field Engineering Regiment Commander presents an award to Brig. Gen. Robert A. Harris, commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade, in appreciation of their unit's team efforts in building a Southwest Asia Hut, 11 Feb 2010.



Brig. Gen. Robert A. Harris, commander of the 194th Engineer Brigade, cuts the red ribbon symbolizing the unveiling of a new Southwest Asia Hut that both the 844th Engineering Battalion and the Iraqi Field Engineering Regiment have been working on together.



Maj. Mike Lafontaine of the 367th Engineer Battalion relaxes with an Iraqi Officer at an Iraqi Army checkpoint next to the Tigris River for a bridge break job site.



Sgt. David Obray (former Soldier of the year for the Army) is promoted to Staff Sgt by the 367th Engineer Battalion Commander Lt. Col. James Mc Carthy.

# Run, Walk, and Honor

Story and photo by Sgt. Tony Inthavong

TEMPE, Ariz. - Soldiers from the 416th Theater Engineer Command who were students attending a Equal Opportunity Leader Course in Arizona had an unexpected and unique opportunity to participate in the 6th Annual Pat's Run.

What is Pat's Run? It is an annual event where runners, walkers, and spectators come together at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona to celebrate the life and legacy of Pat Tillman. Staff Sgt. Alexander Balderas feels it was important to participate. "Pat's Run promotes awareness for the Pat Tillman Foundation to promote exercise and pride in our country and respect for our fallen comrades," The course stretches 4.2 miles flat through Tempe and ends in dramatic fashion on the 42-yard line of Sun Devil Stadium.

The atmosphere was vivid. Participation number totaled up to almost 30,000, about 20,000 of them runners. "It was great to see how many showed up, people were very friendly and approachable and supportive," says Sgt. Richard Heard.



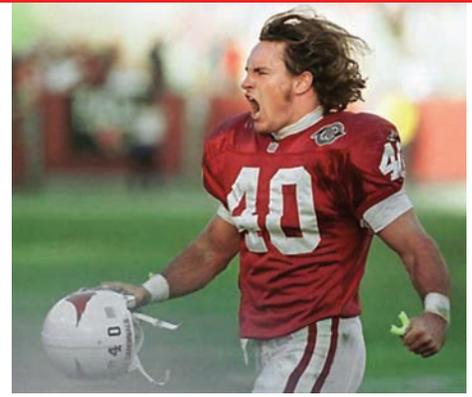
Members of the 416th Theater Engineer Command participated in the 4.2 mile dedication run for Spc. Pat Tillman. Pictured in photo: Back: 1st Lt. Travis Sybert, Sgt. Johnathan Jansen, Sgt. Tolonia Walker. Middle: 1st Lt. Jeremy Crosbie, Sgt. Benjamin Scantling, Staff Sgt. Alexander Balderas, 1st Lt. Joseph Rohman, Maj. Maynard Spell. Front: Sgt. Richard Heard, Staff Sgt. Robert Valencia, Staff Sgt. George Budde, 2nd Lt. Michael Barton.

For those who do not know much of Pat Tillman, he was a professional athlete, military hero and a man of strong character and kindness. He was a talented and strong football player. Played college football at Arizona State University and continue his football career as a professional athlete being drafted by the Arizona Cardinals in the 1998 National Football League Draft.

After getting married and returning from his honeymoon following 2001 season, he decided to place his NFL career as a Professional Football player on hold to become a US Army Ranger with his brother Kevin.

Pat and his brother enlisted in the US Army in July 2002, obligating to a three-year term. They were assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment base out of Fort Lewis, Washington which is now Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

Pat served in both Iraq and Afghanistan during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), earning the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. On April 22, 2004, he was killed in a friendly fire incident while on patrol.



Pat Tillman spent four years in the National Football League and turned down a \$3.6 million contract to enlist in the Army as a Ranger following the 9/11 attacks.

The Pat Tillman Foundation was created in 2004, following his death. The foundation carries forward Pat's legacy of leadership and civic action by supporting future generations to carry on the American tradition of citizen service. The foundation supports and provides resources and educational guidance offering leadership programs with scholarships and grants to veterans, active service members and their dependants.

Let's always take time in our lives to always remember all the sacrifices and also for all the fallen comrades who we have lost since the start on the Global War On Terrorism.

Further Information on "Pat's Run" and upcoming events affiliated with the Pat Tillman Foundation can be found at [www.patsrun.com](http://www.patsrun.com) or [www.patillmanfoundation.org](http://www.patillmanfoundation.org). ■



Runners make their way into Sun Devil Stadium for Pat's Run. The finish line is located on the 42 - yard line representing the uniform number he wore while he attended Arizona State University.

# AROUND THE ARMY

## Photos from the Field



1) Army Physical Fitness Test portion of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Best Warrior Competition as CSM Alexander observes. Photo by Cadet William Farrell.

2) Pfc. Marcus Johns (B Co 494th Brigade Support Battalion) contemplates his response during the written test portion of the Brigade level Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base Lewis-

McChord. Photo by Cadet William Farrell.

3) Runner-up for best photo was shot by Cadet William Farrell. Photo shows a great use of a slow shutter speed.

4) Photo of a Chicago parking structure shot during camera training at the Unit Public Affairs Representative remote school by Cadet William Farrell.

5) Operation Pacific Warrior 2009 (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class James Skillings, Capt. Sarah Brewster, Sgt. Robert Theobald, 1st Lt. Michael Dyrda. Capt. Brewster served just over three years as the commander of the 322nd Engineer Company. Photo by Sgt. Dawn Burrett.

6) Cpl. Matthew Wilcoxson (B Company 494th Brigade Support Battalion) changes

the brake master cylinder of a HMMWV while soldiers in the background study for the Best Warrior Competition during Battle Assembly. Photo by Cadet William Farrell.

7) Pfc. Marcus Johns (B Co 494th Brigade Support Battalion) qualifies from the kneeling position during Brigade level Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.



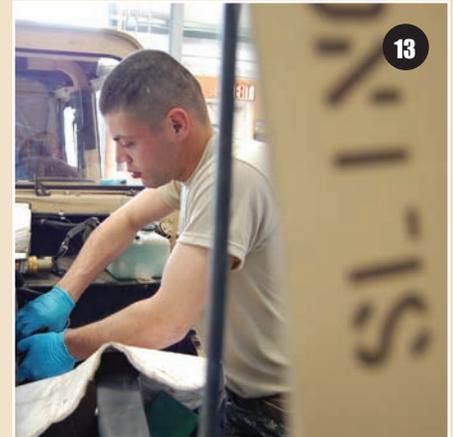
8) Sgt. Tony Inthavong (A Company 494th Brigade Support Battalion) calls in a 9-line medevac request while SGT Ju An (B Co 494th BSB) grades his performance during Situational Training Exercise lanes at the Brigade level Best Warrior Competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Photo by Cadet William Farrell.



9) A good use of depth perception of the American flag and yellow ribbon located at the Parkhurst Reserve Center Darien, Ill. shot by Sgt. Michael Muston.  
10) Cpl. Matthew Wilcoxson (B Company 494th Brigade Support Battalion) and Pfc. Paul Smith (B Co) change the brake master cylinder of a HMMWV at Battle Assembly. Photo by Cadet William Farrell.



11) Runner-up for best photo was shot by Spc. Anissa Padilla during the Unit Public Affairs Representative remote school. Photo displays a great example of the rule of thirds and proper lighting.  
12) Specialist Kennedy (398th ENG DET) backs up SPC Krueger (414th ENG DET) as the security line while another attack team is about to fight the blaze. This training



occurred at a Lincoln Nebraska fire training facility and is just one part of the 3 day training exercise. Photo by Spc. Mitchell Delossantos.  
13) Spc. Stephen Miller (B Company 494th Brigade Support Battalion) removes the brake master cylinder of a HMMWV in preparation for Operation Pacific Warrior. Photo by Cadet William Farrell.



# 397th Presented the Connelly Award

Story by 1st Lt. Tomas Rofkahr, 364th Public Affairs Operation Center

Surrounded by military food service and logistics professionals from all branches of the military, members of the 397th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company (FSC), Eau Claire, Wis. stepped on stage at the 2010 Phillip A. Connelly food service awards in Reno, Nevada to be recognized as the best food service team in the US Army Reserve.

Managed by the Fort Lee Quartermasters School's Joint Culinary Center of Excellence, the Connelly award recognizes outstanding achievement in Army food service and is the culmination of a year's worth of hard work and painstaking attention to detail on the 397th's part. For the Wisconsin based unit, the road to Reno

started with competitions at 372nd Brigade, 416th Theater Engineer Command and US Army Reserve level. After vanquishing all other competitors, the FSC (known as the Minotaurs) prepared for and won the Department of the Army level evaluations that awarded them the Connelly.

"There were a lot of 20 hour days to get us here," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Stafford. "The evaluations were extensive, multiple sites in full field environments, everything had to be just right."

While the field kitchens and food service operations of the 397th were the focus of the evaluations, all aspects of the FSC's performance in the field were scrutinized. The maintenance of their equipment, the quality of their site selection, camouflage, field sanitation, security placement, even Army publications.

"There's a lot of work to get your site setup correctly," said Sgt. 1st Class

Roy Christopherson, a maintenance noncommissioned officer (NCO) with the 397th. "The graders might only be on site for a few hours, but we would spend a week getting ready for it."

According to the FSC's commanding officer, Capt. Heath Harriel, the efforts of the entire unit were crucial to the Minotaur's overall success.

"We're all here – because of everyone here," Harriel said. "This is a food service competition, but everyone, my drivers, my mechanics, my logisticians; everyone had a part to play in this win."

For Staff Sgt. Naomi Estes, the 397th's Food Operations Sergeant, the competition allowed her to call upon her experience going for the Connelly as a junior enlisted Soldier on active duty in the early 1990s. Having experienced the competition first hand, she knew the exact levels of detail required by the evaluators and worked hard to ensure her team's field kitchen setup was flawless.

"Redo it, the camouflage nets aren't right," said Spc. John Miller



Above: Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class Anthony Rombalski and Staff Sgt. Naomi Estes of the 397th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company stand with their 2010 Phillip A. Connelly Cup. Photo by: 1st Lt. Tomas Rofkahr, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center.

Right: Staff Sgt. Naomi Estes (left) and Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class Anthony Rombalski (middle), both with the 397th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company, Eau Claire, Wis., are joined by Staff Sgt. Nicolas Killgo, with the 69th ADA Brigade, Fort Hood, Tx., as they practice the technique of properly rolling balls of sourdough bread during a professional development training session at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. Photo by: Matthew Montgomery, Fort Lee Public Affairs.



as he described Staff Sgt. Estes overseeing the field mess layout. “She had us redo those nets a lot, but you know, here we are,” he said. Hard work aside, to Estes, the hardest part of the entire competition was the waiting.

“We completed our last evaluation in October, but didn’t find out that we’d won until the end of December,” said Estes.

For Army food service teams, winning the Connelly award is a lot like winning the super bowl. The

atmosphere at the awards ceremony was festive and representatives of the 397th stepped on stage, resplendent in full dress uniforms to accept their Connelly Cup.

“This is the payoff, this is the reward,” said Master Sgt. Marlene Klassen, Food Program Manager for the 416th Theater Engineer Command. “All the hard work and



long hours, four other competitions to win just to get here...this award, the ceremony – it’s all to recognize the unit, they really are the best of the best.” ■



*Above: Spc. John Miller of the 397th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company from Eau Claire, Wis., shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, Commander of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command during the Connelly Awards. Photo by: 1st Lt. Tomas Rofkahr, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center.*

*Left: Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, the Army Reserve’s senior non-commissioned officer stand together with members of the 397th Engineer Battalion, Forward Support Company during the 2010 Phillip A. Connelly Awards and Conference in Reno, Nevada. Photo by: 1st Lt. Tomas Rofkahr, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center.*

## About The Connelly Award

The Phillip A. Connelly award and conference program is managed and organized by the Quartermaster School’s Joint Culinary Center of Excellence in Fort Lee, Virginia and co-sponsored by the International Food Service Executives Association and the Department of the Army G-4.

The program honors Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians who demonstrate continuously high standards in the field of food service.

In addition to recognizing the top food service teams in the Army, the 2010 Connelly awards included several days of culinary training, a trade show and a joint awards ceremony.

# EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE HELPS RETURNING VETERANS FIND JOBS

By Sgt. Nathan Hastings, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Illinois Army National Guard

DARIEN, Ill. – Servicemembers returning from overseas deployments now have help in finding civilian jobs. The Employer Partnership Initiative (EPI), based at the Army Reserve Center in Darien, assists Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in finding jobs after returning from federal active duty service. The EPI also helps the dependants of servicemembers find jobs.

Aderemi Olodun, the program support manager said he would like employers around the state to join the program.

“We have more than 1,000 employers with 1.5 million jobs available,” Olodun said referencing Illinois’ program.

Olodun has companies sign memorandums stating they are willing to hire returning servicemembers. The company will assist servicemembers or dependants in creating resumes, conduct practice interviews, teach interview skills, and make sure the Soldier or Airman is qualified for the position. The jobs that are open in these companies vary from logistics, law enforcement, medical, clerical, information technology and other positions.

Once a servicemember or dependant is hired, the program stays with them throughout the time they are working. If the servicemember or dependant is released from the position, EPI will help the person find another job.



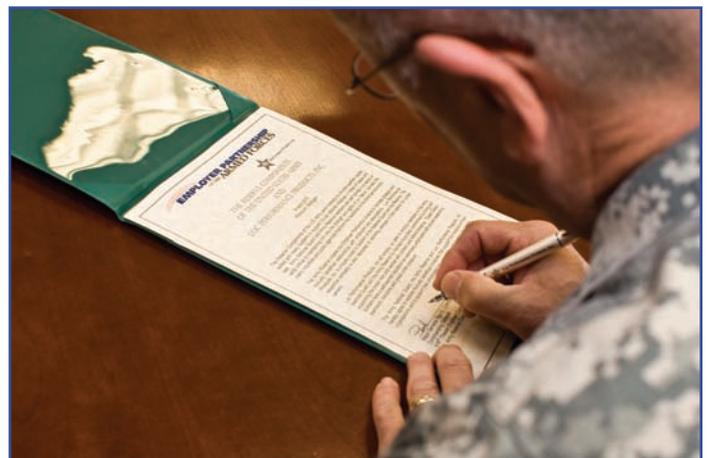
The Employer Partnership Office (EPO) Agreement certificate after newly signed by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commander of the 416th TEC, and CEO and owner, Mr. Victor Vojcek of Loc Performance, Inc. in Plymouth, Michigan mid-April. All Photos this story by Sgt. Alisha Lan, 364th PAOC.

“Most of the time, we prevent a servicemember or dependant from being released from their job,” said Olodun.

Approximately 500 servicemembers have been hired by companies signed up with the program. Integrated Project Management, Schneider Trucking, and Advanced Technology Services are just some of the companies from Michigan, Illinois

and Iowa participating in the program.

For more information on the program contact Aderemi Olodun at 630-910-3213, extension 271, or [aderemi.olodun@usar.army.mil](mailto:aderemi.olodun@usar.army.mil). ■



Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commander of the 416th TEC, signs the Employer Partnership Office (EPO) Agreement certificate with Loc Performance, Inc. in Plymouth, Michigan mid-April.

# EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES



*Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commander of the 416th TEC, poses with the newly signed Employer Partnership Office (EPO) Agreement certificate between CEO and owner, Mr. Victor Vojcek, of Loc Performance, Inc. Headquarters in Plymouth, Michigan mid-April.*



*(L-R) Mr. Aderemi O. Olodun (Employer Partnership Office Representative for the states of Michigan, Illinois and Iowa), Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall (Commander of the 416th TEC), Mr. Victor Vojcek (CEO and owner of Loc Performance, Inc.), Dr. Joseph Thomas (US Reserve Ambassador for State of Michigan), Lt. Col. (R) John Anderson all gather for the signing ceremony of the Employers Partnership Office Agreement signing ceremony in mid-April in Plymouth, Michigan.*



*Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commander of the 416th TEC, receives a tour by CEO and owner, Mr. Victor Vojcek, of his company, Loc Performance, Inc. after the Employer Partnership Office (EPO) Agreement signing ceremony at the Headquarters in Plymouth, Michigan mid-April.*

# Dragon Soldiers



*Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Michael Skaar, 476th Chemical Battalion*



FT. HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif.- Soldiers from the 476th Chemical Battalion and 349th Chemical Company participated in Annual Training in May during "Warrior 91-10-01" with thousands of troops from across the country.

Soldiers ran daily missions to hone skills such as vehicle rollover, convoy operations, combat life-saving and entry control point tasks. They geared the second training phase toward units' wartime functions. Soldiers practiced in Mission-Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear and Level "A" chemical resistant suits. They also ran the tactical operations center to conduct reconnaissance and decontamination operations.

Observer-controllers/trainers (OC/Ts) played a vital role during training, providing invaluable knowledge from senior NCOs and officers. Master Sgt. Jeffrey Bamburg of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, FT Lewis, WA and 2nd Lt. Michael Lujan, 365th Chemical Company Biological Integrated Detection System (BIDS), Salt Lake City, Utah taught Soldiers how to properly draw from a natural body of water for chemical decontamination operations.



"The role of the OC/T subject matter expert is to 'embed' with their assigned unit and observe that unit to provide meaningful feedback on the unit's training. The ultimate goal of the SME is to help ensure that the units participating in the Warrior Exercise experience the most realistic and valuable training possible", said Lujan.

The 349th Chemical Company changes posture this year. Two years ago, they served on homeland security status, tasked with "white" civilian response. The Soldiers stood ready to react to a catastrophic nuclear, biological or chemical event on American soil. With mission change and a loss of many senior leaders, junior Soldiers took initiative during annual training and helped to rework tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs).

Training at Warrior 91-10-01 improved esprit de corps as well as the tactical and technical knowledge of the 476th Chemical Battalion and the 349th Chemical Company Dragon Soldiers.

Elementis Regamus Proelium!  
(We rule the battlefield through the elements!). ■



*Top: Level A suits are worn to prevent exposure to nuclear, biological or chemical threats while teams conduct chemical reconnaissance missions. Pictured, Staff Sgt. Dustin Fulton 476th Chemical Company takes vitals of Spc. Viet Huynh 349th Chemical Company to ensure that medical safety is placed first during training at Fort Hunter Liggett this May. Photo by 1st. Lt. Michael Skaar.*

*Middle: Pfc. Kyle Dofredo (left) and Spc. Matthew Garner (Right) of the 349th Chemical Company discuss pumping operations while drawing water from a training area on Fort Hunter Liggett this May. Photo by 1st. Lt. Michael Skaar.*

*Bottom: Soldiers from the 349th Chemical Company practice how to conduct mass casualty decontamination as part of their training at Warrior 91 10-01. Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Smith.*

## NOTES FROM THE STAFF

### G1

- The SRP process is being automated! Look for more details via your S1 channels.
- Members of the U.S. military, foreign service and intelligence communities have another year to purchase a home and claim the home buyer tax credit.
  - Any service member who is or has been on extended duty for 90 days or more between Jan. 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010, has until April 30, 2011, to sign a sales contract and until June 30, 2011, to close on the property. Both the \$8,000 first-time and the \$6,500 repeat home buyer tax credits are included in the extension.
  - The rule that requires buyers to repay the credit if they move out of their home within three years has also been waived for qualified service members if they receive government orders to move.

### G2/6

- All government computers need to be re-imaged to Vista 3.0 prior to 30 June 2010
  - After 30 June 2010, all computers that have not received the Vista upgrade, will be dropped off the government network.
  - Please see your S6 get your upgrade today!

### G4

- HQs continues to scrub our property-books, we need everyone's help in turning outdated equipment.



## Restoring Hawaii's Gem *Continued from page 15*

had to start working with metal and get the guys used to doing that, it's a lot different than wood." The 1st Sgt. went on to say that besides the actual nuts and bolts of the mission itself, there are more dividends that come from it. "Besides [the Soldiers] doing a lot of MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) skills that they don't ever get to do, it's a wonderful thing because retention is up and all of our troops seem to be more motivated because of it. This is the kind of training with the MOS that I think we need. The carpenters, plumbers and electricians don't get to touch the things they need to be touching. This is very good training."

Soldiers on this mission will also be eligible for the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon after the first ten days.

In 1911, Battery Randolph had two 14-inch disappearing guns. Currently, two 7-inch guns from the USS New Hampshire sit in their place. The original guns have been destroyed and the only other set are in the Philippines. Getting those to Hawaii will be another project altogether.

For more on the Hawaii Army Museum go to <http://www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org/index.html> ■

*Pfc. Stacey Salas of Lubbock, Texas assigned to the 284th Engineer Company in Seagoville, TX drills into the concrete on the roof of the Hawaii Army Museum during renovation of the parapets that were destroyed in 1969. Through the efforts of Pfc. Salas and the rest of the Texas-based Army Reserve engineers the parapets will be restored to look as they did in 1911 when Battery Randolph was completed.*



# Parting Shot