

SOLDIER READINESS PROCESS—step-by-step process that every Soldier needs to know!



THE

# BRIDGE

Volume 3, Issue 4 • Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command • Winter 2010



**Season's Greetings**  
from the 416th TEC Family

## COMMAND NOTES

*Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall*

**H**appy Holidays everyone! Allow me to begin this edition by saying “Thank you” for a great year made possible by your countless sacrifices and contributions. Some things change but the spirit of Army camaraderie endures.

Speaking of change, the 416th TEC continues to adapt to the needs of the Combatant Commanders, the Army, and the Nation. Just as our families adapt to better cope with a changing environment, the USARC and the 416th are becoming more identifiable as an “operational” reserve rather than the traditional “strategic” reserve. One very important program for helping all of us adapt is the Yellow Ribbon Program that is entering its third year of existence. Despite the growing pains we’ve felt with the program the benefits to families are proving to be very worthwhile. Understanding support programs, health provider programs, and establishing more connections to others facing similar challenges is helping many families get through the deployment separation from their Soldiers. Through feedback of the families and Soldiers many “rough spots” in the program have been identified and in most instances adjustments have been made wherever possible. Thanks go to all who have participated and shared their perspectives on how to make the program better serve the needs of our Soldier families.

I hope you will find this edition of the Bridge informative and enjoyable as we continue to celebrate the contributions and achievements of our great Soldiers, Civilians, and families.

Essays!



**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 COMMAND CHAPLAIN  
CH (COL.) TIMOTHY M. SAMORAJSKI

416th TEC PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
MAJ. BRUCE TOWNSHEND  
MAJ. MARY OLODUN  
CAPT. JULIUS PENN  
SGT. JERIMIAH J. RICHARDSON

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER / MANAGING EDITOR  
MAJ. BRUCE TOWNSHEND  
MAJ. MARY OLODUN

JOURNALISTS  
SGT. MAJ. JANET JONES  
SGT. 1ST CLASS ANDY YOSHIMURA  
SGT. 1ST CLASS JOEL QUEBEC  
SGT. JERIMIAH J. RICHARDSON  
SGT. REBECCA LINDER

CONTRIBUTORS  
LT. COL. MATT LEONARD  
MAJ. ERIC BULLOCK  
MR. ADEREMI OLODUN  
MR. CHRIS CAMPBELL  
MS. SHAYLA BUTLER  
PFC. MATTHEW ARMANIO

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# Contents

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE • VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4

Winter 2010

## Departments

- 2 **Command Notes**
- 4 **CSM Notes**  
The First Line Leader
- 5 **Chaplain's Notes**  
A Holiday Message
- 14 **Family Programs**  
416th TEC Teen Panel
- 34 **Staff Notes**
- 42 **Around the Army**  
Photos from the Field
- 44 **Parting Shot**

### COVER:

Santa Clause dismounts from an up-armored Humvee to greet the soldiers and families of the 416th Theater Engineer Command for their 2010 Holiday Party held in Darien IL. (Photo by Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson.)

### RIGHT:

Soldiers of Task Force Eagle Assault, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Forward Operating Base Wolverine in Zabul province, Afghanistan fill out forms before recording their holiday greetings to loved ones back home.

### BACK COVER PHOTO:

#### **Unit Public Affairs Representative Photo of the Quarter**

A soldiers' child whispers his Christmas wishes to Santa during the 2010 416th TEC Holiday Party.



- 6 **364th PAOC's Welcomes New Commander**  
*by Pfc. Lindsey A. Schulte*
- 8 **Ground Breaking Story**  
*by Sgt. 1st Class Joel Quebec*
- 10 **416th TEC Holiday Party Photos**
- 12 **Best Warrior Gets Airborne**  
*by Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson*
- 18 **Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces Launches Web Portal**  
*By Lt. Col. Matt Leonard*
- 20 **Soldier Readiness Process (SRP): Are you Ready?**  
*by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura*
- 22 **Medical Readiness in an Era of Persistent Conflict**  
*by Maj. Eric Bullock  
(Command's Surgeon General)*
- 28 **Farewell to a Great Leader**  
*by Sgt. Maj. Janet M. Jones*
- 30 **de Fleury Medals**
- 32 **Christmas Time**  
*by Author Unknown*
- 36 **ESGR's Pro Patria Award**  
*by Chris Campbell*
- 38 **Army Reserve Engineers End Iraq Tour**  
*by Sgt. Rebecca Linder*
- 40 **416th Builds Community Relationships**  
*By Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson*

*Command Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Reeve*

## The First Line Leader

**T**en years or twenty years after a Soldier has graduated from Basic Training you can ask them who was their Drill Sergeant and they can tell you his or her name, and most significant events that occurred while under their leadership. This is because the Drill Sergeant was the first Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) who had a major influence on them transitioning into a citizen Soldier. When a Soldier moves on to their Army Reserve unit and are assigned the second most significant NCO who will impact their career will be the First Line Leader. The First Line Leader will set the standard for his or her Soldiers simply by their actions and words.

The duties and responsibilities of the First Line Leader in the Army Reserve today are not to be taken lightly and can be at times overwhelming. As a leader they must prepare their Soldiers for entering a Combat Zone, survive and ensure they have mission success. This starts at the unit level ranging in areas from equipment accountability, to training. The First Line leader not only has the individual Soldier in his or her squad or platoon, but they also have the Soldier's Family to take care of as well. The Families of our Soldiers are the ones that give us support, help us by always being there for us and take care of things at home when we are away.

Right now most Soldiers and their Families are going through some tough economic times and very few have not felt the impact. Soldiers who have

worked at a factory or agency for years and have performed above standard are being affected by downsizing or reorganization. One of these Soldiers may be you or someone you know because it can happen to any one of us. This is when we, as first line supervisors, step in and help each other, not just because its' the holiday season, but because its' the right thing to do. If you can assist with buying some groceries, helping to pay the rent, help make a car payment, purchase some gas, it does not matter what you do, because someday you will be rewarded for your efforts.

It's not difficult to see that things in the Army Reserve will be impacted, and this is where we need to contribute as well. We need supervisors to help the Company Commander and First Sergeant to get things accomplished on Battle Assembly. Two of the most important assets that a Commander and First Sergeant have on the two days of Battle Assembly are "Time" and "Resources". Encourage your Soldiers to come to Battle Assembly with a positive attitude and when asked to assist with a task or training, be willing and able. This saves time and money when Soldiers do things as a team and we do not have to spend valuable dollars doing things multiple times. With possible reductions in our future budget, use Fiscal Year 2011 to help improve your unit level of readiness by ensuring you and your Soldiers do not miss scheduled events such as SRPs, qualification ranges and other mandatory training events.



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

The Army Reserve is moving rapidly towards the individual Soldier being accountable for his/her own career management and promotions, as we are rapidly progressing to a digital promotion system. This saves money by reducing man hours required to maintain paper copies of records. First-line supervisors must assist Soldiers' self-management of their careers, because they will ultimately become responsible for what effects their promotions and assignments. The promotion system will be based on individual performance more than it ever has before due to changes being made in June 2011.

It is the desire of every Commander and First Sergeant that his or her Soldiers have the opportunity to be successful. Take advantage of the opportunities you have afforded to you and help us to help you.

Thanks for defending our Nation  
CSM Reeve

# A Holiday Thought from the Command Chaplain

**A**s we rush to rake the leaves and give the yard that final “clean up,” we realize that another holiday season is almost here! May this be your best ever! The hope and prayer from all of us at the 416th Command Unit Ministry Team (UMT) is that regardless of what’s going on in your life, you sense the Lord’s love, direction and presence in a very special way.

Have you ever heard the saying, “Another day another dollar?” As a guiding principal, this phrase limits the value of our daily lives to the acquisition of material goods. How different is the Christmas story. From beginning to end, it’s a story about restoring relationships, how God sent His Son into the world to restore sinful humanity back to Himself. Mary responded in faith to the angels message concerning the virgin birth when she said, “Behold the bondservant of the Lord, be it done according to your word (Luke 1:38).” The shepherds

left their flocks unattended to seek out the Christ Child (Luke 2:15). Magi from the east endured a long and dangerous journey to worship at the feet of the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2).

Though all these deeds are noble, without question, the greatest example of selfless service belongs to none other than the Lord Himself. Leaving the glory of heaven for a humble birth in a manger, He became one of us that we might become one of His! Philippians 2: 6-7 states, “Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be desired, but emptied Himself taking the form of a slave, being made in the likeness of men.”

And so during the normal rush of the holiday seasons, may we take time to kneel before the Christ Child and may His examples of selfless service inspire us to do the same.

God bless you!



***“The hope and prayer from all of us at the 416th Command Unit Ministry Team (UMT) is that regardless of what’s going on in your life, you sense the Lord’s love, direction and presence in a very special way.”***

# 364<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Operations Center Welcomes New Commander

*Story and Photo by Pfc. Lindsey A. Schulte, 364th Public Affairs Operations Center*

FORT SNELLING, Minn. - On Aug. 21, soldiers of the 364th Public Affairs Operations Center (PAOC), at Fort Snelling, welcomed their new commander, Lt. Col. Nathan M. Banks. Banks is replacing outgoing commander Lt. Col. Eric J. Larson, who is slated to assume command of the 367th Engineer Battalion, soon to return from overseas.

"I'd like to welcome him to Minnesota from his prior service at the Pentagon," said Larson. Banks comes to the 364th PAOC from the Pentagon as the Media Relations

Team Chief. His experience in handling high profile stories—such as the Fort Hood shooting in 2009, and prisoner of war survivor Jessica Lynch—may offer new perspectives for this public affairs unit. Banks' years of public affairs experience will bring a new set of skills to the table.

"He has some big shoes to fill with Lt. Col. Larson leaving, and he seems enthusiastic," said 1st. Lt. Greta Lind, a current servicemember of the 364<sup>th</sup> PAOC.

Banks does indeed seem up to the challenge of leading his new unit to even greater heights. Banks says he wants to utilize his background from the Pentagon and from his time as a PAD commander to take this unit to the next level.

Though Larson will be missed, the arrival of the new commander is greatly appreciated by the 364<sup>th</sup> PAOC. As two of the unit's Active Guard Reserve (AGR) personnel were deployed overseas with other units, Sgt. Patricia Warner was the soul full time member of the unit until Banks' arrival this past summer. Banks will likely be available during the week when a commander's signature is needed,

instead of having to wait for drill, said Warner.

"It will be more convenient for the unit and the soldiers," Warner added. Outgoing, commander Larson is cherished by members of the 364th PAOC for his previous years of leadership and encouragement as he moves forward in his career as an Army Reserve commander. "I came in not knowing anything about public affairs. I went from that to feeling pretty comfortable, and he played a large part in that," said Spc. Allysa A. Blom.

Larson was an Army engineer officer, not a public affairs officer, when he first took command of the 364th PAOC in Sept 2002. The wisdom he has gained through his public affairs experience in a non-combat tour, and in his deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in June of 2008, has enriched his soldiers' training. Now, as a proficient PAO he has led the way for his soldiers to excel at their jobs.

Lt. Col. Larson has produced some of the best public affairs soldiers, said Command Sgt. Maj. Lori E. Schlafer. "He was willing to train both a CSM and privates alike to better themselves," she continues.

Larson may not realize how much the soldiers of the 364th PAOC appreciated his efforts in leading them towards success, but Larson hopes Banks appreciates the soldiers he is now in command of.

"I'd like to let him know he's inheriting a unit with the highest caliber of soldiers in the Army," said Larson. Sometimes the simplest words convey the emotion most accurately. With all the words the soldiers of the 364th PAOC use to describe their feelings about this change of command, the most prevalent and repeated is the simplest one.

"Welcome," said Pfc. Shane M. Keenan. ■



*Lt. Col. Eric Larson (left), outgoing Commander of the 364th Public Affairs Operations Center, recently handed off his seat to Lt. Col. Nathan Banks. Banks takes command after a four year stint as a Public Affairs Team Chief at the Pentagon.*

Welcome

# Groundbreaking

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Joel Quebec, 211th MPAD

Bryan, TX - The Maj. Gen. George F. Moore Army Reserve Center has served the 420th Engineer Brigade and the Bryan, TX community since 1958. As the Army has continued to evolve technologically, it became apparent that the current Reserve Center would not be able to meet the needs of a modern and often expeditionary force.

The effort to build a new facility has been in the works since spring of 2009. During a visit for the brigade's change of command and a Silver Star presentation ceremony, Congressman Chet Edwards noticed that the building was not up to the necessary modern standards. He promised the unit a new Reserve Center, one that would be in keeping with the nature of the modern Army.

Finally on October 22, the 420th held a ground breaking ceremony to commemorate the beginning of construction on the new Reserve Center. Among those in attendance were the ceremonial ground breakers Congressman Edwards, Mayor Jason Bienski, former 420th commander Brig. Gen. James B. Doty and Col. Jared W. Olsen,

the current commander as well as numerous current and former members of the 420th.

"We look forward to getting this project underway," said Doty. "It's going to be state-of-the-art." The new center will accommodate the brigade in ways the current building could not. According to Supervisory Staff Administrator John Bennett, the facility will concentrate on a number of concerns. The internet and information capabilities will be greatly enhanced as will be the force protection. The facility will not just benefit the soldiers but the community as well. "We'll leave less of an energy footprint." Bennett said, adding that even though the building might be bigger with more features, technology has advanced since 1958 with the advent of energy efficient construction. Other new features will include a physical fitness gym and a weapons qualification simulation center and much more storage for unit equipment.

Current 420th commander Col. Olsen stated, "We, as soldiers, we love what we do. We do it willingly, we're all volunteers." He said that having the new building will make the service experience even better.

"This is not a gift from the taxpayers." Congressman Edwards commented. "It was earned by the sacrifices of the 420th Engineer Brigade." Edwards said he wanted the people to see the center not just as a better place to work, "but for what it really is – a statement of gratitude for what the 420th has done."



Former 420th Engineer Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. James B. Doty talks during the ground-breaking ceremony at the site of a new Army Reserve center in Bryan, TX on October 22.



Current 420th Engineer Brigade commander Col. Jared W. Olsen makes his comments during the ground-breaking ceremony at the site of a new Army Reserve center in Bryan, TX on October 22.



From right to left, Congressman Chet Edwards, Brig. Gen. James Doty, Bryan, TX Mayor Jason Bienski and Col. Jared Olsen break ground at the site of what will be a new Army Reserve center in Bryan, TX on October 22.



Congressman Chet Edwards signs a ceremonial shovel after the ground-breaking of a new Army Reserve center in Bryan, TX on October 22.

Mayor Bienski echoed the gratitude saying, "It's always important to support our men and women who protect the freedoms that we have."

After the guests remarks, the ground breakers, armed with gold-painted shovels, proceeded to the designated spot and overturned the ceremonial dirt, signifying that the project was underway. It will be approximately 18 – 24 months until the building will be completed and the occupants will be able to move in, leaving the current facility to the city of Bryan. ■



US Congressmen Chet Edwards speaks during the ground-breaking ceremony at the site of a new Army Reserve center in Bryan, TX on October 22. Congressmen Edwards played a key role in the building's development and construction after a visit to the current facility revealed the need for better accommodations.



Mayor Jason Bienski addresses the crowd during the ground-breaking ceremony at the site of a new Army Reserve center in Bryan, TX on October 22.

# 416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND HOLIDAY 2010

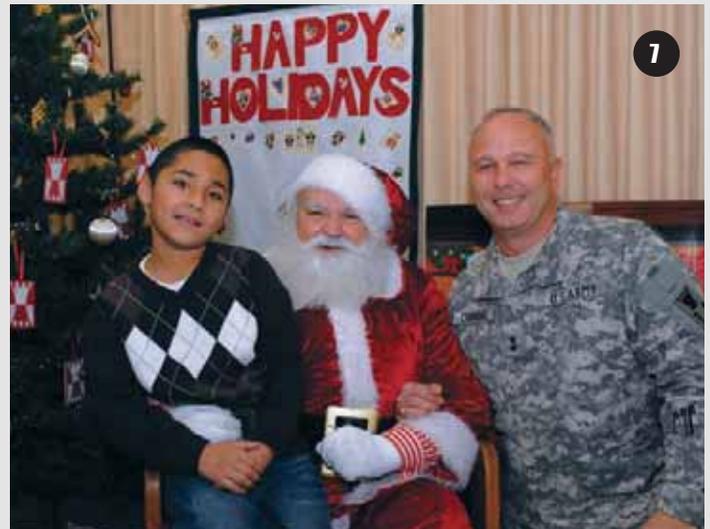
*Photos from the December 5th Holiday Party held in Darien, IL. (All Photos by Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson, 416th TEC PAO.)*



1) Sgt. Jean Campbell is the first to greet Santa at the 416th TEC 2010 Holiday Party held at Parkhurst Army Reserve Center in Darien IL.

2) A soldier's child and Santa Claus flex for a picture during the 416th TEC 2010 Holiday Party held in Darien IL.

3, 4, 5) Soldiers of the 416th TEC HHC prepare the holiday meal for the command's 2010 Holiday Party held in Darien IL on December 5th.



6) Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Reeve serves a soldier's family member some Holiday Ham during the 416th TEC's Holiday Party held 5 December in Darien IL.

7) Alex Kadan Poses with Santa and Maj. General Paul Crandall during the 416th Theater Engineer Commands Holiday Party held in Darien IL on 5 December.

8) The Commander of the 416th Theater Engineer Command Maj. General Paul E. Crandall serves a soldier during the 416th TEC's Holiday Party held 5 December in Darien IL.

9) Maj. General Paul E. Crandall presents Santa Claus with a certificate of appreciation for his contributions at the 2010 Holiday Party.

10) Family members and Soldiers serves themselves a complimentary breakfast at the 416th TEC 2010 Holiday Party held in Darien IL.

# Best Warrior Earns His Wings

By Sgt. Jerimiah J. Richardson



By the time you read this Sgt. Joshua Ahn, of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade will have just completed Airborne School at Fort Bragg, NC. And yes, he's in an Army Reserve Command with no Airborne units.

Soldiers of the 416th Theater Engineer Command know that slots to special schools like Airborne and Air Assault are hard if not impossible to get. This is mostly because a primarily engineer command has virtually no reason to send anybody to the highly coveted yet hard to justify schools. Despite these odds, Sgt. Joshua Ahn, was given that opportunity as reward for his accomplishments during the Best Warrior Competition.

Sgt. Ahn, who at the time of the competition was a specialist, trained constantly at all the Army Warrior tasks in order to measure up to the best in the Command. He won his brigade level competition and went on to win the 416th TEC competition in June of this year. Ahn, was then given the opportunity to represent the 416th at the Army Reserve level. Though he didn't win the all Army Reserve competition he did very well by representing the TEC with distinction.

So why give Ahn the chance to do what so few in the command get to? "This Soldier received this opportunity because of his success at the FY10 416th TEC Best Warrior Competition", said 1st Sgt. John Goheen of the 416th TEC HHC. "Winning the competition at Division level isn't a small task and so those who do, understand it does bring other opportunities that most Soldiers do not get or may never get to experience [in the Army Reserve]."

The 416th TEC command staff has shown a vested interest in rewarding soldiers who strive to be their very best, and the soldiers who compete in the Best Warrior Competition epitomize that very mark. The winners of past years; Sgt. David Obrey, who won the Army-wide level competition, and Sgt. Shiloh Becher, who won the Army Reserve level competition, both were afforded the same rewards for their well fought accomplishments.

So how does it feel being one of the very few engineer soldiers to get his wings? "It feels really rewarding. I really appreciate this gift from the 416th." ■

1



1) 2010 Army Reserve Best Warrior competitor Spc. Joshua Ahn, a corrections specialist assigned to the 493rd Military Police Company, breathes a sigh of relief as he crosses the finish line of the ruck march event at Fort McCoy, Wis., July 28. Ahn, is from Aloha, Ore. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua Risner, U.S. Army Reserve Command PAO)

2) Army Reserve Spc. Joshua Ahn, crosses the finish line at the 2-mile run during Army Physical Fitness Test at the 2010 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis. on Monday, July 26, 2010. Ahn, representing 416th Theater Engineer Command, is a native of Beaverton, Ore. ((Photo by Timothy L. Hale, Army Reserve Public Affairs)

3) Spc. Joshua Ahn, of Aloha, Ore. takes advantage of a break before the Warrior Tasks portion begins at Army Reserves Best Warrior Competition, Fort McCoy, Wis., and July 27, 2010. Ahn, is representing the 493rd Military Police Company at Best Warrior. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Christine Samples, 350th PAD)



2



3





# 416th Theater Engineer Command Teen Panel

1. It is time to begin the process of selecting members for the 416th TEC Teen Panel. The Teen Panel allows teens an opportunity to develop effective strategies and implement solutions for issues they face as Military youth.
2. Each well-qualified candidate is chosen based on a thorough selection process revealing their experience with, dedication to, and willingness to speak on behalf of Army Reserve children and youth.
3. The 416th TEC Teen Panel will commence in February 2011 with an inaugural meeting in Atlanta, GA. Panel members attend up to three meetings per year and participate in regularly scheduled bi-monthly teleconference calls.
4. The 416th TEC Family Programs Office centrally funds Teen Panel expenses.
5. The 416th TEC Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) Community Outreach Specialists (COS) play an important role in the teen panel selection process and become a supporting element for the teens that are selected. Throughout the year, the COS will continue to support the selected members in fulfilling panel obligations (i.e., assisting the teens in finding opportunities to complete the community service requirement, scheduling leadership briefings, monitoring progress towards any projects, etc.)
6. For more information on the 416th TEC Teen Panel, please contact your FRSA or your CYSS Community Outreach Specialist Shayla Butler, 630-910-3213 Ext. 215, [Shayla.butler@usar.army.mil](mailto:Shayla.butler@usar.army.mil).

# The 416th TEC is on Facebook, Flickr and You Tube!

You can find out more on what goes on in the 416th Theater Engineer Command by adding us on Facebook. If you have photos of your loved ones overseas, please email those photos and description of the photo to:

**ENG416PublicAffairsAllUsers@usar.army.mil**



## Keeping Soldiers and Families Strong at Home



### THE ARMY STRONG BONDS PROGRAM – 88<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

Soldiers and military couples are confronted with great challenges to their personal relationships. The ever present reality of stressful deployments and lengthy separation contributes to the mixed emotions often felt during reunion and reintegration. Conflict sometimes seems inevitable and problems impossible to overcome.

STRONG BONDS has been designed to encourage a safe and relaxed environment where Soldiers and military couples can learn new skills that help prevent the disintegration of their most important relationships. Strong Bonds unites fun programs with user-friendly, “battle-tested” methods that really work. The 88<sup>th</sup> RSC provides and funds orders, lodging, meals and travel, ensuring a worry-free weekend for Soldiers and spouses to learn and enjoy. Soldiers who sign up for a retreat sponsored by their Major Army Command have priority in reserving a seat. Soldiers can also apply for a retreat sponsored by another Major Army Command, and will be put on a waiting list. If there are open slots at the retreat 30 days prior to the event, Soldiers on the waiting list will fill those slots in the order they applied.

#### MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

This Strong Bonds Marriage Weekend Getaway is designed specifically for the married Army couple. Strengthen the marital bond through marriage education, better communication, and relationship enhancement. FY 11 retreat dates are:

Nov. 12-14 '10	<b>807<sup>th</sup> MDSC</b>	Portland, OR
Jan. 28-30 '11	<b>84<sup>th</sup> Training Command</b>	Kansas City, MO
Feb. 11-13 '11	<b>MIRC</b>	Chicago, IL
Feb. 18-20 '11	<b>416<sup>th</sup> TEC</b>	Chicago, IL
Mar. 25-27 '11	<b>104<sup>th</sup> Training Command</b>	Denver, CO
Apr. 8-10 '11	<b>108<sup>th</sup> Training Command</b>	Branson, MO
Apr. 29-May '11	<b>USACAPOC</b>	Park City, UT
May 20-22 '11	<b>84<sup>th</sup> Training Command</b>	Duluth, MN
June 24-26 '11	<b>102<sup>nd</sup> Training Command</b>	Seattle, WA
July 15-17 '11	<b>103<sup>rd</sup> ESC</b>	Kansas City, MO
July 29-31 '11	<b>USACAPOC</b>	Twin Cities, MN
Aug. 12-14 '11	<b>807<sup>th</sup> MDSC</b>	St. Louis, MO

#### SINGLE LIFE ENRICHMENT

This Strong Bonds Singles Getaway focuses on the skills of finding the best version of you. Single Soldiers learn decision-making, goal-setting and relationship-enhancement skills in a very interactive environment. FY 11 retreat dates are:

Jan. 14-16 '11	<b>88<sup>th</sup> RSC</b>	Seattle, WA
Feb. 11-13 '11	<b>MIRC</b>	Chicago, IL
May 13-15 '11	<b>807<sup>th</sup> MDSC</b>	Seattle, WA
June 10-12 '11	<b>104<sup>th</sup> Training Command</b>	Denver, CO
July 22-24 '11	<b>102<sup>nd</sup> Training Command</b>	Coeur d'Alene, ID
Sep. 9-11	<b>807<sup>th</sup> MDSC</b>	Chicago, IL

#### MILITARY FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Military Families work and learn together in this weekend retreat, with focus on the skills that help military families stay strong. FY 11 retreat dates are:

Dec. 10-12 '10	<b>88<sup>th</sup> RSC</b>	Wisconsin Dells, WI
Mar. 11-13 '11	<b>807<sup>th</sup> MDSC</b>	Salt Lake City, UT
Aug. 19-21 '11	<b>AR MEDCOM</b>	Coeur d'Alene, ID

**For more info, go to: [www.strongbonds.org](http://www.strongbonds.org) Or contact our Strong Bonds team**

CH (MAJ) Jason Logan  
88th RSC Family Life Ministries  
jason.b.logan@usar.army.mil  
(608) 388-0339

SSG David Mangan  
88th RSC Family Life Ministries  
david.mangan1@usar.army.mil  
(608) 388-0541

20100729

CH (CPT) Robert Sunman  
88th RSC Strong Bonds Chaplain  
robert.sunman@usar.army.mil  
(608) 388-0554

SGT Eric Schmid  
88th RSC Strong Bonds NCO  
eric.schmid@usar.army.mil  
(608) 388-0554



# U.S. ARMY RESERVE WARRIOR and FAMILY CENTER (AR-WFAC) RECOVERY COORDINATION PROGRAM

## Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC) Fact Sheet

### What is the Army Reserve Warrior and Family Assistance Center (AR-WFAC)?

The Army Reserve Warrior and Family Assistance Center (AR-WFAC) are a team of mobilized Army Reserve Soldiers working at the Headquarters of the US Army Reserve Command in Atlanta, Georgia. Team members have a wealth of experience and a wide variety of military specialties. But even more important, each of us has a deep personal commitment to provide the care and compassion that you deserve when you contact us.

### What is the mission of the Army Reserve Warrior and Family Assistance Center?

The mission of the AR-WFAC is to provide support and guidance to Wounded, Ill, and Injured Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families regarding available benefits and entitlements as they transition through the medical care system.

### What is a Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC)?

A RCC is a member of the AR-WFAC team that advocates and supports Recovering Service Members (RSMs), Army Reserve Wounded, Ill, and Injured Warriors and their Family members or designated representatives by ensuring non-medical needs are met through all the phases of the Continuum of Care.

### Which population does this program serve?

The populations served by the RCC serve are Wounded, Ill, and Injured Warriors and their Families: Troop Program Unit (TPU), Active Guard Reserve (AGR), Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA), Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), Retirees and Veterans.

### How can this program assist Recovering Service Members Wounded Warriors and their Families?

The AR-WFAC advocates for the RSM, Wounded Warriors and their Families, providing support and advice during the entire Continuum of Care which includes: Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration phases. The program also provides assistance in navigating Federal and State systems and helps connect Wounded Warriors and Families with the necessary financial, educational, employment, legal and medical resources. RCCs can provide links to valuable Federal programs, including healthcare, retirement and disability compensation, transition assistance, VA adaptive housing and vehicle assistance, VA education and training, VA vocational rehabilitation and employment, and certain Department of Labor programs.

### Where can I find more information?

Email the Army Reserve Warrior and Family Assistance Center (AR-WFAC) at [AR-WFAC@USAR.ARMY.MIL](mailto:AR-WFAC@USAR.ARMY.MIL) or call 1-866-345-8248 or contact Antonio B. Abin, 404-543-5806 or by email at [Antonio.b.abin@usar.army.mil](mailto:Antonio.b.abin@usar.army.mil) or contact Randy Voll, 404-819-5093 [randall.voll@usar.army.mil](mailto:randall.voll@usar.army.mil).



## 15-PASSENGER VAN SAFETY



### NHTSA'S TOP SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 15-PASSENGER VAN USE

**TIRE PRESSURE** Inspect the tires and check tire pressure before each use. A van's tires need to be properly inflated and the tread should not be worn down. Excessively worn or improperly inflated tires can lead to a loss of vehicle control and possibly a rollover. Pressure for front and back tires may be different, and pressure is likely higher than that required for car tires. A placard on the driver's side B-pillar or the owner's manual lists manufacturer recommended tire size and pressure.

**SPARES** Avoid using old spares when replacing worn tires since all tires, even unused tires, weaken with age. Used 15-passenger vans may come with new looking spare tires that are many years old and could be dangerous.

**DRIVER** 15-passenger vans should only be operated by trained, experienced drivers who operate these vehicles on a regular basis. The driver needs to possess a valid driver's license for state of residence (a commercial driver's license is preferred). 15-passenger van drivers need additional training since these vehicles handle differently than passenger cars, especially when fully loaded.

**ATTENTION** Driver should be well-rested and attentive to driving at all times. Cell phone use by the driver while the van is in motion should be prohibited. Driver should also limit conversation with other passengers, and drive time should be limited to eight hours per 24-hour period.

**SIZE** A 15-passenger van is substantially longer and wider than a car, and thus requires more space to maneuver. It also requires additional reliance on the side-view mirrors for changing lanes.



**SPEED** Drive at a safe speed based on driving conditions. Driver should never exceed the posted speed limit. Always slow down if the roads are wet or icy because 15-passenger vans do not respond well to abrupt steering maneuvers and require additional braking time.

**OCCUPANCY** Never allow more than 15 people to ride in a 15-passenger van. When the van is not full, passengers should sit in seats that are in front of the rear axle.

**CARGO** Cargo should be placed forward of the rear axle and placing any loads on the roof should be avoided. Do not tow anything behind the van. See the vehicle owner's manual for maximum weight of passengers and cargo and avoid overloading the van.

**SEAT BELTS** All occupants need to wear seat belts at all times. Inspect seat belts regularly and replace any missing, broken or damaged belts and/or buckles. An unrestrained 15-passenger van occupant involved in a single-vehicle crash is approximately three times as likely to be killed as a restrained occupant.



1-888-327-4236

# Employer Partnership Launches Powerful Job Search Tool

By Lt. Col. Matt Leonard, Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces

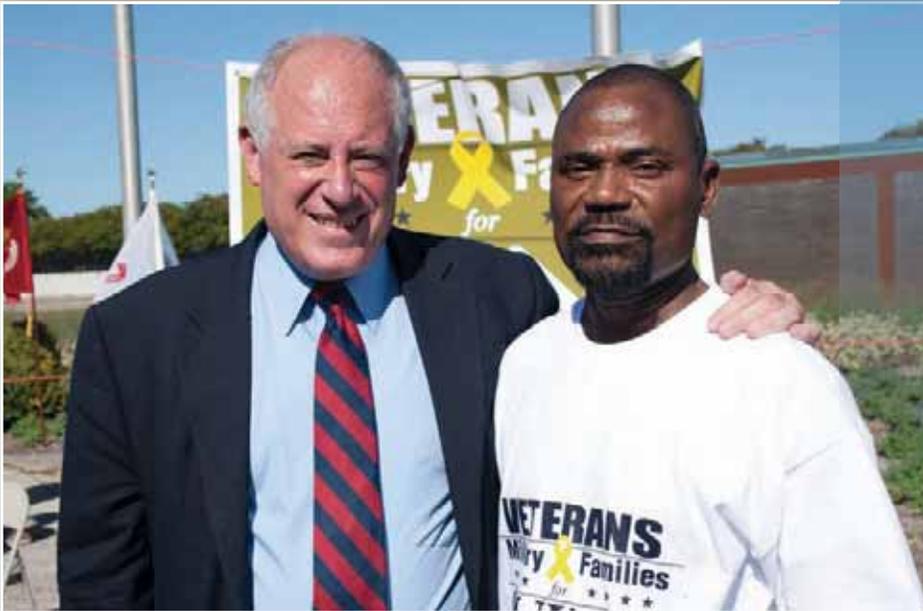
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces website. At the top, the logo is on the left and the user's name 'Jonathan Jacobsonstein' is on the right, with links to 'Complete your profile', 'Profile', and 'Sign Out'. The navigation menu includes 'SEARCH JOBS', 'CAREER RESOURCES', 'EMPLOYER PARTNERS', 'ABOUT', and 'MY HOME'. The 'QUICK JOB SEARCH' section has two input fields: 'Enter Keywords (Job, Title, Skill, Employer)' and 'Enter Location (City, State, or ZIP)', followed by a 'SEARCH' button and a link to 'Advanced Search'. Below the search section are two buttons: 'Find your Dream Job Sign Up Now' and 'Become an Employer Partner Click Here'. A large banner for 'FIND JOB OPENINGS FROM MILITARY-FRIENDLY EMPLOYER PARTNERS' features a soldier and a smiling man, with a 'JOIN NOW' button. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'CAREER COUNSELING' with a 'Find Yours Now' button, 'FEATURED COMPANIES' listing logos for United Health System, Amazon.com, GE, Adidas, and Southwest.com, and 'QUICK TIPS' with a 'See More' button. The footer includes social media icons for LinkedIn, Twitter, Vimeo, Facebook, and Flickr, along with a small FAQ link.

The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces launched its new, state-of-the-art web portal on Veteran's Day. The new tools offer Reserve Component personnel, their Family members, Wounded Warriors, and veterans increased capabilities when seeking employment opportunities. The portal also vastly improves our Employer Partner's access to skilled candidates.

No longer does a job seeker have to re-enter basic personal information every time a search is launched. Instead, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity. A user may now set-up a

personal profile so that he or she is able to save searches, search parameters and individual job announcements within their own "dashboard". By activating the alert option, seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers other useful features as well. The Resume Builder allows users to create and keep their resume available within the system. Service members have an additional feature available to them: access to the Program Support Manager network for career counseling and resume assistance. The new portal's functionality improvements make the search and



*Governor Pat Quinn poses with Aderemi Olodun, Program Support Manager for the Illinois, Michigan and Iowa Employer Partnership Office (EPO) Program, attends the Illinois Veterans and Military Families event held at Navy Pier in downtown Chicago, Il. on September 12, 2010.*



*Secretary Jessie White, Secretary of the State of Illinois, poses with Aderemi Olodun, Program Support Manager for the Illinois, Michigan and Iowa Employer Partnership Office (EPO) Program, during a Helmets to Hardhats funding raising event in downtown Chicago in October.*



application process much more efficient, saving Service members and other job seekers time.

But the improvements don't stop there. Employers will find the new portal more useful as well. They are now able to enter position vacancies directly into the system and track those jobs, applications and views through their company dashboard. Employers may also reach in to the system and locate the resumes of qualified candidates who may not have had the chance to apply themselves. So just by posting your resume you may be contacted by one of our military-friendly employer partners who need your skills.

If you had used the old job search engine you should definitely check out the new portal. Although the web link, [www.EmployerPartnership.org](http://www.EmployerPartnership.org) is the same, you are now in the driver's seat and this definitely is not your father's Oldsmobile.

Editor's note: The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces is a no-fee program which connects Service members, their Families and veterans with employment opportunities. The program has more than 1,150 military-friendly employer partners across the nation. ■

# SRP helps spell

*Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura*

DARIEN, Ill. – Somewhere in the Army there is a soldier getting ready for deployment. Somewhere in the Army there is a soldier coming back from deployment with all of his credit cards maxed out and a checking account with a zero balance and it was all done legally. This time it wasn't the soldier's spouse that took all of his money, but it was his roommate who legally acted as the soldier's power of attorney.

A divorced soldier in another part of the world lost his life in combat actions in Afghanistan. His Service Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate (form SGLV 8286) was not updated and 100 percent of his insurance policy went to his ex-spouse and not to his current spouse or his three children.

These stories and much more could have been easily avoided by attending every soldier's favorite time of the year, your units annual Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP).

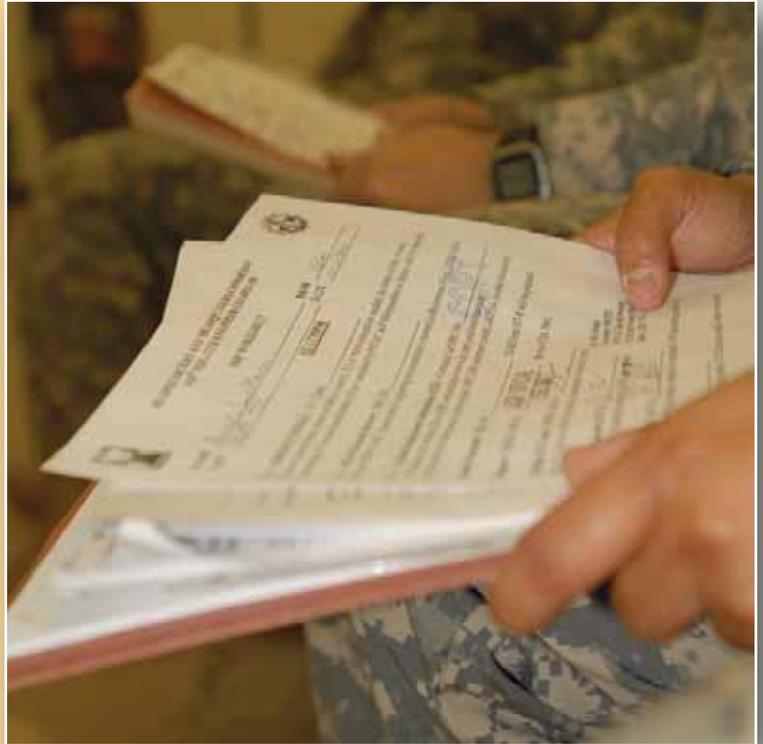
Some soldiers dread when they hear the acronym SRP, because of the constant sitting and scooting while trying to get every SRP checklist stamped and initialed. "It is important for soldiers to do SRP because in the Army Reserve in this day and age we have to be constantly ready," said Master Sgt. Catherine Lawrence of the G-1 Section for the 416th Theater Engineer Command. "With the new movement of automation and electronic submissions, individual readiness is a requirement.

Many issues that a soldier faces can be taken care of before they become problems. For instance, a soldier's deployment might get delayed because of an outdated security clearance that is required for the unit's mission. "One of the big issues is a soldier [who] says that they have a clearance but not having a particular access" said Staff Sgt. Eddie Kadan, 416th TEC's assistant G 2 .

"SRP is always important" said Kadan "In order to be that perfect warrior for the U.S. Army we have to be that perfect warrior in every aspect in admin and everything else."

Maj. Anne Brophy, the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the 416th TEC has seen many issues when it comes to deployments. Brophy feels that the SRP is here to put less stress on soldiers. "SRP is used to help out the soldiers in having a piece of mind" said Brophy. "We are here to keep the soldiers out of probate court later on so they have the necessary documents to make sure that their family and their loved ones are taken care of."

If soldiers just use patience in going through each section of the SRP process, they can rest assured that they are much more prepared for any issues that might derive somewhere overseas or even stateside. ■



*Soldiers can take up to an entire day to go to every Soldier Readiness Processing station. Soldiers are handed a checklist of every station that is involved in the SRP process.*

# R-E-L-I-E-F



*Sgt. Shawn Molloy, the 416<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command Supply Sergeant assists Sgt. Jorge Batres during the supply portion of the Soldier Readiness Processing. Soldiers were able to order new uniforms, identification tags and were issued OCIE (Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment).*



*Maj. Calvin Bergenheier, 416<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command G5, reviews his checklist as he sits in front of the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance line portion of the Soldier Readiness Processing. Soldiers must update their SGLV and DD form 93 if there are any changes or if their forms are outdated.*



# Medical Readiness in an Era of Persistent Conflict

By Maj. Eric Bullock (Command Surgeon General)

*It is the responsibility of RC Soldiers to maintain their medical and dental fitness. AR40-501a*

**A**fter nine years of persistent conflict there are very few of us left with any doubt as to why we serve in the Army Reserve. We are no longer a strategic force, used only as a last resort, but have accepted the mission of an operational reserve and must be ready to deploy at any time. If the fact that we potentially face a mobilization every few years has not convinced us that we must be able and ready to deploy, then the increasing frequency in which we are called to answer domestic and international disasters should.

Medical readiness is more than just a requirement to ensure mission success it is about taking care of the most valuable asset that we have, our soldiers. Every soldier in the Army Reserve has an obligation to themselves and the units that they are in to be ready when the call to action comes. The Soldiers Creed has a line that summarizes this mindset:

*I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself.*

Maintaining one's medical readiness is an ethical obligation. When we put on the uniform we accept the responsibilities of being physically prepared to deploy in the service of our nation. We most commonly think in terms of not using drugs, maintaining our weight, and passing an Army Physical Fitness Test; but beyond this is the requirement to maintain our medical readiness.

For years our commanders have wrestled with how to achieve the highest possible levels of medical readiness. In the pursuit of this goal, all levels of command have tried various techniques; the latest one is to provide the entire unit medical readiness screenings in mass events during the Battle Assembly (BA). This has been fairly effective in increasing the numbers and catching the bulk of the soldiers. There are a few draw backs to this method. Mass events are time intensive and consume our second most valuable commodity, training time. Even with these events we, command-wide, have only been able to achieve medical readiness of 63% as of the publication of this article.

What is it that has been missing in these efforts? I propose that we lost sight of that fact that this is a Soldiers responsibility and the leadership must educate and support the Soldier's efforts in maintaining their mission readiness.

In AR 40-501 Standards of Medical Fitness, often referred to as the "Medical Readiness Bible", there is a paragraph that clearly outlines our responsibilities as Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers:

*It is the responsibility of RC Soldiers to maintain their medical and dental fitness. This includes correcting remedial defects, avoiding harmful habits, and controlling weight. RC Soldiers are responsible for seeking medical advice and treatment*



*Far Left Article Author Maj. Eric Bullock*

*Near Left: Sgt. Jean Campbell explains the station rotation process to Sgt. David Fittanto during the SRP held at the 416th Theater Engineer Command Headquarters in Darin IL.*

*Below: Spc. Eric Baker gets his teeth examined by a nurse during an annual SRP held at the 416th Theater Engineer Command Headquarters in Darien IL.*

*quickly when they believe their physical wellbeing is in question. RC Soldiers must report to their unit commander, any change in their health status that impacts on their readiness status. (para 9-3.a.)*

Medical readiness is an individual responsibility, just as we must be competent in our soldier skills we must also be fully medically mission capable at any time. The Army Reserve has made great strides in providing us with the tools necessary to maintain our own medical readiness.

Every soldier is now able to view their current medical readiness in their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account. Open your AKO home page, select "My Medical" from the "Self Service" tab. Wait for the page to load and then select the "My Medical Readiness" button in the middle of the page. This will bring up a page with your Medical Readiness Status on the right side of the page. The stop lights give you a very quick visual understanding of your medical status. On the left side of the page are short articles that provide instructions on how you are able to fix your readiness status. These provide

*Continued on page 24*





*The 416th Theater Engineer Command HHC Commander Maj. Robert Kirkpatrick receives his annual Flu shot at the SRP held at the 416th TEC Headquarters in Darien IL.*

*(All Photos for this article by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura.)*

information and links to the key areas that you may need to address.

Periodic medical examinations that we conducted every five years have now been completely replaced with the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) conducted annually. Your PHA expires every year (12 months), currently as we work through the transition, you will note that it does not turn amber until 15 months, but you are expired at one year. The Unit Administrators (UAs) are no longer able to schedule the individual PHA. The soldier has to complete the online questionnaire (in AKO) and then call the RHRP help line at (800) 666-2833 to schedule their actual meeting with a physician. Generally, RHRP will also schedule a hearing test and a vision screening during the same visit. Your appointment will not be made until you call; this ensures that they have the opportunity to validate your phone number and address. A few days later you will receive a package in the mail with a copy of your instructions and any additional material required. Read the instructions, they will answer most of your questions.

Active Guard Reserve (AGR) soldiers must also complete a PHA annually. For those who are Tricare Prime Remote users then you follow the same process as the drilling reserve soldiers with the exception that you call (800) 697-4299. AGR soldiers who receive their primary care in an Army Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) should complete the online portion of the PHA and then see their Primary Care Manager (PCM) or the physicals department of the MTF to complete the physical portion. AGR soldiers who receive care at a sister service MTF are not able to complete their PHA through that facility. PHA is an Army only program, therefore these AGR soldiers will follow the same procedures as the Tricare Prime Remote soldiers.

When you attend your appointment take a copy of your current profile (available on AKO) and any medical documentation that you may have collected since your last PHA. If you have any medical conditions then the PHA will generate a new profile for you. If you do not provide information from your personal doctor then Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP) will assume the worst and you will find that you have a permanent 3 in your medical profile. This will generate the requirement for you to either request an adjustment to your profile or you will be boarded for possible separation. To avoid the extra paperwork, bring all your documents with you. If you have a new issue, at a minimum ensure that you have a letter from your doctor that provides the diagnosis, prognosis (what is the expected outcome), limitations and when they believe that you will achieve maximum function.

Should you be unable to attend the appointment, call the RHRP help desk and reschedule. Life happens and everyone realizes that, but if you are a no show at an appointment that you scheduled, you may be liable for the money that was wasted. The Army Reserve is charged for every missed visit.

I recently spent some time with Active Component (AC) Soldiers and was impressed by the fact that they try to align the PHA with their birth month. This makes a lot of sense for the AC as they have to see a portion of their population every month; otherwise the health care system would be overwhelmed. I believe that it is a model that we would do well to adopt. In a company of 120 Soldiers it is much easier to manage ten Soldiers every month than it is to process thirty quarterly or sixty every six months. This also will create a steady state of medical readiness with only one twelfth the population not ready at any given moment.



# News Release

5113 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041 • 703-681-3279 • [www.fhpr.osd.mil](http://www.fhpr.osd.mil)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
November 16, 2010

Contact: Laura Curtin  
703-681-3279 ext.179

## Reserve Health Readiness Program Information Now Online

Falls Church, VA – The Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP) today announced the launch of their new website: [www.fhpr.osd.mil/ForceReadiness/RHRP](http://www.fhpr.osd.mil/ForceReadiness/RHRP).

RHRP provides a range of medical and dental services to all Reserve Component forces including the Army Reserve and National Guard, Air National Guard and Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Forces Reserve, and U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Some services are also provided for Department of Defense Civilians and Active Duty Service members located in geographically remote areas.

The website has been designed to assist Reserve Component representatives, Service members, and Providers with understanding basic information about RHRP, its many diverse services, the processing of information gathered as a result of services and how to order RHRP services.

**About the Reserve Health Readiness Program:** RHRP is a Department of Defense, Health Affairs program developed by Force Health Protection & Readiness and executed by contractor, Logistics Health Incorporated. The program is designed to supplement the Reserve Component's readiness mission by providing Periodic Health Assessment (PHA), Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA), dental exams and x-rays, dental treatment, immunizations and other individual medical readiness services that satisfy key deployment requirements.

What about Dental readiness you might ask. The dental exam is also an annual requirement now and can either be vouchered by the UA or while scheduling your PHA, you can request your dental voucher also. The best practice would be that on your birth month, you know when that is, you call for your PHA and schedule your dental exam. It may take a few years for everyone to become synchronized with their birth

month as you have to have a minimum of ten months between exams, but it is a worthy goal.

Once you receive your dental exam, if there are any issues that would prevent you from mobilizing, then the Army Reserve will fix those for you. If you are a Dental Class 3 then the Army

*Continued on page 26*

Reserve dental program will provide you with enough treatment to get you to a Dental Class 2. A class 2 means that you should not have any significant issues in the next year. Free dental care is a RC benefit that did not exist before.

Did you know that the Army Reserve is now fully funded to provide you with two days of pay for taking care of your medical and dental readiness. Known as Army Reserve (AR) Medical/Dental readiness Inactive Duty Days or Readiness management Assembly (RMA) days, these will provide you with one active duty days worth of pay to attend you medical and dental appointments. You may receive up to a total of four

of these periods in a fiscal year (FY). So if you need an eye exam or dental treatment in addition to your two basic exams, you will be paid to go to the appointment.

The practice of monitoring your medical readiness status, taking care of your medical and dental exams on your birth month, and using your RMAs to pay for them ensures that when the call comes you will be ready to serve your nation. This will increase the time during BA that you can use to improve your individual and collective competencies so that when we have to answer the call, we will be technically and tactically proficient and truly "Army Strong." ■

## Helpful websites:

**Army Knowledge On-line (AKO)** [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil) — where you will find all you personal medical readiness information and instructions on how to complete your exams.

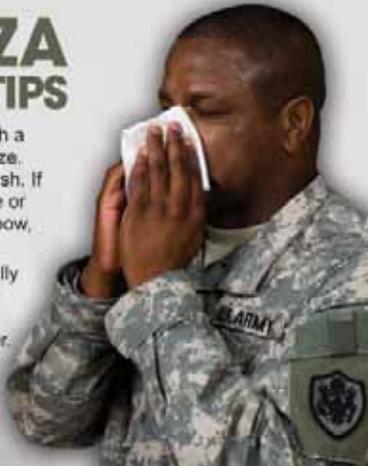
**Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP)** [www.fhpr.osd.mil/ForceReadiness/RHRP](http://www.fhpr.osd.mil/ForceReadiness/RHRP) — newly released site that provides a wealth of information about the PHA and services available.

**Hooah4Health** [www.hooah4health.com](http://www.hooah4health.com) — a great source of information on health issues for Soldiers

**Medical Operational Data System (MODS)** <https://www.mods.army.mil> — this is the current portal for many of the tools that we use in the medical arena; 68W tracking, Automated Voucher System (AVS), e-Profile, Health Readiness Record (HRR), Line of Duty (LOD), and Medical Protection System (MEDPROS).

### INFLUENZA PREVENTION TIPS

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the used tissue in the trash. If a tissue is not available, sneeze or cough into the inside of your elbow, not your hand.
- Wash your hands often especially after you cough or sneeze.
  - Use soap and water or
  - Use alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Stay away from people who are sick.



- Symptoms of influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If you feel sick, contact your health care provider.
- If you are sick, limit your contact with other people as much as possible. Stay home from work or school.
- Clean high-touch surfaces daily (such as doorknobs, handles, light switches, and desks) with household disinfectant. Also clean contaminated surfaces such as bedside tables, bathroom surfaces, and kitchen counters.
- Try to stay in general good health. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat healthy food.
- Get the seasonal flu vaccination each year.



**USACHPPM** U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine  
(800) 222-9698 / DSN 584-4375 / (410) 436-4375  
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>

PA 11-2008



## Army Reserve

# ATTENTION AR SOLDIERS!

FREE DENTAL CARE is now available for Class 3 and 4 Conditions!

Class 1 or 2 AR Soldiers, don't become a Class 4. Maintain your readiness by getting a FREE annual exam. See your Unit Administrator today, or call 1-800-666-2833 for an appointment.



**CLASS 1**  
FREE EXAM  
IF 10 MONTHS SINCE LAST

**CLASS 2**  
FREE EXAM  
IF 10 MONTHS SINCE LAST

**CLASS 3**  
FREE DENTAL TREATMENT

**CLASS 4**  
FREE DENTAL EXAM



**DEPLOYABLE**

**DENTAL READY = MISSION READY**

### HOW DO I GET MY FREE DENTAL CARE?

Pick up your phone and call your Unit Administrator (UA), or call 1-800-666-2833 to get the ball rolling. Go to the U.S. Army Reserve Command Surgeon web page at [www.us.army.mil/suite/page/51950](http://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/51950), for more information.

### How is dental readiness determined and why is it important?

The dental fitness classification is the primary measure of a Soldier's dental readiness. The commander can use the dental fitness classification of unit personnel as an index of dental preparedness and to identify individuals who will require treatment during mobilization. The Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System (ASDRS) provides dental treatment for Class 3 AR Soldiers, and annual exams for ALL AR Soldiers outside of mobilization. The DOD Dental Classification Guideline and AR 40-35 outline the following dental fitness classifications:

#### Standardized Dental Fitness Classifications\*

- Class 1:** Worldwide Deployment with no further treatment required.
- Class 2:** Worldwide Deployment with need for non-urgent routine treatment.
- Class 3:** Nondeployable without treatment for urgent conditions that likely will cause a dental emergency within 12 months.
- Class 4:** Nondeployable with no examination documented within the past 12 months.

\*A Synopsis of Reference: DoD Health Affairs: Policy 02-011 on the Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications, 4 June 2004

# Farewell Great Leader

Story by Sgt. Maj. Janet M. Jones



The U.S. Army Reserve will lose one of its most valuable assets in September 2010 when CSM John Werner will retire with 41 years of service. “I don’t remember a day I did not want to be a

soldier,” he recalled, “All of my family served.”

His life as command sergeant major in the Army Reserve has been as steady and reliable as his reputation; from August 1989 as senior enlisted Soldier of the 367<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Wheeled), to the 397<sup>th</sup> EN BN (Combat) (Mechanized), 302<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Bn., 8802<sup>nd</sup> HQ BDE, 644<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, and finally the 88<sup>th</sup> RRC in 1999, a command over more than nine brigades, with 27,000 soldiers in six states.

When the opportunity presented itself to deploy with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Werner was off to Regional Command-South, headquartered in Kandahar, Afghanistan. There he continues on his path of consistent success, with a mandatory retirement date looming in October 2010.

Though more than half his military career has been as a command sergeant major, he believes his greatest impact was while serving as first sergeant. “I like to think I’ve held myself and the organization to a high standard and have not let go of that standard.” He reminisced about instances at the gas station near home when he would run into those who had served under him. “Someone will recognize me and say ‘Hey, Top!’ ...I say, no, now I’m John. But they always answer, ‘You’ll always be the first sergeant to me!’”

Despite the active pace of his life and military involvement, Werner claimed to have balance in his life. His response was based not on leisure activities, but on more work and service. His wife, Barb, stated, “For as long as I can remember,

John has always loved serving...” He has served 20 years as a scoutmaster (both of his sons earned Eagle Scout), six years on his local town board, and also made time for a successful 38-year marriage and raising three kids. With a long history of choosing his path at a young age, he and Barb have been together since fourth grade.

“Some people say being in a rut is bad; I like consistency,” stated Werner, with typical understatement. “Consistency helps me find my way back to the center line.” His love of consistency and tradition is in evidence with his continuation of a long-term family tradition; first son, Thomas, is named after the paternal grandfather. Both sons, John and Thomas, are deployed in OEF, both master sergeants-promotable. Daughter Julie, an elementary ed. teacher, is married to an Air Guard Lieutenant.

On mornings at home, Werner stops on his way to work for coffee with his Dad at 0530 every morning with the greeting, “I’m here to get your heart started!” Serving his final year of military service from Afghanistan, Werner maintains ties to home by calling his wife and his Dad frequently.

COL Michael Evenson, Deputy Commanding Officer, 372<sup>nd</sup> EN BDE, has known Werner since the late 1980s.

He described him as, “A Soldier’s Soldier”; a lead from the front’ dude! You’ve heard this before, but only if you knew his true passion and competence in this profession would you realize that these are hallowed words that provide true meaning in summarizing a 41-year career.” He added, “He was always the standard bearer and will forever be remembered accordingly.”

While many who have worked with him are equally fierce and eloquent in their praise, one can sum up this soldier in a sentence. He did it himself, stating, “If I give my word, the only person who’s going to break it is you.” Truly a man, a soldier of honor. ■

## CSM WERNER’S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS INCLUDE

**The Bronze Star Medal • Legion of Merit • Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf cluster) • Army Commendation Medal • Army Achievement Medal (with three oak leaf cluster) • Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with nine oak leaf cluster) • National Defense Service Medal (with two bronze stars) • Vietnam Service Medal (with three campaign stars) • Humanitarian Service Medal • Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (with one oak leaf cluster) • Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with gold and bronze hourglass and ‘M’ device w/ numeral 2) • NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with numeral 4) • Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal • Korean Service Medal • Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with one star) • Master Parachutists Badge • and the Engineer Regiments Silver and Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal**



1) CSM Werner (front row, center) is pictured with a number of the 372 EN BDE Soldiers he was instrumental in recruiting for a current Afghanistan deployment. The photo was taken in late August 2009 at Fort Snelling. Within a week, Werner deployed to Kandahar Afghanistan with the Army Corps of Engineers.

2) Werner watched over a construction inspection on COP Bakwa in Farah Province, where an Afghan National Police station project was recently completed.

3) John Werner preparing for a parachute jump with the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, NC, 1973.

4) Pictured (3rd from left), John Werner during his Vietnam service in July 1971.

5) CSM John Werner at a recent construction site in southern Afghanistan.

Previous page: A photo typical of Werner's persona and stance, taken in July 2010 just before his redeployment from Afghanistan.

All photos U.S. ARMY

Thank you

# The United States Army Engineer Regiment presents the de Fleury Medal

**A**s the Corps of Engineers implemented the US Army Regimental system, the senior Engineer leadership sought a method for the Corps of Engineers to honor those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.

The Army Regimental System was developed to emphasize the history, customs, and traditions of the Corps; so MG Daniel R. Schroeder, then Commanding General of Fort Leonard Wood and Engineer School Commandant, wanted an award that would tie in with the beginnings of the nation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1777, a French Engineer volunteered to serve with the American Army in its fight for independence from Britain. Francois Louis Tesseidre de Fleury was born in St. Hippolyte, France in 1749; was trained as an engineer; and served in the French Army during the Corsican campaign.

The Continental Congress appointed de Fleury a captain of engineers, and he quickly proved himself. Wounded at the battles of Fort Mifflin and Brandywine (where his horse was shot out from under him), he soon became Lt. Col. de Fleury.

But it was in the desperate battle at Stony Point, New York in 1779 that de Fleury's courage under fire won him the accolades of Congress.



In June of 1779 two small American forts were being established on the Hudson River at Stony Point and Verplanck's Point, about 30 miles from Manhattan Island. A large British force easily captured both sites. The enemy began building a strong defensive perimeter around Stony Point.

The Point was actually a peninsula jutting nearly half a mile into the Hudson, tipped with rocky crags which shot up 150 feet above the river. On the landward side was swamp which flooded at high tide, sinking a causeway running to the shore under two feet of water and making the Point an island.

The formidable defense included several batteries partially connected by trenches, log and earth redoubts around the main fort, and a double abatis. It was called "Little Gibraltar".

General George Washington was disturbed by the capture of the two forts. British occupation gave them control of a vital segment of the river and rerouted American communications, supplies and troops moving between New England and the other colonies. Worse, General Washington was convinced the enemy was preparing to strike West Point, less than 15 miles upriver.

American reinforcements were quickly moved into position north of Stony Point, but Washington thought there was no hope of recapture. A recently formed light infantry corps led by the daring Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, consisted of hand picked combat veterans. The group was made up of four regiments of about 340 men each. Colonel Christian "Old Denmark" Feibiger headed the 1st Regiment with de Fleury as second in command.

On July 15th the Corps, except for a small diversionary force, unloaded weapons and turned in their ammunition. Secrecy was so tight the troops did not know they were going to attempt to recapture Stony Point. For such a risky assault, surprise was vital; and the attack was to take place in total darkness. Fixed bayonets and hand-to-hand combat were the orders of the day. Wayne's column had no



*Left: Col. Lawrence Slavicek received the Bronze Deflurry medal for his metorius service at the 416th Theater Engineer Command in Darien IL on the September Battle Assembly.*

*Right: Sgt. Maj. Victor Imhoff received the Bronze Deflurry medal for his metorius service at the 416th Theater Engineer Command in Darien IL on the September Battle Assembly.*

*(Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura.)*

sooner slosed into the waist-deep water before a British picket sent up an alarm. During the fierce fighting, Wayne and Febiger both suffered stunning head wounds.

The Continentals scrambled up the rocky slope with de Fleury in the lead. First over the wall, de Fleury was followed by a wave of American bayonets. Rushing to the flag pole, de Fleury cut the British colors from their staff.

In addition to the recapture of Stony Point, the defeat of the British fired the Americans' determination and lifted their morale. And it showed the enemy that the colonies had an able fighting force.

So it was that on 1 October 1779, de Fleury stood before the Continental Congress to be praised for his valor at Stony Point by the men who had penned the Declaration of Independence and would later sign the Constitution. For his intrepid behavior, the Continental Congress awarded a medal struck in his honor.

The Engineer Regiment adopted

the de Fleury Medal as an award because of the values demonstrated by the man for whom it was struck - values of special meaning to Engineer Soldiers. It is understood that the de Fleury Medal was the first Congressional Medal struck, if not the first medal authorized.

On the obverse of the medal is the Latin inscription meaning: "A MEMORIAL AND REWARD FOR COURAGE AND BOLDNESS". In the center appears the image of a helmeted soldier standing amidst the ruins of a fort, holding in his right hand an unsheathed sword, and in his left the staff of the enemy's flag, which he tramples underfoot.

On the reverse, again in Latin: "FORTIFICATIONS, MARSHES, ENEMIES OVERCOME". In the center the fortress at Stony Point is depicted with both turrets and a flag flying. At the base of the hill are two shore batteries, one of which is firing at one of six vessels on the Hudson River. Beneath the fort is the legend: "STONY POINT CARRIED BY STORM, JULY 15, 1779".

The Engineer Regiment makes three award levels of the de Fleury Medal. The BRONZE Medal may be presented to an individual who has rendered significant service or support to an element of the Engineer Regiment. The SILVER Medal may only be awarded to an individual who has rendered outstanding and significant support or service to the Engineer Regiment.

The United States Army Chief of Engineers awards only one GOLD Medal each year to an individual who exemplifies boldness, courage, and commitment to a strong national defense.

Presentation of the de Fleury Medal, to those individuals meeting established criteria, was started by the Engineer Regiment as the move of the Engineer School from Fort Belvoir, Virginia to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri was completed in 1989. The GOLD Medal presentation is the highlight of the annual Engineer Regimental Dinner held at Fort Leonard Wood each spring. ■



# Wounded Warriors Write Winter Wish Lists

*Story and Photo by Kristen Wong*

KANEOHE — All Lance Cpl. Joshua Kelly wants for Christmas is a cane.

When deployed in Afghanistan, the 23-year-old broke 12 bones in his feet after encountering an improvised explosive device. Since then, this Purple Heart recipient has had at least 14 surgeries and is undergoing physical therapy.

Through the United Services Organization of Hawaii's second annual Holiday Gifts for Wounded Warriors, the patient from Wounded Warrior Battalion West – Detachment Hawaii can replace his slightly bent cane.

"It's a very amazing and highly supportive program," Kelly said. "It shows that there are people out there that care."

Shoppers at Windward Mall on Nov. 13 donated a total of 12 large bags full of gifts for the wounded warriors of every military branch in Hawaii.

"This is a great community endeavor that shows our continuing support for those that give so much to our country, and expect so little," said Eva Laird Smith, director of USO Hawaii.

Kelly, along with Lance Cpls. Joseph Leon and Matthew Shepherd, patients at the detachment on base, supported the drive at the mall and thanked donors. Leon and Shepherd are both Dallas Cowboys fans and wish for any team memorabilia.

"Not everybody has time to go and buy gifts ... it helps the Marines' morale," said Leon, of Houston.

Shepherd said the drive is especially great not every wounded warrior can go home for the holidays.

"It's nice to see people show their appreciation for what we do," the native of Fresno, Calif., said.

Wounded warriors from here and Schofield Barracks asked for simple gifts, including guitar strings, gift cards and DVDs.

"They love it," said Barbara Troegner, program manager, USO Hawaii, of the warrior's response to the gifts. "It boosts their morale."

Comedian Frank DeLima, Salem Media of Hawaii disc jockeys, and four current and former Miss Chinatown pageant winners made appearances in support of the drive.

The Red Hot Flashes of Hawaii, a local chapter of the internationally known Red Hat Society, volunteered by handing out fliers and collecting gifts.

"The military is very close and dear to our hearts," said Milly Chun, the vice chair of the Red Hot Flashes of Hawaii. "[We] do everything we can to support our veterans and wounded warriors."

Betsy Pierce, of Laguna, N.M., contributed Barbie toys and toy cars at the drive. Pierce's father was a Marine, and a wounded warrior, having lost his leg in the Vietnam War.

"It's very near and dear to my heart," Pierce said. "I like to [shop] and donate my time."

Fellow service members like Staff Sgt. Shiloh Linden, airframes mechanic, for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, supported the drive.

"It might be me one day, you never know," Linden said. "It's Christmas time. You've got to give."

Petty Officer 1st Class Alvaro Munoz, machinery repairman, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, and his wife, a personnel specialist at Combat Logistics Battalion 3, handed out fliers and wish lists. Munoz, of Dallas, said spouses of wounded warriors may be very busy taking care of them and not have a lot of time to go shopping for their children's' holiday gifts.

Wounded Warrior Battalion West – Detachment Hawaii has transitioned at least 70 wounded warriors to civilian life or full duty.

For those unable to attend the Windward Mall event, donations will be accepted at the USO Airport Center or the USO Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. For more information about the USO, visit <http://www.uso.org/hawaii>. ■





*Jennifer Hong of Honolulu donates a travel mug, toys and books for the Holiday Gifts for Wounded Warriors drive at Windward Mall in Hawaii on Nov. 13.*

## G1/Medical

**Command Soldier Readiness Process (SRP):** 416th TEC's Suspense is 15 January 2011!

## CSM

**NCO Summit** is around the corner: 21-23 JAN 2011! This summit is targeting Company level First Sergeants and Detachment NCOIC's. Here are some of the topics of discussion:

- Medical Readiness
- Unit Manning Roster
- Non Participants
- Evaluations/Awards
- NCO Training
- ITRS
- NO Shows for Schools
- Soldier Funding/Training Funds
- Mobilization/RTC/Home Station
- Public Affairs/UPARs
- Religious Activities
- Advancements (E-1 to E-4)
- Yellow Ribbon
- Junior Promotions/Senior Promotions
- Best Warrior Competition
- AGR Management
- Family Programs/ Employee Partnership (Army Reserve)
- Equal Opportunity
- Inspector General/Legal Matters
- Drug Demand Reduction
- CSM and SGM Management



# EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES

## Program Support Managers

Command/Unit	City, State	Coverage	PSM	Bus. Cell	AKO/USARC e-mail
380th AG Battalion	Bothell, WA	AK OR WA	Mr. John Patterson	404-313-2497	john.pattersonii@usar.army.mil
368th MI Battalion	Oakland, CA	CA(N) NV(W)	Mr. Richard (Phil) Stage	404-323-4685	phil.stage@usar.army.mil
311th QM HHC Sustainment Cmd (EXP)	Los Angeles, CA	CA(S)	Ms. Faggins Angel	404-313-2459	angel.faggins@usar.army.mil
96th QM HHC Sustainment Brigade	Salt Lake City, UT	ID NV(E) UT	Mr. Chuck Rackham	404-323-4788	charus.rackham@usar.army.mil
301st MI Battalion	Phoenix, AZ	AZ	Mr. Scott Essex	404-323-4759	scott.essex@usar.army.mil
651st Regional Support Group (RSG)	Aurora, CO	CO MT WY	Mr. Mark Simonsen	404-323-4853	mark.simonsen@usar.army.mil
807th MEDCOM Ops Cmd Post	Seagoville, TX	NM TX	Mr. Ron Bouldin	404-313-2492	ronald.bouldin@usar.army.mil
372nd Engineer Brigade	Fort Snelling, MN	MN ND SD WI	Ms. Renee Chase	404-313-2557	renee.chase1@usar.army.mil
209th Regional Support Group (RSG)	Belton, MO	KS MO NE OK	Mr. Robert Hancock	404-323-4847	bob.hancock@usar.army.mil
416th Theater Engineer Command	Darien, IL	IA IL MI	Mr. Aderemi Olodun	404-323-4721	aderemi.o.olodun@usar.army.mil
HQ, 310th ESC	Indianapolis, IN	IN OH(W)	Mr. Dan Pence	404-313-2776	danny.pence@us.army.mil
1179th Transportation Group	Fort Hamilton, NY	NJ NY(E)	Mr. Robert Pignatelli	404-323-4749	robert.pignatelli@usar.army.mil
405th Combat Support Hospital	Worcester, MA	CT ME MA NH RI VT	Mr. Ken Forchielli	404-323-4773	kenneth.forchielli@usar.army.mil
640th Regional Support Group (RSG)	Nashville, TN	AL(N) KY TN	Mr. Roger Quilty	404-323-4764	roger.quilty@usar.army.mil
316th QM HHC Sustainment Cmd (EXP)	Coraopolis, PA	NY(W) OH(E) PA WV	Mr. Ray Luppe	404-323-4087	ray.luppe@usar.army.mil
352nd CA Command	Fort Meade, MD	DE DC MD VA	Mr. Carl Peters	404-313-2522	carl.f.peters2@usar.army.mil
207th QM HHC GP RGN SPT	Fort Jackson, SC	NC SC	Mr. George Goldsmith, Jr	404-313-2337	george.goldsmith@usar.army.mil
642d Regional Support Group (RSG)	Decatur, GA	AL(S) GA	Mr. Allen D. Froman	404-313-2317	allen.froman@usar.army.mil
HQ, 377th TSC (AR ELM)	New Orleans, LA	AR LA MS	Mr. Dave Lemaire	985-788-5301	dave.lemaire@usar.army.mil
HQ, 143d Sustainment Cmd (EXP)	Orlando, FL	FL	Ms. Rachel Foster	404-313-2526	rachel.foster@usar.army.mil



# Minnesota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve honors McGough Construction with its Highest Award

*(Oakdale, MN) – McGough Construction received the Minnesota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve’s (ESGR) highest award, the Pro Patria Award, on June 7th.*

**T**he Pro Patria Award is the highest state-level award given to a civilian employer by ESGR, an agency within the United States Department of Defense. The award was presented to Tom McGough, Jr. and John Pfeifer, by A. Paul Monteen, Minnesota ESGR’s chairman. McGough was nominated by US Army Reserve Major William Scherling. Also on stage to present the award and honor McGough were Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy, and ESGR National Chairman James Rebholz.

Each year, three employers are honored for their support of employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve; one from each of the following categories: large

employer (over 500 employees), small employer (less than 500), and Public/Government employers. Recipients of the award demonstrate exceptional support for United States national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to serve as Guard members and Reservists.

Major Scherling stated that McGough Construction has instituted policies that provide pay differential and continued benefits to his family during his year-long deployment to Afghanistan. McGough sent over 50 care packages to Scherling and his team while they were in country. On the home front, McGough employees checked on Major Scherling’s wife and three daughters weekly and made sure to recognize birthdays and Christmas with the family. When he

returned, McGough welcomed him back with open arms. Major Scherling writes: “I could not have asked for a more supportive employer.”

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflict through mediation.

ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. Please contact Chris Campbell at (651) 282-4285 for more information on ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities. ■



Staff Sgt. LuzMaria Arroyo of the 416<sup>th</sup> TEC (pictured right) nominated her employer Mack Truck Inc. for the Patriot Award presented by Tom Gorski of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) (pictured center). Accepting the award is Keith Schoeder, the director of distribution for Mack and Volvo (pictured left). The National Committee for ESGR conducts an awards program designed to recognize employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force. Employers qualify for recognition when they practice leadership and personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve. (Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andy Yoshimura, 416<sup>th</sup> TEC PAO.)



Pro Patria Award Winner for Small Company - McGough Construction. L-R: Minnesota ESGR State Chair A. Paul Monteen, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy, Brad Wood, Major Bill Scherling (416<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, 372<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Brigade, 871<sup>st</sup> Engineer Detachment at Ft McCoy), John Pfeifer, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, and National ESGR Chair Jim Rebholz. (Photo by Chris Campbell.)

# Army Reserve Engineers End Iraq Tour Supporting Troops in Afghanistan

Story and Photos by Sgt. Rebecca Linder, Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Soldiers deploying to support two wars in one year doesn't happen often, but soldiers of the 367th Engineer Battalion and 492nd Engineer Company, both of the U.S. Army Reserve, have supported soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait, and are now supporting servicemembers in Afghanistan.

Initially mobilized to help sustain construction projects for the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq, these vertical engineers have taken on a new mission to finish construction projects in Afghanistan to provide more permanent-living space for troops within the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) in the capital region.

"The biggest reason this mission is important is that housing is a very limited commodity within the KBC and there are a lot of troops that need to move in to accomplish missions; there just isn't the permanent housing available right now," said Capt. Joel Welter, 367th deputy of operations. "We want to move people into these buildings and out of tents before winter sets in."

Relocating from Kuwait, these units have taken on a number of high-priority construction projects within the KBC, but the main focus is the pre-engineered buildings (PEB) located on Camp Phoenix and Camp Alamo.

"A PEB refers to a building that essentially comes in a kit," said Welter.



*Spc. Brandon Cordie, Carpentry/Masonry Specialist, 492nd Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve, runs wire through an electrical outlet while working on a pre-engineered building (PEB) Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Cordie and members of the Minnesota-based 492nd are finishing the final months of their deployment at Camp Phoenix working on PEBs, which will house more than 1,200 U.S. and coalition forces.*

"It comes together as subcomponents and they are put together on site."

A total of 10 PEBs are being worked on by this Minnesota-based unit for the next month and will complete as many of the PEBs as possible before finalizing their year-long tour.

To help bring these unfinished buildings up to code, the soldiers are ensuring electrical standards are in compliance and are safe for servicemembers," said Sgt. Jordan Dibble, electrical supervisor, 492nd.

Ensuring these buildings are safe comes with ease for these engineers – having had prior experiences with PEBs in Iraq – they are ready for the challenge and started working on the project within days of arriving to the construction site.

"The 492nd was actually selected for this mission based on their experience of putting together a pre-engineered building in Iraq," said Welter, of St. Anthony Village, Minn. "They had a large degree of success with that. It was



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1) Sgt. Tyler Daniels, Bravo Company, 186th Brigade Support Battalion, Vermont Army National Guard, welds two poles together Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Daniels and members of the U.S. Army Reserve unit based in Mankato, Minn., are providing construction work on 10 pre-engineered buildings (PEB) at Camp Phoenix and Camp Alamo. These PEBs will house more than 1,200 U.S. and coalition forces to help relieve the limited space for troops serving in the capital region.

2) Spc. Colton Rozeboom, Electrician, 492nd Engineer Company, sorts through electrical wire before running it through conduit Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan.

3) Spc. Joshua Mchugh, right, Carpentry/Masonry Specialist holds heating, ventilating and air conditioning tubing while Staff Sgt. Joshua Anderson, both members of the 492nd Engineer Company, tapes the tubes together on Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan.

a mission that sat idle for more than two years...and the 492nd rolled in with their 2nd platoon and actually knocked it out two months ahead of schedule."

Because of their dedicated work, soldiers living in tents will soon be able to enjoy the comforts of living in permanent housing. The 10 two-story buildings, which will house more than 1,200 personnel, will contain rooms made for two people with showers and

bathrooms located inside each building. Each room will also be wired to accommodate cable and electricity-needed items such as computers and lamps, said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Toleno, 492nd platoon sergeant.

"The electrical work we have started on will provide lighting, heat, air conditioning, outlets for utilities, fire alarms, which will all help to boost morale," said Dibble, of Westbrook, Minn. "There are enough outlets to plug in what you need, not like in a tent where everyone is waiting around one outlet to use their computer."

"All the soldiers are excited to be here, excited about the nature of the work they are doing and having the

chance to do something gainful," said Welter. "A lot of them haven't had the chance to come here before and it is good to end the deployment on a positive note helping other servicemembers."

With the soldiers working eight to 12-hour shifts to complete as much as possible, they will be able to achieve their goal of providing more permanent housing for the troops serving in the KBC.

"I'm glad to be finishing up these buildings here so our troops can move out of the tents into these nicer buildings," said Spc. Colton Rozeboom, electrician for the 492nd, of Sioux Center, Iowa. "It is going to be a good accomplishment for us ending our tour to improve the Soldier's way of living." ■

# 416th Builds Community Relationships

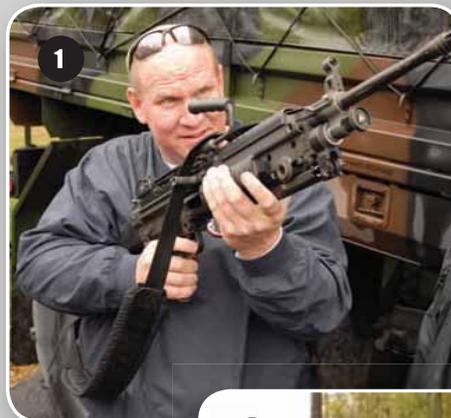
*Story and Photos by Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson*

**T**he 416th Theater Engineer Command HHC reached out to the local community in October by participating in the annual Tri-State Fire Protection District Open House in Darien, IL. The Fire District puts on the Open House on the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 to increase community awareness on fire safety and to just get in touch with the locals.

The Fire Marshall, Dave Zalesiak, does everything he can to attract the community to participate. There's cotton candy, hot chocolate, coffee, free BBQ, and countless give-a-ways for families. "We want to show the public what resources they have available to them and what we do", said Zalesiak. Even the Department of Homeland Security sends a representative to give out information to families on how to prepare for possible disasters.

The whole event aims to be fun for children, yet very informative to families. The 416th TEC has been part of the open house for the last few years and has used the opportunity to show the community what they do, reinforce community safety and increase recruiting possibilities. "It's great that the Tri-State Fire District gives us this chance to show how much we are a part of the community fabric. Most residents of the area don't know we are close by, but they're always pleasantly surprised to find out we're nearby and that we have been part of the efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan", said the 416th TEC Public Affairs Officer, Maj. Bruce Townshend.

In a parking lot filled with Fire Trucks, Ambulances, K-9 units, and unique police interceptors the 416th Army Vehicles and displays add an extra touch of attraction for the Open House. "Firemen and Army go together for children. They love both of them. They see the Army Trucks and they're all in heaven", said Fire Marshall Zalesiak. He also said the Army Displays have become a favorite for the children every year and are really important to help attract the local community. ■





1) Assistant Fire Marshall Steve Riley checks out a Squad Automatic Weapon that was put on display at the Tri-State Fire Protection District open house in Darien IL.

2) Fire Fighter Engineer John Ostrander and looks on as Fire Fighter Lt. Mark Reynolds holds the Squad Automatic Weapon.

3) Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Brown explains the features of the Squad Automatic Weapon as he hands it off to Fire Fighter Lt. Mark Reynolds.

4, 5, 6) Local children enjoy sitting in the large Army Trucks on display at the Tri-State Fire Protection District open house held in Darien IL.

7, 8, 10) Children from the western suburbs of Chicago try out various pieces of equipment from the 416th TEC.

9) Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Brown of the 416th TEC shows a child the front sights of an inactive display weapon.

# AROUND THE ARMY

*Photos from the Field*



1) Staff Sgt. Banesa Plazola of the 416th TEC and other members of International Security Assistance Force Joint Command celebrate after climbing Mountain Gahr in Kabul Afghanistan. From left to right starting with the Marine going Clock Wise. 1LT Zachary Cook, 1LT William Luker, MAJ Timothy Forrest(DCP), SSG Tavis Nicholson(DCP), SSG Banesa Plazola(DCP), 1LT Curtis Million, CPT Peter Ubbelohde(DCP).

2) Members of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command celebrate Cinco De Mayo with an Engineer Castle Pinatta contest in Kabul Afghanistan.

3) Maj. Victoria McGhee of the 416th Theater Engineer Command is honored with the pouring of white wine into the ENCOM associations "Grog bowl" during the Desert Storm/Desert Shield ENCOM Association Reunion held in Schaumburg IL.

4) Chief Navy Career Counselor Katie Cruz, assigned to Navy Recruiting District Seattle, serves food to Army veteran Tony Beck at the VA Medical Center in Seattle, Wash., during a Thanksgiving dinner for veterans and their family members.



5) Sgt. 1st Class Joel Quebec, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, practices his empty hand forms during his warm up period prior to the beginning of competition at the Fire Dragon Karate Championship held in Austin, Texas Oct. 23. Quebec took first place in this category. (Photo by: 2nd Lt. Alex Delgado, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

6) U.S. Army Sgt. Jerome Blas of Barrigada, Guam, Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah Security Forces Team Chief, receives a gift

from U.S. Navy Lt. Gareth Evans of San Diego, PRT Farah Physician Assistant, dressed as Santa Claus during a special Christmas in September celebration at Forward Operating Base Farah, Afghanistan, Sept. 12. The event was orchestrated by Evans, who contacted friends and family in the U.S. to donate gifts to service members assigned to PRT Farah. More than 300 gifts were donated by more than 30 people throughout the U.S., in addition to donations from Costa Rica and Europe.

7) Children are served sundaes at City Hall on St. Paul Island, Alaska, Nov. 6, during the Alaska National Guard's Operation Santa Claus annual outreach to the state's remote communities.

8) SPC Karina Lopez of the 416th Theater Engineer Command Deployable Command Post is hazed by her comrades to celebrate her 21st birthday in Kabul Afghanistan.

# UPAR Photo of the Quarter

