



Peacemaker

The official magazine of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)

Spring 2011

Jumping for the border

The 301st TPC makes the unusual the norm



432nd leaves for Afghanistan

Courage, in the face of fire

Part-time Soldier, full time cowboy



Paratroopers of the 301st Tactical Psychological Operations Company walk in the darkness to the assembly area on Farm drop zone at Edwards Air Force Base on January 21, 2011. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski)

Peacemaker

From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of *Peacemaker*— The official magazine of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). It is our sincere hope that you both enjoy and learn something from this magazine.

We will be publishing *Peacemaker* quarterly and our intent is that it be filled with stories about our individual and collective achievements both at home and abroad as well as providing

information about programs, policies, and upcoming events important to you.

But, we need your help. The public affairs office at USACAPOC(A) is a group of talented and eager journalists but we're made up of a small number of full-timers and TPU Soldiers. We can't be everywhere— but you can. Let us know what's going on in your unit; invite us to your training events and exercises; tell us about Soldiers who've gone

above and beyond; and send us your photos and stories. We'll post them to the USACAPOC(A) Facebook, Flickr and Twitter pages and we'll print the best here in the magazine.

Keep up the great work, the superb attitude, and we'll look for you in the pages of *Peacemaker* in the issues to come.

-Lt. Col. Gerald Ostlund

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On the cover: Capt. Troy Royko, Jumpmaster with the 301st Tactical PSYOP Co., checks a paratrooper before a night jump on January 21, 2011. (U.S. Army photograph by Staff Sgt Felix R. Fimbres)



A paratrooper from the 351st Civil Affairs Command walks off the drop zone at Edwards Air Force Base during battle assembly weekend on January 22, 2011. (U.S. Army photograph by Staff Sgt Felix R. Fimbres)



GOT NEWS?

We need your help finding the best stories, the best Soldiers, and the best units doing what USACAPOC(A) is known for. If your unit is doing something amazing, one of your Soldiers is setting an example for the rest of your command, or your unit is conducting some amazing Civil Affairs or Military Information Support training or missions, let us know. If your event has already taken place, send us some photos with identifying information— we'll give you the byline. Email your pitch or some photos to: usacapoc-pao@ar-usacapoc.army.mil



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Paratroopers from the 351st Civil Affairs Command descend onto Edwards Air Force Base during battle assembly weekend on January 22, 2011. (U.S. Army photograph by Staff Sgt Felix R. Fimbres)



Commanding General

Maj. Gen. David N. Blackledge

Whenever I'm asked "what's it like being the USACAPOC(A) commander?" I have only one thing to say — It's awesome! I get to command the best Soldiers in the Army. USACAPOC(A) Soldiers continually amaze me with their performance, professionalism, and attitude; I am so very proud of our Soldiers and Families who have sacrificed so much, so often, without complaint.

Our members routinely go above and beyond to get the job done at home and abroad. Our Soldiers regularly volunteer to fill battle rosters because they know how important our work

is to securing peace not only in Afghanistan and Iraq, but in the Philippines, the Horn of Africa, South America and countless other places our Soldiers serve with distinction. It is their stories, your stories, we want to tell in this magazine. I hope you share this issue, and every issue to come, with your friends, family and co-workers.

You make me proud to be a Soldier, a leader, and a member of this exceptional organization!



Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Dale R. Blosser

We live in challenging times—even with the drawdown in Iraq— our PSYOP and CA units will remain in high demand. Most of you have deployed more than once— some of you three times or more.

Because our missions are relevant in all phases of operations, combatant commanders see the value of CA and PSYOP, more so now than ever and we don't expect OPTEMPO to slow down anytime soon. Even so, your performance and positive attitude remain extremely high as does both

retention and recruiting.

This is a real testament to intense, relevant training, mission-focused leadership at all levels, and Soldiers who want to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

On the pages of this magazine you'll meet some of those Soldiers and learn a little about their stories.

Keep moving forward!



Civil Affairs officer chosen to be aide to Chief of Army Reserve

By Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells
USACAPOC(A) PAO

One of CAPOC's elite officers has been chosen as the Aide-de-Camp to Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief Army Reserve. Maj. Kevin Guidry, currently the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 351st Civil Affairs Command, will soon move from his cozy home in Mountain View, Calif. to Arlington, Va., with his wife to assume his new position.

Guidry started his Army career in 1987 at the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1991 as an infantry officer assigned to 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He took a 6-year break from 1996 to 2002 when he became an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Now serving as the commander of HHC 351st CACOM, he looks forward to his new assignment.

"There really isn't a typical day (as the aide-de-camp), as far as I can tell," said Guidry, who was also the aide to Maj. Gen. David Blackledge, who was then commander of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom 1, and now commands the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). "I coordinated his schedule, kept him apprised of what was happening in the field, set up appointments, and addressed his personal needs. In garrison, most aides have the same responsibilities, although in a much more formal environment than in a combat zone."



Brig. Gen. Gary Medvivy (left), Commanding General of the 351st Civil Affairs Command, awards Maj. Kevin Guidry (right) a Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments as the HHC Commander for the 351st Civil Affairs Command. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ray Ragan)

Guidry first heard about the opening for the CAR through an Army Knowledge Online email message and decided to try and compete for it.

"I was about to leave command and was looking for a new assignment," explained Guidry. "I had applied for an Army Congressional Fellowship and was awaiting board results for that when I applied to be the aide. I received word from the CAR's office that my packet was one of the three selected for a follow-on interview with Lt. Gen. (Jack C.) Stultz, so I flew out for the interview at the Pentagon in mid-December."

"I was happy that I was selected, but I was also apprehensive about the pressure and the pace of the new assignment. It's quite a bit of appointments, meetings, and travel," said Guidry. "I'm honored and humbled to have this opportunity, and hope to bring credit upon the Civil Affairs community."

Are you interested in taking photos? Do you like to write? If so, we're looking for you. The Public Affairs shop is preparing to establish a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) program. We'll teach you the basics or help you hone your skills for high quality magazine, newspaper, and web stories. If you're interested contact us at:

usacapoc-pao@ar-usacapoc.soc.mil



432nd Departs for Afghanistan



Soldiers of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion stand in formation during their departure ceremony March 5 at the Kress Events Center in Green Bay, Wis.

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski
USACAPOC(A) PAO

The 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion Soldiers are walking tall and proud as they begin their preparation for their nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, where they will face a country under security and stability turmoil. This is the battalion's third deployment since 2003, but the first to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion completed two-weeks of training at the Army Reserve Center in Green Bay, Wis. before participating in a departure ceremony at the Kress Center, March 5. Inside those two weeks, approximately 100 Soldiers participated in training events such as a Combat Life Saver course and language training.

“We focus on mission specific training that compliments what we receive at the mobilization site.”

— **Sgt. 1st Class Lance Steidl**
Provincial Reconstruction Team NCO

Sgt. 1st Class Lance Steidl, the NCOIC for a Provincial Reconstruction Team, realizes the importance of acquiring certain skill sets for the mission. Steidl will be going on his third deployment and believes that “the training we receive at the mobilization site is good information and can be applied to a Soldier deploying anywhere in the world,” said Steidl. “Here at the Army Reserve Center, we focus on mission-specific training that compliments what we receive at the mobilization site.”

Each Soldier must be Combat Life Saver certified prior to deploying.

“The goal of this class was not only to teach our Soldiers step-by-step procedures, but to help them understand why they would conduct the procedure,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Smolinski, a medic in the battalion. “We don’t expect every Soldier to understand complex medical procedures or terms, but our way of teaching has proven to be effective based on the feedback and performance we see – they understand it.”

Spc. Andrew Weinke from Green Bay, Wis., feels quite confident in his CLS skills. "Although this is my first time deploying, I have received this training before," said Weinke, the Civil Military Operations Cell NCO for his PRT. "The training reinforces what I already know; it will allow for automatic responses [during a stressful event]."

Soldiers of the 432nd CA Bn. also conducted weapons training at the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, Wis. NWTC has been partnering with the 432nd CA Bn. for the past three years by allowing them to train in their high quality facilities. It has been a prime location to also conduct mission specific training prior to deploying to a mobilization site.

Erik Walters, NWTC's Range Technician explains that the campus is a non-profit organization with a sole purpose to provide education. "The more people we can assist in learning, we are meeting our goals," said Walters.

For veteran Soldiers like Sgt. Corey Evenson from Manitowoc, Wis. who will be deploying for the third time, conducting weapons training at the facility reinforces basic weapon fundamentals and muscle memory. The training also allows him to connect with his team. "This training gives me the opportunity to see the strengths and weaknesses of soldiers on my team- where we can adjust and make changes."

Although a deployment to a combat zone is "no stranger to" more than half of the battalion, Lt. Col Thomas LaChance, the Battalion Executive Officer, stated, "One of the battalion companies worked for the Baghdad PRT during our 2007-2008 deployment to Iraq, but this PRT mission in Afghanistan

is different." LaChance explains that this mission is unique in that instead of deploying as a traditional battalion structured element, they will be assigned to 12 small PRTs throughout the eastern region of Afghanistan. LaChance will serve as a PRT commander during the mobilization.

PRTs were established in Afghanistan in 2002. PRTs are operated by a team of civilian representatives such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State and military leadership with a common goal to improve security, extend the reach of the Afghan government and facilitate reconstruction in priority provinces.

Once the two-week training concluded, the University of Wisconsin Green Bay's Kress Events Center hosted a departure ceremony for the 432nd CA Bn. Speakers at the ceremony included U.S. Congressman Reid Ribble, of Wisconsin's eighth Congressional District, Mayor of Green Bay, James Schmitt, 432nd CA Bn. Commander, Lt. Col William Vaughn, and a local radio broadcaster who served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Several hundred Family, friends, and community members drove to Green Bay to say goodbye to their Soldier. The 432nd CA Bn.'s Family

Readiness Group hosted a social event at the Army Reserve Center prior to the ceremony for Families and friends to pick up a yellow ribbon and meet other Families. The Families wrote messages to their Soldiers on the yellow ribbons which were then tied to the fence outside of the Army Reserve Center.

"My Family lives two and a half hours away so they do not know the other Soldier's Family Members," said Spc. Matthew Wissell, a battalion medic and a PRT NCO. "I think a pre-deployment [FRG social] is a good opportunity because there are Families who have been on one, two, or three deployments and understand communication issues and where to go for information... they can talk to other family members and learn from them."

The 432nd CA Bn. will report to Camp Atterbury, Ind., to conduct mobilization training prior to deploying to Afghanistan this summer. Once the battalion arrives in theater, "it is likely that the Soldiers of this unit will not see each other until the end of the deployment; when we hope to have a happy reunion between all of us," said LaChance.

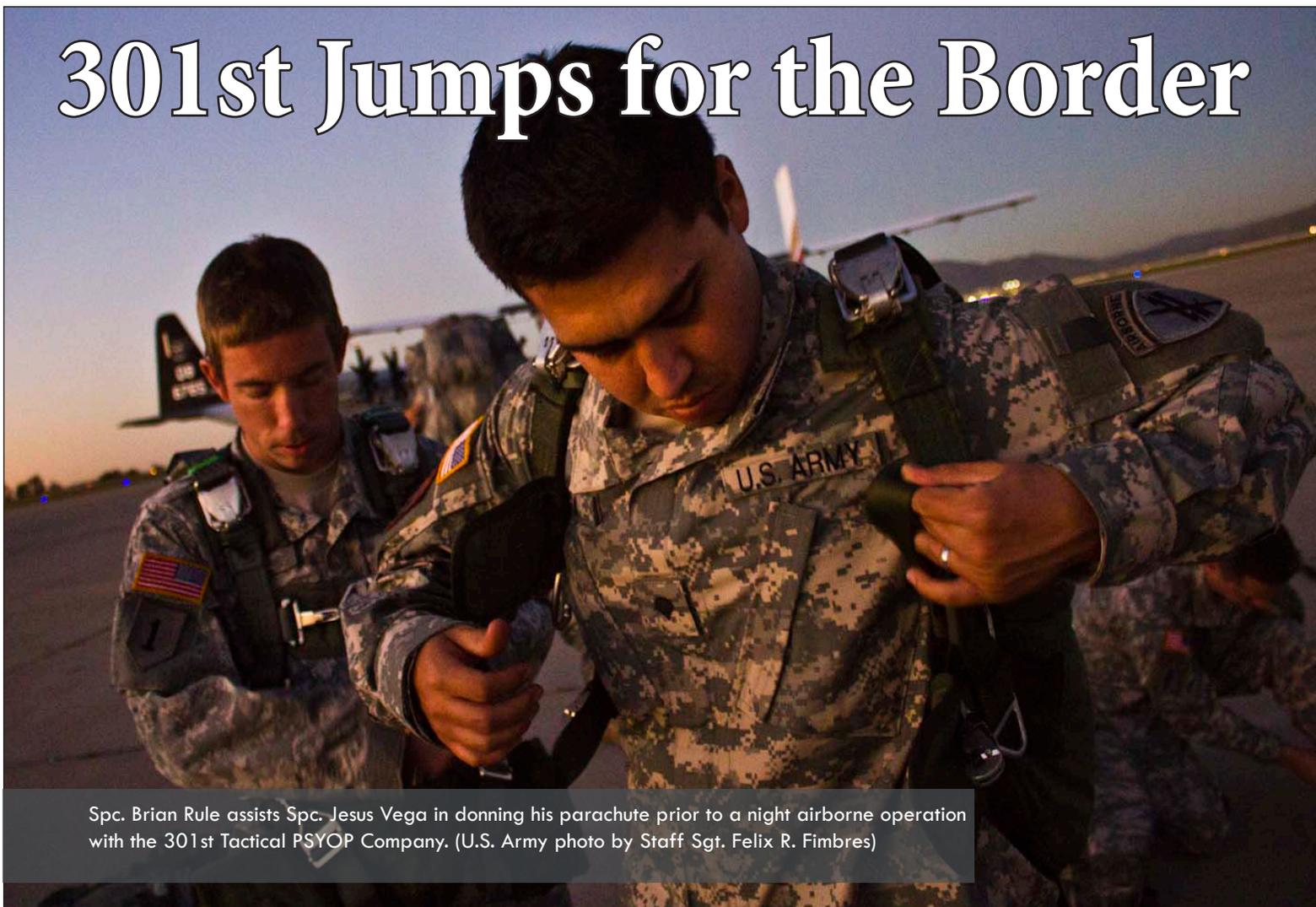
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Families comfort each other outside the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion Reserve Center after saying their last goodbyes to their soldier.

301st Jumps for the Border



Spc. Brian Rule assists Spc. Jesus Vega in donning his parachute prior to a night airborne operation with the 301st Tactical PSYOP Company. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

By Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski
USACAPOC(A) PAO

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - “If you provide the Soldier with good training and good opportunities, they will stay,” said Maj. Aaron Clapsaddle, the commander for the 301st Tactical Psychological Operations Company (TPC), located in San Diego. You will not find this company at their Reserve center during most monthly battle assemblies.

During January’s Battle Assembly, the company conducted multiple airborne operations to include a mass tactical night combat jump, familiarization with multiple weapon systems and a combat day jump at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

“Obviously, we do more here than the traditional one weekend a month.”

— 1st Sgt. Keith Christie
301st First Sergeant

Normally, preparation for these fast-paced battle assemblies begins 60-90 days before the training weekend; however, this weekend’s preparation began 7 months prior to the battle assembly.

This type of training takes teamwork in order to be effective. Staff Sgt. Evan Paulsen, the company’s training sergeant, led the way during the planning.

“We have to coordinate a lot of moving pieces to include air crews, drop zones, securing ranges and getting our parachutes from

Georgia,” said Paulsen. “Finding aircraft is most difficult because we cannot utilize Air Force support due to funding and the small size of our company. Therefore, extra time is needed to search for other aircraft and crew support.”

The 301st TPC is on a continuous deployment schedule. This constant rotation of Soldiers is considered within their training plans for the fiscal year.

1st Sgt. Keith Christie, 301st TPC First Sergeant, gives credit to his NCO’s who always ensure each

Soldier is trained on the core Soldier tasks at an advanced level in order to maintain fluidity with their incessant deployments.

“The NCO’s in this company are high-caliber, highly motivated and dedicated Soldiers who are extremely knowledgeable,” said Christie. After this weekend’s training, as with any training weekend, Christie hopes that his Soldiers have a sense of accomplishment and pride that they are bettering themselves by having a skill set that will help them in a combat situation.

Most Army Reserve units begin their monthly battle assembly on Saturday morning, but, the 301st TPC begin theirs on Friday in order to increase training time for the Soldiers.

“Obviously, we do more here than the traditional one weekend a month,” said Christie. Next fiscal year, the company plans to reduce the number of monthly battle assemblies in order to increase the number of days to maximize the training opportunities.

This month’s battle assembly began Friday morning as Soldiers conducted pre-jump training and simulated parachute landing falls at the Reserve Center. That afternoon they took a Marine KC-130 to Edwards Air Force base and performed a mass tactical night combat jump onto Farm Drop Zone with below freezing

temperatures that greeted them at the door of the aircraft as they exited.

The next morning came early in order to begin their weapons system familiarization. The 301st TPC qualified with the M9 Pistol and received familiarization training on the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, 240B Machine Gun and the M203 Grenade Launcher. That evening they once again conducted pre-jump training and simulated parachute landing falls to prepare for the morning’s combat jump into San Diego.

To wrap up the weekend, the 301st loaded the Marine KC-130 on Sunday morning and flew back to San Diego performing a combat day jump onto the Trident Drop Zone near the Mexican border.

Staff Sgt. Eric Bolas has been with the company since he joined the military. “I’ve stayed here because I like being a PSYOP Soldier and I like this unit. When I first joined this company, we operated as a Special Operations Force and we still maintain that mentality because we never know who we will be attached to or where we will go,” said Bolas.

“The key to this unit is retention, we don’t lose Soldiers. Also it has a history of strong leaders...it’s infectious. When we go places, Soldiers see us and they want to join,



Paratroopers from the 301st TPC conducted nighttime Airborne Operations leaving from San Diego, Calif. and landing on Edwards Air Force Base on Jan. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

we are our own ad campaign,” said Clapsaddle.

The 301st TPC is a member of the 14th Psychological Operations Battalion and the 7th Psychological Operations Group, both headquartered at Moffett Field in San Jose, Calif. Additionally, the 301st TPC is the only airborne company in the entire 7th PSYOP group.

The 301st TPC has future plans to conduct more Airborne operations during their monthly battle assemblies which will also encompass tactical PSYOP skills, high-altitude mountaineering training with the Marines and more, enabling them to engage anywhere in the world.



Soldiers from the 301st Tactical PSYOP Company conduct weapons familiarization with the 240B machine gun on Edwards Air Force Base (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

See more photos on facebook:

<http://on.fb.me/fOzmJZ>



Sgt. Daniel Clemens holds his award in front of his homestation in Homewood, Ill.

Courage, in the face of fire

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres
USACAPOC(A) PAO

Army Reserve civil affairs Soldier, Sgt. Daniel Clemens, received a rare award for his actions in saving a woman's life.

Clemens had been waiting in line to purchase an energy drink at a local gas station when he heard a gun shot. "I was honestly thinking that if the [shooter] saw me, I would be the first target since I was in uniform, so I figured I would go see if anyone had been shot, to see what I could do to help," Clemens said.

Clemens is a sergeant with the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade in Homewood, Ill. and was getting ready for their monthly battle assembly when he found himself inside the crime scene after a shooting with a large caliber handgun on 301st North Ridge Road in Minooka, Ill., making a choice that would change his life and save another's.

Not only did Clemens risk his life by running toward the gunfire, but in so doing put himself in a situation to apply training he learned in the Army to save the victim's life. "I served six and a half years on active duty as an Infantryman, and I had practiced lifesaving skills a thousand times," Clemens said, who had since left active duty to join the 308th in August of 2009.

"We're very proud of him obviously, and I think he's a model for the other Soldiers and citizens as well," said 1st Sgt. Gregory Scott, the 308th first sergeant.

"I could see a pool of blood below her upper leg. I quickly checked for an entrance and exit wound. Since I couldn't find an exit wound, I started treating the heavy bleeding. I knew that pressure alone wasn't going to keep her alive. At this point a trucker came up to help me, I asked him for his belt and I applied makeshift tourniquet to her leg," Clemens said.

On Sunday, March 6th, 2011 Clemens received the Army's Safety Guardian Award, a rare honor. Clemens is not only the first Soldier in the USACAPOC(A) to receive the award, but also in the entirety of the Army Reserve.

The award reads, "Through extraordinary actions, responded to a shooting incident involving a woman who may have bled to death if not for his assistance."

Gerard Watkins, Occupational Health and Safety Specialist for the 308th was a key advocate in pushing for the award when he heard about what Clemens had done. "I felt that his actions were not only very heroic, but also showcase the quality of Noncommissioned Officers we have in the Army," said Watkins.

His actions were also commended by the Minooka Fire Chief, Al Yancey, and Shift Commander, Arnold R. Nolan who had been at the scene.

Because the shooters whereabouts were unknown, the area could not be cleared by local law enforcement, which in turn meant first responders couldn't enter the scene. It was during this critical time that Clemens was

in action. "With quick action and disregard for his safety, Sgt. Clemens remained with the victim applying direct pressure and remained there holding direct pressure to the victim's wound until fire department personnel arrived on scene and relived him," said Yancey in a written statement.



Sgt. Daniel Clemens receives his award from Col. Stephen K. Curda at this home station in Homewood, Ill.

Clemens is honored to receive the award but to him that's not the real reward, "I found out a month later [after the incident] that she made a full recovery from the shooting. That's all that matters to me, is that she's okay." But perhaps the greater reward goes to his parents, "we feel [the Army Reserve] has also helped Daniel to be a better person, we are very proud of the young man he has become; and we are so proud he was able to help the victim," said his mother, Susan Clemens.

See more photos on facebook at:

<http://on.fb.me/epGYF1>

Wearing two hats

civil affairs Soldier is also a pro rodeo cowboy

Story and Photo by

Staff Sgt. Ryan Matson

CJTF Ironman Public Affairs

The national anthem inspired this professional rodeo cowboy from Amarillo, Texas to sacrifice bull riding events for overseas tours to serve his country with the U.S. Army.

“Before I joined, I’d hear the national anthem and the MC talk about Soldiers while I was trying to get fired up to ride a horse or a bull,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Toby Hall, a Team leader with Alpha Company, 413th Civil Affairs Battalion.

At that moment, while I was getting mentally prepared to enter the rodeo ring, I’d think to myself, ‘Man I’m nothing compared to them- they’re over there fighting for my country and all I’m doing is getting on some horse that’s going to buck for eight seconds,’” Hall said. “That was why I joined; I wanted it to mean something more to me when I heard that song play. If it wasn’t for [the Soldiers] over here, I wouldn’t have the [freedom] to ride back home.”

Hall is serving as a civil affairs Soldier deployed to Forward Operating Base Mehtar Lam. He is a member of Task Force Ironman, under the command of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, a part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team,

“We let them know we’re not here to hurt them, we’re here to protect them.”



Sgt. Toby Hall holds a buckle he won during a benefit rodeo, one of the many rodeos Hall has won.

34th Infantry Division and nicknamed the “Red Bulls.”

Back in his hometown of Amarillo, Texas, Hall earns his living as a professional rodeo cowboy,

competing in bull riding and bareback bronco riding events. He competes in rodeo circuits throughout Texas and the Midwest, to include the Texas Cowboys Rodeo Association, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and the Kansas Pro Rodeo Association, for which he is the bareback riding director.

Possibly, the only thing about Hall that doesn’t scream cowboy is his height. He stands six feet tall, a good height for a movie cowboy, but not the

— Sgt. Toby Hall

413th Civil Affairs Battalion

ideal bull rider or bareback bronco rider's build.

"Most of those guys are between 5 feet, 6 inches tall and 5 feet, 8 inches tall. 130, maybe 140 pounds," Hall said.

Everything else about Hall is the genuine article.

Hall, was born to be a cowboy, literally.

His father, Eddie, was a professional rodeo bull rider for several years, before turning-in his spurs to run a construction business in Amarillo. Hall said he always wanted to be like his father and be a cowboy.

"Before I ever got on an animal, I remember when I was young, I'd tape a piece of notebook paper onto my back symbolizing a rodeo number," Hall said. "I'd be riding around on a little stick pony, except mine bucked! I always knew I wanted to be a cowboy. In a small town in Texas, it's what you did for fun."

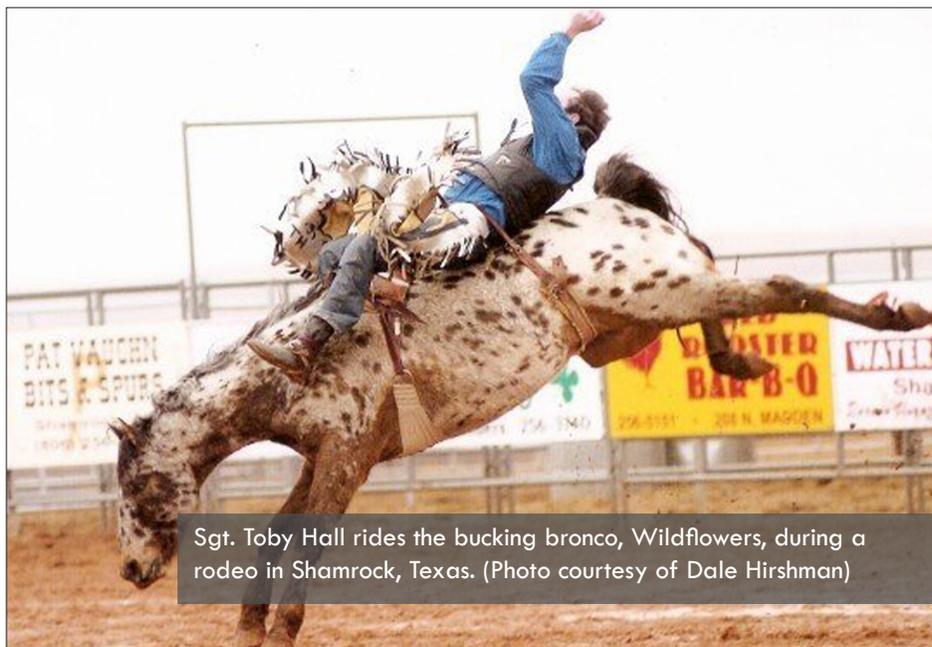
Hall's childhood dream of becoming a cowboy became more of a reality when he received a rodeo scholarship to Tarleton State, in the "cowboy capital of the world," Stephenville, Texas. He received offers from the top five rodeo schools in the country, but chose Tarleton State because of its proud tradition and reputation as a top rodeo school.

From Tarleton State, Hall transferred to West Texas A & M. While still attending West Texas A & M, Hall turned professional, getting his rodeo card at the age of 21.

Hall joined the Army Reserve

"What can I do to help you be able to do this on your own?"

— **Sgt. Toby Hall**
413th Civil Affairs Battalion



Sgt. Toby Hall rides the bucking bronco, Wildflowers, during a rodeo in Shamrock, Texas. (Photo courtesy of Dale Hirshman)

immediately following his college graduation in January 2008.

Much like the bonds that Hall ensues with fellow Soldiers, he finds within his community of cowboys. "What I like about the rodeo is the friendships," Hall said. "The cowboys you ride with are your lifelong friends. The only way to travel is by car or by plane, so we'd pile as many cowboys as we can into a car to make traveling to rodeos cheaper. We go rodeo to rodeo together."

"Cowboys help each other out; if a cowboy had a rough ride and did not win any money, another cowboy will help pay his entry fees to the next rodeo," said Hall.

Although Hall is not riding bulls in Afghanistan, he is riding along with the Red Bulls' Infantry Soldiers, interacting with the local villagers in the Lagham Province.

While assessing the atmosphere in a local village, Hall explains the

importance of building rapport with the villagers as a civil affairs Soldier. "The relationship is key," Hall said, "because the people need to know they can trust me and the coalitions Soldiers."

"Instead of simply building projects and leaving, we find ways to help [them] improve their village and make it more stable in the long-term."

Hall and his team do this by inquiring about their farms, livestock, wells and hydroelectric power; etc. "We let them know we're not here to hurt them, we're

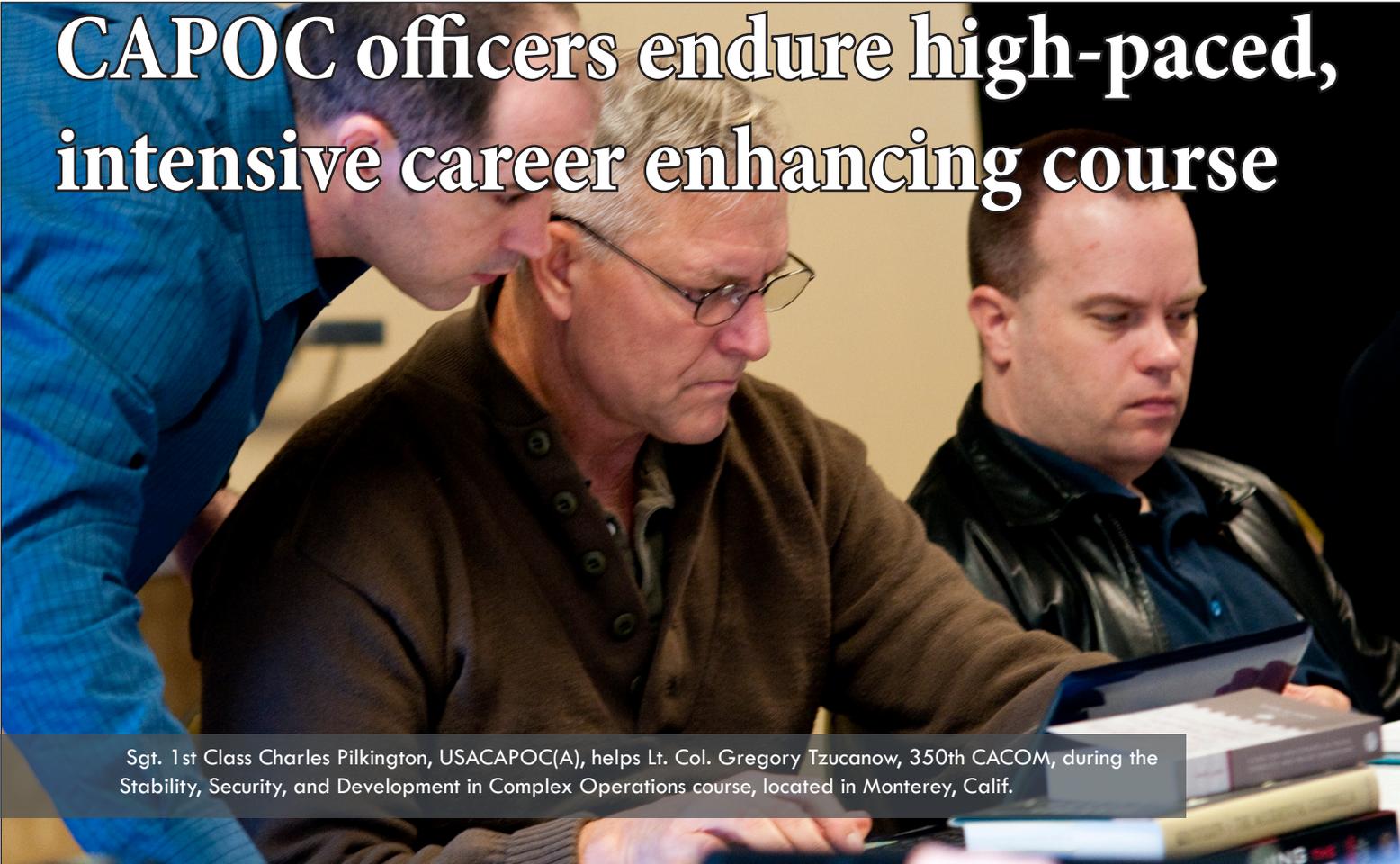
here to protect them and help them find work so they don't have to join arms with the Taliban. I ask them, "What can I do to help you be able to do this on your own?"

When Hall returns from his deployment in Afghanistan, he knows his horse Outlaw will be back in Texas waiting for him, ready to try and buck him off once again; and when that National Anthem plays before he enters the ring, it will be a new feeling of courage that overwhelms him.

This is a condensed version of the original, get the whole story at:

<http://1.usa.gov/tobyhall>

CAPOC officers endure high-paced, intensive career enhancing course



Sgt. 1st Class Charles Pilkington, USACAPOC(A), helps Lt. Col. Gregory Tzucanow, 350th CACOM, during the Stability, Security, and Development in Complex Operations course, located in Monterey, Calif.

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells
USACAPOC(A) PAO

“I wish I had been armed with those tools prior to my last deployment.”

— Maj John Francis
442nd Civil Affairs Battalion

Through loads of outside reading, homework and research, students participating in the Stability, Security and Development in Complex Operations course are putting their professional development first and are on their way to earning a masters degree.

The roughly three-month-long SSDCO course offered at the Naval Postgraduate School, located in Monterey, Calif., is geared to provide field grade officers and senior noncommissioned officers the strategic-level education to serve as civil affairs and psychological operations leaders in shaping operations.

The goal of the program, sponsored by the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), is “to build the capacity of civil-military efforts to identify and implement systemic solutions that appreciate both macro (global) and micro (local, societal) operations (during stages of conflict),” said Dr. Karen Gutteri, an instructor with Global Public Policy Academic Group, in a press release written by NPS.

“I wish I had been armed with those tools prior to my last

deployment,” said Maj. John Francis of the 442nd Civil Affairs Battalion and a recent graduate of the SSDCO. “Both of the CG’s I served wanted to know how they were doing in CMO. After the NPS class, I had a better understanding of measures of performance and effectiveness.”

The course builds on the previous tactical and operational experience of CA and PSYOP leaders to then help them learn effective ways to plan stability, security and development programs at the operational and strategic levels.

“The discussion and projects related to globalization encouraged me to broaden my scope away from the narrow maneuver commander focus,” said Francis. “The coursework made me think regionally and beyond. I will certainly apply it for my next deployment.”

In early April of this year, USACAPOC(A) was notified that the course had been approved by the Army as an official “in lieu of” option for the Army Operations Course required for promotion of colonel.

Most importantly, SSDCO provides the CA or PSYOP officer a much better branch-specific course than the traditional AOC and is also more readily available.

“The Army is just starting to realize that stabilization is the heart of what we do — it’s the center of gravity,” said Brig. Gen. Gary Medvigy, Commanding General of the 351st Civil Affairs Command, located in Mountain View, Calif., who is also a judge advocate in his civilian life.

“We’re not there yet, but we’re getting there. Where we’ve been the enablers to war fighters (overseas), we will eventually get to where the war fighters are enablers to us,” said Medvigy.

The three-phase master’s level certificate program allows students to earn 12 transferable credit hours towards their degree. The courses are high-paced, collegiate-level and demand a lot from the students in a short period of time.

Phase one is a 29-day, instructor-guided online class that includes

registration, readings, discussion boards, and other online activities that must be complete before the resident phase (Phase two). During the resident course at NPS, students will participate in 30 hours or more of classroom instruction per week

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— Brig. Gen. Gary Medvigy
351st Commanding General

that involves reading, writing, group assignments and presentations.

Three of the classes taught during the resident phase are “Global Change and Governance,” “Security and Development,” and “Introduction to Analytic Methods.” Phase three allows individual students and faculty time to complete all needed requirements and a final joint and combined scenario-based exercise will be conducted to ensure all learning objectives were achieved.

According to NPS, during the intensive, in-residence portion, students have four weeks during which they will work together in teams, exploring further the civil-military components vital to their professions. Students also have the opportunity to listen to and ask questions of a variety of senior civilian and military guest speakers with experience in such areas.

“This course fills a void for advanced training in these operations that civil affairs and interagency operators have

fervently asked for and needed. At the same time, this course is academically rigorous and provides tools not only for operators but for strategic planners,” explained Medvigy, who gave a class on the Rule of Law.

According to Lt. Col. Randall Cartmill, 358th CA Brigade, the course is very interesting and much of the material taught is relevant to the “CAPOC montra.

“It focuses

on more of the stability piece and giving our guys creditability to maneuver commanders in completing our mission. It’s definitely a professional development course for our junior level Soldiers and it gets you thinking more on a professional level — Soldiers looking to be a part of this course need to be in the right mind set, because it offers higher level college courses.” Cartmill said.

The certificate program will be taught twice annually and stay aligned with current doctrine, concepts, and requirements.

Soldiers must apply for the SSDCO through their respective commands to USACAPOC(A).

The SSDCO is one of many innovative education opportunities being developed by USACAPOC(A) for Soldiers of the command. For more information on the SSDCO or other education opportunities, contact Lt. Col. Kenneth Booth at (713) 306-4713 or email him at

Ken.booth@ar-usacapoc.soc.mil

Family Programs delivers support to military families through Yellow Ribbon



Samantha, age 5, daughter of Sgt. Timmoty Garrigus plays dress up during a pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon event held at Knoxville, Tenn.

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski
USACAPOC(A) PAO

“When our dad leaves, our Family gets closer together... we find time to talk.”

— Taylor Boes

“I know how hard deployments are; when my father deployed we didn’t have good communication,” said David Tyree, 19. David’s experience isn’t unique among military Families.

The Army’s Yellow Ribbon Program was designed, in part, to help Family members like David cope with deployments. Now, David volunteers to help others during Yellow Ribbon events like the one held March 19, 2011 at the Knoxville Convention Center for the Families of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion which is deploying in the coming months to Afghanistan.

Supported by the Family Programs section of the United States Army Civil Affairs &

Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) the pre-mobilization Yellow Ribbon event was for Soldiers and their Families to learn about the resources available to them in order to sustain a healthy Family during a mobilization.

While Soldiers and their spouses attended informational classes, children of the Soldiers were put in groups based on age. Within these groups, children had the opportunity to bond with others who will also experience having a deployed parent.

For some children, like Taylor Boes, 14, and her sister Morgan, 13, this is not the first time their father,

Maj. Ken Boes, has deployed. It has been approximately four years since his last deployment but they said they know what to expect.

“When our dad leaves, our Family gets closer together, we find time to talk,” said Taylor. This is the first time the event was made available to the Boes Family. “We are thankful for this event because we met other kids we can be friends with; they are experiencing the same things we are.”

The sisters shared tears and advice with other teens throughout the day. They claim that the one thing they may do differently this time, is their form of communication

with their father. “The last time our dad deployed we thought Skype didn’t work, but when he got home, we realized we never took the sticker off of the webcam,” Morgan laughs. “So this time, we will make sure it works before he leaves.”

The USACAPOC (A) Yellow Ribbon events are made possible by the strong Family Programs team and the help of several passionate volunteers. Lori Hawkins and her son, David Tyree, volunteer their weekends to travel to Yellow Ribbon events. Lori, a military spouse, knows what it is like to go through a deployment without a USACAPOC(A) Yellow Ribbon event; she felt very lost during her husband’s deployment. She explains that as an Army Reserve Family, most do not have access to resources that the active component have, nor do they know where to find them. “I am not an expert, I am here to share my story and to tell the Families that these are the resources available and this is how to find them,” said Lori. “When I go to these Yellow Ribbon events, it gives me the opportunity to give to the Families what I didn’t have.”

“I started as a child in the program, and then I became a volunteer with the program,” said David. “I know how hard deployments are; when my father deployed we didn’t have good communication- I went through emotions of anger, I took on more responsibilities without him there.”

David held youth group discussions throughout the Yellow Ribbon event on topics such as “Healthy ways of dealing with emotions.”

I volunteer because I want to help other children...I want them to be able to talk to someone who has ‘been there,’ and help them through

it.” He has accepted an assignment to attend the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs but will continue to volunteer when possible.

USACAPOC (A) Family Programs began supporting Yellow Ribbon events in 2009. They participate in four events prior to and during a mobilization. Events one and two, held prior to the mobilization, are available to both the Soldier and their Families, whereas, events three and four are held specifically for the Families while their Soldier is mobilized. When the Soldier returns, there are three more events that are part of the U.S. Department of Defense Reintegration Program which assist with the transition back home.

All travel expenses are paid by the organization, in order to provide this opportunity to the Soldier and their Family free of any cost.

“The pre-mobilization Yellow Ribbon event is broken down into three categories; for married couples, single Soldiers, and those deploying for their first time,” said Claudia Arceo, USACAPOC(A)’s Community Outreach Assistant. Each group is given relevant information on topics such as financial preparation, emotional health, household support and deployment. The American Red Cross, Military One Source, Legal and the unit Family Readiness Group are some of the vendors that were on hand to provide Soldiers and their Families with valuable information, advice and referrals.

For Soldiers such as Pfc. Joshua Wical, and his wife Amanda, a first deployment leaves many uncertainties. “It was helpful to receive a class on ‘What to expect emotionally,’ which focused on the stages of withdrawal,” said Amanda. She also said the Yellow Ribbon event gave her an opportunity to exchange contact information with other Families within the unit. “I look forward to making connections and friendships with other Families who are experiencing the same thing.”

USACAPOC(A) Yellow Ribbon events will continue for every Soldier and unit who will be mobilizing three months or longer. To find more information on USACAPOC(A) Yellow Ribbon events, visit

www.usacapoc.army.mil/yellowribbon.html



Sgt. Danielle Breitbard and her father Barry, share a moment during the pre-deployment event in Knoxville.



The story doesn't end here

P *eacemaker* is just one source in a full spectrum of USACAPOC(A)-centric media available to Soldiers, Friends and Family of USACAPOC(A) straight from the award winning USACAPOC(A) PAO Team.

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