



THE

BRIDGE

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Equipped for Expansion



COMMAND NOTES

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall

CG Comments

Thank you, to all the Soldiers, Civilians, and Families who keep the 416th relevant and ready. We are fortunate to enjoy a continuing legacy of service and accomplishment that we can all be proud of. This edition of the Bridge contains glimpses from many vantage points in our Areas of Operation that show the broad spectrum of our duties. You may see a familiar face or two, or maybe not, but there is no doubt we are all related in this great Army family. Perhaps the size of our family will help to temper the grief we feel for those we've lost. Through good times and bad, we stick together in service to our nation and to each other. I'm thankful to serve with you and hope you find this edition of the Bridge very enjoyable and informative.

Essays!



Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command

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Contents

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 11
Summer 2011

Departments

- 2 Command Notes
- 4 CSM Notes
- 5 Chaplain's Notes
- 16 Family Programs
- 26 Safety Notes
- 28 Medical Readiness
- 38 Civil Support
- 44 Around the Army
Photos from the Field

COVER:

Sgt. Ryan Marler, Spc. Jacob Estebo and Sgt. Tyler Standley from 1st Platoon of the 322nd EN CO conduct roofing operations in the Arghandab River valley. Their platoon was tasked with building several tactical operation centers in the region during SPRING of 2011. (Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Skarr)

RIGHT:

Soldiers from the HHD, 494th Brigade Support Battalion out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. conduct the new Army Physical Readiness Training (PRT) during battle assembly. For more on the new PRT see pages 24-25. (Photo courtesy of the 494th BSB)

BACK COVER:

Lt. Col. Keith Eichorst waves to the crowd at the 2011 Chicago Memorial Day Parade on May 28. The 416th TEC participated at the yearly event held in downtown Chicago which included General Ray Odierno and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. (Photo by Annie Chambers, OCPA-Midwest)

- 6 416th TEC units
compete for AAME
*by Chief Warrant Officer 4
Nichole Rettmann*
- 7 The 7
*by Air Force Master Sgt.
Cheresa D. Theiral*
- 8 Marksmanship team put
valuable skills to work
by Sgt. Victor Lezza
- 10 Regional Best Warrior
Coverage
- 13 Best Warrior Competitors
Earn A Shot at the Audie
Murphy Board
by Spc. Lindsey Schulte
- 17 Civil War Veteran given
final resting place
by Sgt. Carolyn Hawkins
- 18 TEC helps out local
elementary students
accomplish mission
by Lt. Col. Anthony H. Jocius
- 20 Operation Essayons 2011
by Spc. Anthony Hooker
- 22 Citizens Honor Wife of
Fallen Soldier
by Spc. Lindsey Schulte
- 24 A look at the Army's new
PT test
by Lance M. Bacon
- 30 USACE, EUCOM
successfully integrate
joint engineer team onto
'battlefield'
by Rachel Goodspeed
- 34 Lone Star Stepping
Stones
by Spc. Valerie Willhoite
- 36 994th Engineers
Industrious at Pinion
Canyon
by Sgt. Spencer Case
- 39 JAG saves the day
- 40 104th Training Division
dedicates headquarters
building to Puyallup
Soldier
- 41 Building more than
Buildings in Afghanistan
by 1st Lt. Michael Skarr
- 42 "Camp" Red Devil
by Sgt. Spencer Case

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Reever

Watch Those Geese

Have you ever wondered why a flock of geese fly in a “V” formation? You might consider how the geese lead and help each other. There is a reason why they do it.

As each bird flaps its wings it creates and “uplift” for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if they flew alone.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone. So it quickly gets back into formation taking advantage of the “lifting power” of the bird immediately in front.

When the lead goose gets tired it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up the speed.

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until the goose is able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own to join another formation or catch up to their previous flock.

Anonymous Author



Like geese, Soldiers are trained, organized and expected to operate as a team at all times. We lead from the front and flock together for optimum performance. We encourage each other with motivation along the way. We know that alone we can defeat one man, but together we can demolish our enemy. Likewise, when one of our Soldiers is fallen, we never leave him/her alone. We are a team, and what the geese do by nature, we do by strength—because we are “Army Reserve Strong.” 416th TEC Soldiers, enjoy a very productive, peaceful and family-filled summer!

CSM Reever

CH (COL) Timothy M. Samorajski & CH (COL) Bruce Fredrickson

A Time To Say Farewell

After five very full, fast moving and rewarding years as the Command Chaplain for the 416th Theatre Engineer Command, the time has come to say goodbye. While many of us do not find change easy, we gain new peace as we realize it's an opportunity for growth and therefore an essential part of life.

Change forces us out of our comfort zone and compels us to learn new things, acquire new skills and meet new people. If we approach these tasks in a positive manner, we cannot help but become better and more well rounded individuals.

We also gain peace when we realize that we do not have to endure the stress of change alone. A caring and loving God promises that "I am with you *always*, even to the end of the age (Matt 28:20)." Jesus understood this perfectly when he told His disciples in anticipation of

His departure, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful (John 14:27)."

As I look forward to new challenges, I will always look back with great fondness at all the wonderful Soldiers and family members I have been blessed to meet and work with. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your love and support. I am especially grateful to all the

Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants throughout the 416th TEC who have made my job such a joy.

Let me close by encouraging you all to dream "big dreams" when it comes to your spiritual, personal and professional lives. Seek the Lord and His direction. Do the right things every time, all the time. Finally, be good to yourselves and invest in the special relationships you have been entrusted with.

God bless you richly,
CH (COL) Timothy M. Samorajski

A Time To Say Hello

I am very pleased to be a part of the 416th TEC Team. My goal is to continue the excellent ministry you are accustomed to under Chaplain Samorajski leadership.

I recently completed a five year active duty assignment with the First Armored Division in Wiesbaden, Germany conducting Rear Detachment support. Prior to that, I served 25 years in the Wisconsin National Guard (WIARNG) in assignments at all levels including Joint Force Headquarters' Chaplain, WIARNG. I deployed with the 264th Engineer Group, WIARNG in support of the First Infantry Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom –II (OIF-II).

My current civilian occupation is Staff Chaplain for Mayo Clinic Health System. My wife and I celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary in October of this year. Our son recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin and leaves shortly to teach English as a second language in Pohang, Korea. Our daughter is a 2011 high school graduate and will report for Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base this fall as she begins her service with the Wisconsin Air National Guard as an Aeromedical Technician as she pursues her Registered Nursing (RN) degree.

Please stop by the Ministry Team's office at any time and say, "hello." I look forward to meeting each member of the 416th TEC team.

God bless each of you in your service to our nation.

For God and Country,
CH (COL) Bruce Fredrickson



Chaplain Timothy Samorajski adorns the new 416th TEC chaplain Col. Bruce Fredrickson with the ceremonial ecclesiastic shawl signifying the hand off of responsibility from Samorajski to Fredrickson. (Photo by Sgt. Jeremiah Richardson)

416th TEC units compete for the Chief of Staff Army Award for Maintenance Excellence

Story by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Nichole Rettmann, 416th TEC Maintenance Officer;
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Powell, 416th TEC

The 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) selected winners by category of the 416th TEC Logistics Excellence Award for Maintenance and also identified as the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) winners to go to Department of the Army (DA) level for the fiscal year 2010 AAME Competition are:

- 323rd Chemical Company from Sioux Falls, SD – Small Category
- 721st Engineer Company from Grand Prairie, TX – Medium Category
- 983rd Engineer Battalion from Monclova, OH – Large Category

These units were selected based on their proactive approach to maintenance and their high level of readiness. Unit readiness is assessed by their equipment Fully Mission Capable (FMC) rates, MOS proficiency rates as indicated by their man-hour accounting and their increased efficiency of work order management and turn-around-time. On-site visits to these units displayed how they have gone the extra mile to ensure our two-level maintenance doctrine is implemented throughout their organization and have set the standard for maintenance excellence within the 416th TEC.

The Chief of Staff, Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) was established in 1982 by the Department of the Army. This award competition includes units from all components across the Army: Active, National Guard, and Reserve. Each component selects units to compete by unit type: Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) or Table of Distribution and Allowance (TDA) in three different categories: small, medium, and large based on total authorized strength.

This program focuses on the overall total maintenance program to include how they are maintaining all on-hand equipment including major end items, weapons, communications, NBC equipment, tents, mess equipment, as well as other miscellaneous equipment. The program deals with maintenance policies, procedures and practices every unit should be using in day to day operations as well as during exercises and deployments.

The AAME program is an outstanding way for units to project continuous improvement of their overall program and encourage all their soldiers throughout the organization towards striving for excellence.

The AAME program is voluntary participation by the unit, one of four logistics excellence awards promoted by the Department of the Army. Winners and runners up for each of these awards are recognized at the Combined Logistics Excellence Award (CLEA) Ceremony at the Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Va. The ceremony for this past year's competition was held the second week of May with Sgt. Maj. of the

Army, Raymond F. Chandler, as the keynote speaker.

Each brigade has the opportunity every fiscal year to select units from within their command for competition in the AAME program. Once nomination packets are received at the 416th TEC, the G4 maintenance division reviews them and selects the 416th TEC level winners to be forwarded to the USARC AAME board. The 416th TEC G4 then conducts a series of staff assistance visits designed to both validate the unit's selection as a winner and prepare them for competition at the DA level. When the unit maintenance packets are received at USARC, the USARC G4 holds an AAME board to review all the submitted packets and select the USAR winners to forward to DA Level.

The DA level competition is a two phase competition. Phase I is a nine-member board where board members review and score each packet based on a DA developed and approved checklist. This board also determines the semi-finalists to move forward to Phase II. Phase II is the on-site assessment of each of the selected semi-finalists. Once both phases are complete, DA reviews the scores for each semi-finalist from both Phase I and Phase II then selects the winners and runners up that will travel to Richmond, Va. to participate in the CLEA Ceremony.

Congratulations to the 983rd Engineer Battalion, the 323rd Chemical Company and the 721st Engineer Company. Although, they were not selected as winners by DA they remain as both the 416th TEC and USARC winners for their categories. Their hard work and dedication towards excellence are commendable; job well done. ■



Sgt. Gregory Erickson, 323rd Chemical Company Maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), sits with Vachon as he starts the phase II assessment of the Unit's Maintenance program, March 2011.

The 7

By Air Force Master Sgt. Cheresa D. Theiral, Colorado National Guard Public Affairs



Two Airmen and five Soldiers. One officer and six enlisted troops.

Two Reservists and five National Guardsmen.

Seven men and women reporting for their monthly training on a cloudy Sunday in March, unaware of an impending test requiring a grade of no less than exceptional.

A test of courage

Colorado Air National Guard (COARNG) Capt. Eric Miller and Staff Sgt. Robyn "Red" Ryder were carpooling to Buckley Air Force Base in her SUV. Traveling south on Airport Road, they witnessed a car speed past them. The green sedan was swerving erratically when it hit the median, flipped end over end as high as 30 feet then burst into flames.

U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) 1st Sgt. Esley Gustafson was driving north when he noticed that a car had crossed the center median and was airborne, upside down, flames shooting from the hood – and it was headed right toward him.

USAR Sgt. Mariano Delao was also driving north when he heard a loud thud and saw the car coming from the southbound side of the road. He, too, noticed the car was on fire.

"It was like something you only see in the movies," he said.

The fiery projectile came to a shattering halt, upright, about 20 meters away from Gustafson, and about 50 meters in front of Delao, facing south in the northbound side of the road.

Instinctively, the troops parked their vehicles and rushed to the crash victims'

aid, adrenaline pumping through their veins as they launched the spontaneous rescue operation.

"I ran over to the car and was able to pry open the driver's side door," said Gustafson. "I could see another service member – I would later learn it was Capt. Miller – on the passenger side, trying to get that door open."

The passenger-side door was jammed, so Miller, an emergency room and intensive care unit nurse with 35 years of experience in emergency medicine, pounded on the window, ordering the woman in the passenger seat to get out of the car. He then raced to the other side and saw Gustafson reaching into the vehicle.

The woman tumbled out of the driver's-side door and into Ryder's arms – nearly bowling over Gustafson in the process.

The woman was screaming uncontrollably, disoriented and in shock, said Ryder, a medical technician in the COANG and an ER nurse with 15 years of combined experience in firefighting and emergency medicine.

In the course of the accident, the driver of the wrecked vehicle had been thrown under the dash, and was unconscious and unresponsive, said Miller.

Gustafson, a combat engineer who has used his combat lifesaving skills in Afghanistan, managed to get his arms under the man and untangle him from the vehicle's interior.

"He pulled the driver out with such ease, almost like he was some superhero," said Delao, who was dialing 911.

A test of skill

In a flash, Miller and Ryder aided Gustafson, ensuring spinal precautions as they carried the man from the burning wreckage.

"We placed the patient supine (face up) on the roadway and I assumed the area near the patient's head," said Miller. "The patient remained unconscious and unresponsive, and was having difficulty

breathing. I performed a jaw thrust to open his airway, which relieved his respiratory distress. At this point, the vehicle's engine compartment was nearly fully engulfed in flames."

As Miller evaluated the male, Ryder escorted the woman away from the burning car and began a head-to-toe trauma assessment.

Due to the mechanism of the accident, Miller deduced that the car's fuel tank may have been ruptured.

"Because of the potential of an explosion, I directed our team to move the (male) patient a safe distance from the burning vehicle while trying to maintain spinal precautions and support for an obviously-broken left leg," said Miller.

Gustafson directed Delao, a preventive medicine team leader, and Spc. Eric Schubert, a helicopter electrician in the COARNG who had just arrived, to help carry the male patient farther away from the flames.

Gustafson then raced back to his truck for his combat lifesaver (CLS) kit, which contained gloves, bandages, scissors, an airway nasopharyngeal kit, intravenous injection kits and other advanced first-aid supplies.

By this time, several more service members had seen the green sedan on fire in the northbound lane and stopped to assist.

A test of knowledge

Ryder left the woman, whose injuries didn't appear to be life-threatening, in the care of COARNG Master Sgt. Mark Yoder, an electronics technician, and another Soldier, an unidentified sergeant first class, who had just arrived.

Yoder and the other Soldier did their best to keep the woman calm and distract her from the situation as they waited for emergency services to arrive.

story continued on page 33

416th TEC Marksmanship Team put Valuable Skills to Work

Story and Photos by Sgt. Victor Lezza, 416th TEC

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) marksmanship team competed at the 2011 All Army Small Arms Competition hosted by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga. Mar 19-28 where more than 300 soldiers from across the Army arrived for the finest marksmanship training and competition event the military has to offer. Team leader Lt. Col. Jon Casillas, supported by the Officer in Charge (OIC) Capt. Anthony Trimarco and Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) Sgt. 1st Class Spencer Manning led the 416th TEC team of 15 soldiers into a 10 day rigorous competition.

The All-Army matches consist of Small Arms Firing Schools, Excellence-in-Competition or (EIC) matches, rifle and pistol matches, and special combined-arms combat matches. Champions are awarded All-Army Trophies and all soldiers can earn EIC Marksmanship Badges.

Even more valuable than prizes, the attendees were also given a 60-hour Advanced Marksmanship Training Certificate on the M16, M9 and M24 weapons systems which allows attendees to train the trainer. This allows them to bring back to their units the knowledge they have gained by participating in the event. Not only did the team receive outstanding training but they learned best practices from their competitors. The ranger or sniper in the next lane shared their personal preferences or tactics that work best for them. Although it was a fierce competition, at the end of the day, all soldiers helped better the next soldier.



Kneeling from left to right Sgt. Victor E. Lezza, Spc. Brian Jackson, Sgt. Brandon Gahring, Lt. Col. Jon Casillas, Capt. Anthony Trimarco, Sgt. 1st Class Spencer Manning, Sgt. Jason Borgman, Spc. James Sercey, Spc. Nicholas Gunn, Top row Sgt. Ryan Horst, Sgt. James Corey, Master Sgt. Kurt Lamping, Spc. Nicholas Elam, Staff Sgt. Cody Brunet, Staff Sgt. Ashley Hopper.



The 416th TEC shooting team A captain, Staff Sgt. Brunet, gives his teammates guidance and instruction to accomplish the next team match.



Sgt. Horst concentrates on his breathing and trigger squeeze while engaging targets at 1000 meters with the M24 sniper rifle during the long range competition.

The big picture for the 416th TEC is that the skills the team received equipped them with new knowledge and value to bring back to their units. The 416th TEC team assists with correct BMI training and coaching. It has a proven effect on the units overall qualification percentage.

"This training allows the 416th TEC as an operational and functional command to improve the overall marksmanship scores throughout all the units under the 416th TEC," said Manning. "The value this training brings back to the individual units is priceless."

The team has showed significant improvements every year. Returning team members, Spc. Brian Jackson and Sgt. James Corey, have stood out with the most improvement in their rankings from last year to this year.

"I started my marksmanship competition quest for excellence at All Army 2010," said Corey. "I had always been 'pretty good' at shooting, or so I thought until I witnessed some of the most impressive competitors the U.S. Army has produced."

These soldiers work hard and sacrifice their personal time to practice throughout the year to become a better marksman. During the competition, after the matches were over for the day Jackson, Corey and

Spc. Nicholas Gunn showed motivation to improve by finding a local shooting range near Fort Benning. They spent their own money and time to improve their skills.

"I shoot regularly now: rain, sleet or snow to constantly improve my ability and understanding of marksmanship," said Corey.

What is most important is all soldiers, regardless of what job they do, are required

to qualify with their assigned weapon. This competition not only allows soldiers to compete for awards and unit recognition, but it better prepares soldiers by building upon the skill set they already possess.

"We ensure the 416th TEC marksmanship team is not only trained in advanced marksmanship skills but we also train them on the Laser Marksmanship Training System (LMTS)," said Manning. "Along with a lot of self help and coaching our team has improved the scores of their individual units."

The 416th TEC team is looking to fill open positions. The goal is to have a team of 36 soldiers. 20 rifle shooters, 10 pistol shooters, a NCOIC and OIC for each group and an overall OIC and NCOIC to complete the team. If you're interested in becoming a part of an elite team and have the time to learn, tryouts will be announced sometime in September.

"The All-Army competition allows the 416th TEC shooting team to hone their warrior skills on a 'known-distance' range, building individual confidence and familiarization on US Army small arms platforms," said Trimarco. ■



The 416th TEC shooting team works together as they motivate and encourage each other during a two-mile run in full gear before they engage their targets. (Front from left to right Spc. Borgman, Sgt. Gahring, Spc. Gunn, following close behind Spc. Sercey.

2011 Regional Army Reserve Best Warriors chosen at Fort McCoy

By 416th TEC/84th Training Command PAO Team

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Ten Soldiers from the 416th Theater Engineer Command, 84th Training Command and the 88th Reserve Support Command Noncommissioned Officer Academies competed at the 2011 Regional Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition held here to represent their respective commands.

Five winners were announced at a luncheon awards banquet at the end of the week after all 10 competitors in the Regional Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition spent a week in various physical and mental

challenges designed to push them to the limit and test their skills, knowledge and endurance.

The 88th RSC's NCO of the Year is **Staff Sgt. Conrad H. Nazar Jr.**, from Lorain, Ohio. Nazar, who resides in Tomah, Wis., is a small group leader for the Warrior Leader Course at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Fort McCoy, Wis.

The 416th TEC's NCO of the Year is **Sgt. Daniel Florez** from Tucson, Ariz. Florez, who resides in Steilacoom, Wash., is an intelligence analyst assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 494th Brigade Support Battalion, 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The 416th TEC's Soldier of the Year is **Spc. Yasutaka Dote** from Columbia, Mo. Dote, who resides in Rolla, Mo., is a combat engineer assigned to the 383rd Engineer Company in Jonesboro, Ark.

The 84th Training Command's NCO of the Year is **Sgt. Jacob H. Probst** from Watertown, Wis. Probst, who resides in Milwaukee, is a combat engineer assigned to B Company, Small Arms Readiness Group, 3rd Battalion/329th Regiment in Milwaukee, Wis.

The 84th Training Command's Soldier of the Year is **Spc. LeFate Jones** from Brooklyn, N.Y. Jones is an information systems operator assigned to the 78th Training Division at Fort Dix, N.J.

The five winners will represent their commands at the U.S. Army

Reserve Best Warrior Competition to be held at Fort McCoy in June.

The competitors represented diverse military and civilian backgrounds and experiences. Many have deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and the Horn of Africa. Several have been decorated in combat with Bronze Star Medals and Combat Action Badges. Their career fields included infantry, military police, healthcare, mechanics, human resources, intelligence, public affairs, civil affairs, and engineering.

The events tested the Soldiers' mental endurance, physical stamina and tactical reasoning abilities.

"We like to get them really tired and see how they react mentally," explained Sgt. Major Dominick Bucci. Bucci, a member of the 416th, is this year's BWC noncommissioned officer in charge.

Eleven Soldiers arrived Sunday for in-processing and a no-host social. The grueling competition week started on Monday with a 5 a.m. Army Physical Fitness Test, which eliminated one competitor, bringing the field down to 10.

"I will sleep good tonight for sure, get a good night's rest, and come back more prepared for tomorrow," said Spc. Brian Larner, one of four specialists competing. Larner, from Greensburg, Ind., is a member of the 478th Engineer Company, based at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The Soldiers then appeared before a board of command sergeants major, followed by a written test and written essay.



FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Spc. Brian Larner from the 478th Engineer Company, Camp Atterbury, Ind., achieves an arm bar on his competitor to become the winner of the enlisted portion of the U.S. Army Combatives event during the 2011 Regional Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition here on May 5. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Valerie Willhoite)



FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Sgt. Daniel Florez of the 494th Brigade Support Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord Wash., climbs across a rope bridge at the confidence course event during the Regional Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition on May 5 here. (U.S. Army Photo by Cliff Coy)

The secret to the board, according to Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Odgers, is “staying confident and comfortable. Keep your composure and answer the question the best that you can.” Odgers, from Greensboro, N.C., is currently stationed at Regional Training Center – West at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

The next morning, the competitors were tested on Army Warrior Tasks, including four “mystery events”. For one of the mystery events, the Soldiers were given a plastic bin full of parts for three different weapons, and had to assemble and perform function checks on each weapon.

“I teach weapons, so I did pretty well,” said Sgt. Jacob Probst. Probst, from Watertown, Wis., is a small arms instructor with Company B, 3rd Battalion/329th (Small Arms Readiness) based in Milwaukee, Wis.

The afternoon and evening events consisted of day and night land navigation courses. The courses had the competitors walking over rolling as well as a few steep hills.

“I’m hoping my night-nav points are on hills,” said Staff Sgt. Conrad Nazar. “Every land nav course should have hills.” Nazar, who resides in

Tomah, Wis., is an instructor at the Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell NCO Academy at Fort McCoy. Nazar was the first competitor to finish both the day and night land navigation courses.

One competitor didn’t necessarily agree with Nazar.

“That terrain was a pain in the behind,” said Spc. LeFate Jones, a 78th Training Division Soldier from Brooklyn, N.Y.

Day three started out with a 10K road march while wearing Kevlar helmets, ballistic vest with plates and ruck sack totaling 65 pounds and carrying their weapons. Odgers was the first to cross the finish line. Staff Sgt. Stephanie Piekarczyk started the road march with a taped ankle. She twisted her ankle during the land navigation event.

“Physical stuff I can do. It’s just putting mind over matter,” she said. “It’s all in your heart and in your head.” She did finish the road march. Piekarczyk, from Fridley, Minn., is an instructor at the NCO Academy at Fort Dix, N.J.

Next up, range fire. The competitors headed to the range for day and night firing, followed by an obstacle course on the morning of day four.

The afternoon of day four brought the competitors to the combatives mat. Fatigue was starting to set in.

“That reversal was all I had,” said Sgt. Ryan Trickey. “I was tired from the get go.” Trickey, from Marquette, Mich., is a member of the 652nd Engineer Company.

Sgt. Daniel Florez won the match in the NCO category. Larner won the match for the Soldier category.

“You just have to make it a comfort zone,” said Florez, a member of the 494th Bridge Support Battalion from Steilacoom, Wash.

The Citizen-Soldiers competing in the event represent a cross-section of America. They come from large and small communities, and have attended college or been assigned to units in dozens of other locations. Some were born or grew up outside the United States, and others are naturalized citizens, but all of them voluntarily serve to protect all Americans and our national interests, home and abroad. This year’s competition, like years past, tested the Soldiers’ mental endurance, physical stamina and tactical reasoning abilities—all the skills required to keep Soldiers alive in combat.

“A lot of stuff they’re doing, they do all the time,” said Bucci. “This is just wrapping it all together.” ■



FORT MCCOY, Wis. – Spc. LaFate Jones of the 78th Training Division at Fort Dix, N.J., lifts a fellow participant during the U.S. Army combatives event at the 2011 Regional Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition on May 5 here. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cliff Coy)

U.S. Army Reserve Command announces winners of Best Warrior Competition

Courtesy Story

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – The U.S. Army Reserve Command announced the winners of the 2011 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition on June 24 at the American Legion Post in Sparta, Wis.

The 2011 Army Reserve Best Warrior (non-commissioned officer category) is Sgt. Christopher R. Couchot, a senior transmission systems operator-maintainer whose hometown is Sidney, Ohio. Couchot represented the 335th Signal Command in the competition.

The 2011 Army Reserve Best Warrior (soldier category) is Spc. Ryan J. Barger, a military policeman whose hometown is Orleans, Mich. Barger, who resides in Allendale, Mich., represented the 200th Military Police Command in the competition.

“I feel absolutely honored to be able to come out here and compete with all the competitors,” said Barger. “It’s truly the best of the best in the Army Reserve. Honestly, this is the best of the best. Anyone could have taken it. I was fortunate to be the one.”

Couchot and Barger will go on to represent the Army Reserve in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition in October at Fort Lee, Va.

“We’re gonna take it to the DA and I promise I will represent you well,” Couchot said. “It will be interesting to see what the competition will be like at DA, because I thought it was stiff—the competition out here, and it will be interesting to see what the active duty side has to offer.”

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, who was at the awards banquet, offered his words of congratulations to the competitors, and he said that their accomplishments get people’s attention.

“When I get out and talk about soldiers that I’ve been out and visited and



Competitors kicked off day three of the Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition with a 6.2 mile road march. All competitors carried 50 pounds worth of equipment through a tough, hilly route which leads them into their next events at the weapons range on Fort McCoy, Wis., June 22. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

saw what they’ve done and how they performed, people in Congress, people in the American public start to listen,” Stultz said.

Other honors at the awards banquet were as follows:

Best Warrior runner-up (non-commissioned Officer category): Staff Sgt. Conrad H. Nazar Jr., 88th Regional Support Command. Hometown: Lorain, Ohio; currently resides in Tomah, Wis.

Best Warrior runner-up (soldier category): Spc. Wade J. Saunders, 335th Signal Command. Hometown: Pickens, S.C.

Highest Army Physical Fitness Score: Spec. Wade J. Saunders, 335th Signal Command. Hometown: Pickens, S.C.

Highest Weapons Qualification: Staff Sgt. Janine M. Smeltz, 377th Theater Sustainment Command. Hometown: Herndon, Pa., currently resides in Lykens, Pa.

Heavyweight Combatives: Spc. Aurelio O. Hernandez, 412th Theater Engineer Command. Hometown: Hollister, Calif.

Lightweight Combatives: Sgt. Gustavo Negrete, Jr., 79th Sustainment Support Command. Hometown: La Puente, Calif., currently resides in Los Alamitos, Calif.

The 43 soldiers competing in this week’s Best Warrior

Competition represented 205,000 soldiers in the U.S. Army Reserve.

The competitors spent the week on a variety of Army challenges that tried their mettle in tests of skill such as weapons qualification, a ruck march, land navigation, Army combatives, first aid and weapons assembly.

Their military backgrounds and experience represent the entire spectrum of the Army Reserve. Many have deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. Their career fields include military police, healthcare, mechanics, human resources, intelligence, chaplain assistant and engineering. They represent a wide cross-section of America, hailing from various states across the United States. ■



Sgt. Christopher Couchot tries to break a hold during the Modern Army Combatives tournament at the 2011 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy on Thursday, June 23. (Photo by Tim Hale)

Regional Best Warrior Competitors Earn A Shot at the Audie Murphy Board

Story and Photos by Spc. Lindsey Schulte, 364 PAOC



The Sgt. Audie Murphy Board Command Sgt.s Maj. judged the Non Commissioned Officers competence in a range of leadership aspects at Fort McCoy on May 2.

FORT McCoy, Wisc. — Competing Noncommissioned Officers had the opportunity to earn induction into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) during the Army Regional Best Warrior Competition at Ft. McCoy, Wisc., on May 6.

The 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) started a SAMC chapter and hosted a board for NCOs, with Command Sgt. Maj. (CSM) of the 416th, Larry E. Reever, seated as President. All of the BWC NCOs plus one other recommended NCO went before this potentially intimidating board.



These brave NCOs presented themselves for 'judgment' at the hands of six 416th TEC CSMs. The board asked competitors not **what** a given answer might be, but instead focused their questions to the soldiers on **how** they would solve given problems. For most of the competitors, the intense board lasted 45 minutes.

"The board is not like a normal board where they ask you set questions out of a book. They're going to ask questions that make competitors think," said Master Sgt. Jerome Harris, from the G1 office for the 420th Engineer Brigade, and acting subject matter expert for the SAMC board.

"That's not a mind board, it's a heart board," said Staff Sgt. Conrad Nazar, an instructor at the NCO Academy here.

For better or worse, the NCOs were given this opportunity (one soldier said, 'thrown before') a final induction board regardless of completing the perquisite phases. Induction into the SAMC is often accomplished only after a series of phases are completed, but boards can be convened under circumstances where soldiers of merit are present for other boards, such as for the annual Best Warrior Competitions. Soldiers desiring membership must hold the rank of Corporal through Sgt. 1st Class. The first phase of bringing them here for participation is performance-based

according to recommendation(s), evaluation(s), and selection of these NCOs by the soldier's commander. This is followed by an initial board of senior ranking NCOs from the soldiers' respective unit, with performance recorded on a numerical score card. The final phase is to present oneself before the CSMs who will decide the soldiers' SAMC fate. Based on observations, it is not an event for the faint of heart.

Throughout this process, Reever strongly advised that NCOs know their soldiers and how to care for them—that they always be attentive to basic leadership skills.

All of the NCOs who went before the SAMC board that day were members of the Army Reserve. For some of the participants, it was more of learning rather than earning experience.

"It was really good training on things I will eventually have to go through," said Sgt. Ryan Trickey, who had only one week to prepare for this grueling board.

"It's more of an honor to [even] attend this board than win any other," said Nazar, who was well prepared and has been looking forward to this opportunity for years.

The SAMC is regarded with such high esteem because of the immense reputation of the soldier after whom it was founded.

Staff Sgt. Stephanie M. Piekarczyk with the Non Commissioned Officer Academy out of Fort Dix, N.J., demonstrates how to clear a jam in the M16 for the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board at Fort McCoy on May 2.



Sgt. Ryan M. Trickey with the 653rd Engineer Company out of Marquett, Mich., analyzed the target and advised his soldier on shooting improvement during the mock zeroing of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board at Fort McCoy on May 2.

Staff Sgt. Audie Murphy was turned down by the Marines and Paratroopers, on account of his small stature, before he enlisted in the Army. Murphy stood just 5 feet 5 inches tall, and weighed only 110 pounds, yet he became the highest decorated soldier in U.S. history—earning every American medal for valor, three French medals and one Belgian medal. The board tests for soldiers who display the same traits—who show the same potential as the club’s inspiration.

“It forces them to come up with what they would do with their soldiers in that situation, and that’s how you can tell how they actually act with their soldiers,” said Harris.

“You always have someone that stands out before others,” said Reever.

While all the participants gave a great effort, only one NCO managed to pass this particular 416th SAMC board. Perhaps he is already on his way to modeling Murphy. Like Murphy in the fame that led to his 44 films, Nazar has now been in front of the camera for both military and civilian news organizations present during the BWC; and in videos of the event posted on YouTube,



Staff Sgt. Conrad H. Nazar Jr. with the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy at Fort McCoy, Wis., prepared to present himself before the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board at Fort McCoy on May 2.

Flickr, Facebook, and DVIDS. Nazar won best NCO at Regional BWC and was runner-up at the USARC level here in June.

The SAMC itself was founded in 1986 at Ft. Hood, Texas, 15 years after Murphy’s

death. Though Murphy finished his Army career as a Staff Sgt. in the Texas National Guard, the club did not include the National Guard until 1993. By 1994 the SAMC was Army wide. ■



Ryan M. Trickey with the 653rd Engineer Company out of Marquett, Mich., stands for uniform inspection before the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board at Fort McCoy on May 2.



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Please Contact:
Latanya Yarbrough
SOS Support Coordinator
630-910-3213 ext. 224
latanya.r.yarbrough@us.army.mil

Survivor Outreach Services is an
ARMY FAMILY COVENANT COMMITMENT:
Keeping the Promise

OUR PURPOSE is to deliver on the Army's commitment to Families of the Fallen. Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) connects you with people who can help you cope with your loss. Many times after you have lost a loved one, there are unresolved issues or questions that may surface months or years after the loss. The Army is dedicated to fulfilling the Family Covenant by providing support to Surviving Families for as long as they desire.

Many times after you have lost a loved one, there are unresolved issues or questions that may surface months or years after the loss. The Army is dedicated to fulfilling the Family Covenant by providing support to Surviving Families for as long as they desire.

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES demonstrates the Army's commitment to Surviving Families of the Fallen by providing support and standardized services to Active, Reserve, and Army National Guard Families.

SOS is a holistic and multi-agency approach to delivering services by providing access at garrisons and communities closest to where Families live. Benefits Coordinators, Financial Counselors, and Support Coordinators are professionals available to deliver individualized support and attention to Survivors across the nation.

OUR MISSION

- Expand and improve services to Survivors
- Define roles and responsibilities for all agencies and all components
- Improve responsiveness and streamline the assistance process for Families
- Provide access to Benefits Coordinators, Financial Counselors and Support Coordinators locally, and Long Term Family Case Management

BENEFITS COORDINATORS
Benefits Coordinators will provide expertise on Local, State and Federal benefits. They also work with Casualty...

FINANCIAL COUNSELORS
Financial Counselors provide assistance to Surviving Families through investment and estate planning education. Financial counselors work closely with Benefits Coordinators, Army Long Term Family Case Management, and legal assistance to address the needs of Surviving Families.

SUPPORT COORDINATORS
Support Coordinators function as the long term support personnel for Survivors. Support Coordinators and connect Survivors with life skills education, counseling resources. These Coordinators work closely with Benefits Coordinators, Casualty Assistance Officers, and Army Long Term Family Case Management to ensure Survivors receive their necessary services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit MyARMYOneSource.com, click on "Family Programs and Services" for the Surviving Families link.

SOS SUPPORT COORDINATOR:

The Hall Family, Survivors since 2007.

The Alexander Family, Survivors since 2003.

Background Image: Benches, a Survivor since 2006.



We can help you cope with your loss and help you understand and apply for benefits and entitlements.

Family Programs Overview

By Tammy De Benedetto, Family Program Director, 416th Theater Engineer Command



I am proud to have this opportunity to serve every soldier and their families of the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC). I accepted this position and the responsibilities that accompany it with great pride. Every soldier gives to our country and sacrifices much on a daily basis; we should also realize that the families of those soldiers give as well. My work is something I take great pride in, knowing that I can give back to each of you, who give and sacrifice so much so I can enjoy the American way of life and all of the freedoms it affords.

In the short time I have been here, I have occupied my time getting to know the staff within Family Programs and the staff here at the TEC. I am pleased with all that takes place and am appreciative to be a part of a team that is serving our soldiers. There are many wonderful Family Programs, events and activities already in place. We are going to strive to ensure that each family is aware of the many benefits that are available to you. I want to know that our families, not only know about these benefits, but have an understanding of how to access and enroll in them as well.

When individuals think of “Family Programs” they often think of the typical family consisting of parents

and young children. Our Family Program extends beyond that commonality. Single soldiers, married soldiers, married soldiers with children and other dynamics; they are all a part of Family Programs. Our programs are not limited and I will ensure that our team works toward programs that include all soldiers and their families.

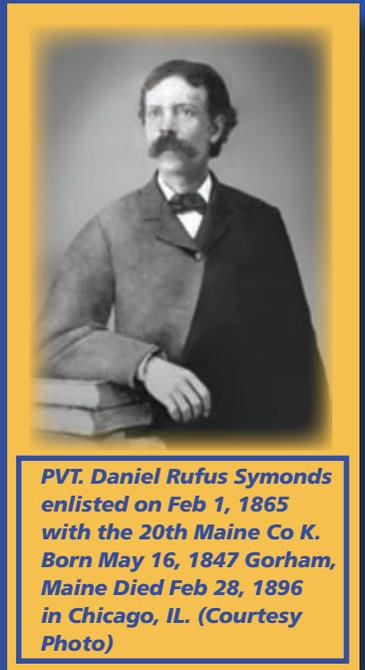
If you are looking for a place to volunteer, I would encourage you to consider your local Family Readiness Group (FRG). What a great place and a great group of people to work with. This is not limited to spouses, but is open to parents, siblings and others that have an interest and a commitment to our soldiers and our mission! If you are interested, or know of someone who is, please have them contact their respective Families Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA) for detailed information. If someone is asking you how they can help, encourage them to volunteer with the local FRG. What a wonderful way to give back.

A few programs you will see forthcoming from Family Programs will be Family Camps, activities that are specific for our single soldiers, a focus on our female soldiers and some unique training opportunities. We are working diligently to improve the programs, events and activities we currently offer as well as growing and developing new ones. If you have thoughts, suggestions or ideas, let us know!

I am looking forward to meeting many of you and working with you all. Together we can accomplish many great things! If I or the Family Program Staff can serve you in any way, please contact us. We are “Army Strong”! ■

Civil War Veteran given final resting place

Story and Photos by Sgt. Carolyn Hawkins, 318th PAOC



PVT. Daniel Rufus Symonds enlisted on Feb 1, 1865 with the 20th Maine Co K. Born May 16, 1847 Gorham, Maine Died Feb 28, 1896 in Chicago, IL. (Courtesy Photo)

FORT SHERIDAN, Ill. – Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Symonds from the 318th Public Affairs Operations Center (PAOC) in Forest Park, Ill. honored his great-great grandfather Pvt. Daniel Rufus Symonds, a Civil War veteran, by giving him a military burial ceremony on April 9, 2011 at the Fort Sheridan Cemetery.

Since the Symonds family runs funeral homes in the Chicago area, Staff Sgt. Symonds, who is also a funeral director, had the rare opportunity to disinter his great-great grandfather's remains from the Forest Home Cemetery where he was originally buried 115 years ago.

"They're not just his bones," Staff Sgt. Symonds said about the disinterment, "they are a connection to who I am and to my family."

Pvt. Daniel Rufus Symonds had never received honors at the time of his death. He was buried in a pauper's grave at the Forest Home Cemetery. Staff Sgt. Symonds found his great-great grandfather's enlistment and discharge documents at the National Archives, ending his 25-year search for the paperwork needed to arrange a military burial. The Symonds family requested a grave at Fort Sheridan and a military headstone. Much to their excitement, their request was approved.

Pvt. Symonds enlisted in the United States Army during the Civil War on Feb. 1, 1865, when he was 18 years old. He joined the 20th Maine Company K Infantry unit 22 days later. He took part in the siege of Petersburg, the battle of Five Forks and the battle of Appomattox where Gen. Lee surrendered to Lt. Gen. Grant. He served in the Union Army for six months.

The Symonds family has a long history of serving the country in the military. Staff Sgt. Symonds' father, Retired Capt. Irving R. Symonds Jr. served for 26 years in the Army Reserve; his brother Sgt. Irving R. Symonds III served for seven years in the Army National Guard; and his late brother Capt. John S. Symonds served for 20 years in the Army Reserve. Staff Sgt. Symonds has also served in the Army Reserve for nine years and has been deployed three times to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This has been a 25-year dream," says Staff Sgt. Symonds. "It was my personal goal to do something to honor him. This has been a tremendous effort of love by my family and my comrades-in-arms at my reserve unit." ■



Top:
Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Symonds, 318th PAOC, looks at the remains of his great-great grandfather, Pvt. Daniel Rufus Symonds, while conducting a reinterment to move him from Forest Home Cemetery to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.

Middle:
Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Symonds, 318th PAOC, speaks to the family of his great-great grandfather Pvt. Daniel Rufus Symonds next to his flag draped casket at reinterment ceremony at Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.

Bottom:
Symonds presents the folded American flag that was draped over the casket of Pvt. Daniel Rufus Symonds to his great grandson Capt. Irving R Symonds (ret) at the reinterment ceremony held at Fort Sheridan National Cemetery.

Local Elementary Students Accomplish Mission with the Help of 416th TEC Laptops

Story by Lt. Col. Anthony H. Jocius, Deputy G-6, 416th TEC, Photos by Elmer Denman, IPFW and Erika Kinney

DARIEN, Ill. – Young aspiring students from Northwestern Elementary School Corporation in Kokomo, Ind. participated in Lego League robotics competition at both the regional and state level. This competition was made possible from donated laptops from the G-6 (Information Technology) section of the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC). These laptops were old expired computers which would normally be disposed of but were salvaged and transferred to Mr. Michael Carmain, lead robotics educator for the elementary school.

Lego League introduces the sciences and technology to young students, to inspire them to dream about being leaders in science and technology. Students learn to design, build and test robots. Students are presented with technology concepts and real-world math situations. The students work together in teams during the program, and they use the laptops to program robots. This type of interaction increases their critical thinking skills, builds self-confidence through learning how to present their ideas, and as well as enhances their team building abilities.

Prior to accepting the computers for the Northwestern School Corporation, Mr. Carmain and his 31 students shared the use of two computers. The absence of an adequate number of computers meant most students could only have a few moments each week to program their robots. Adding nine computers to his other two computers narrowed the ratio from 15:1 to 3:1 students per computer. These

added machines accelerated the student's robotic skills.

Mr. Carmain and his students were able to assemble four teams that competed at the regional level competition at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. in December of 2010. At this competition the teams were able to qualify two



Mr. Carmain and his Lego team, students from Northwestern Elementary School Corporation in Kokomo, Ind. take a photo before the State level Lego League Championship at Indiana University held Mar 2011.

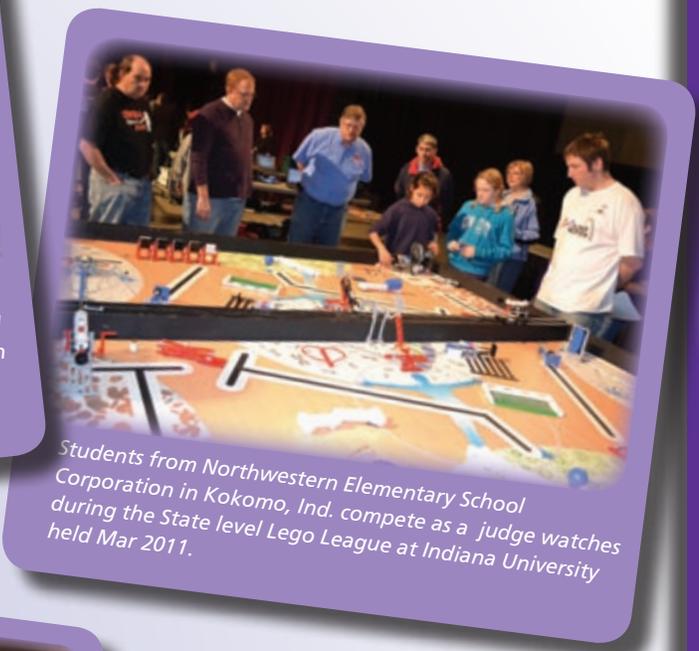
teams for the State Championship at Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne. The State competition commenced in March of 2011. These two teams were able to garner several awards. One team won the Rising Star Award and the other team received a Participation Award.

Mr. Carmain is optimistic about the future of his program. His students are spending more with their robots and learning is fun again. This year he will field more teams and students will reap the benefits of these old computers. ■

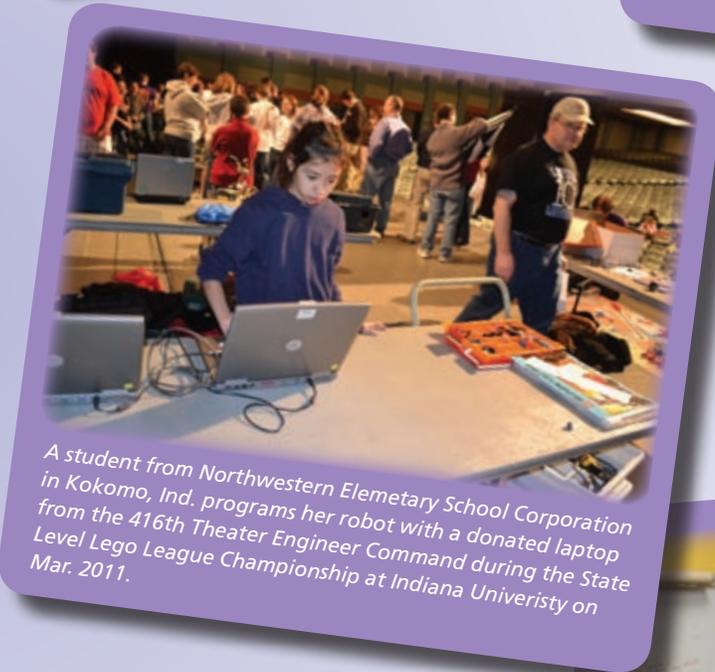
ROBOTICS



Children from teams Lego Warriors and Lego Crushers watch a robot operating on the playing table as Mr. Michael Carmain, lead robotics educator, applauds a finished mission at the State level Lego League Competition held at the Indiana University Mar 2011.



Students from Northwestern Elementary School Corporation in Kokomo, Ind. compete as a judge watches during the State level Lego League at Indiana University held Mar 2011.



A student from Northwestern Elementary School Corporation in Kokomo, Ind. programs her robot with a donated laptop from the 416th Theater Engineer Command during the State Level Lego League Championship at Indiana University on Mar. 2011.



Students from Northwestern Elementary School Corporation in Kokomo, Ind. program their robots with donated laptops from the 416th Theater Engineer Command during the State Level Lego League Championship at Indiana University on Mar. 2011.

420th Engineer Brigade uses asphalt to lay the groundwork for success during Operation Essayons

Story and Photos by Spc. Anthony Hooker, 345th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT MCCOY, Wis. — Under the direction of the 420th Engineering Brigade (EN BDE), three engineering detachments (EN Det.) joined forces to pave three **live fire** ranges with asphalt here. Forty-three soldiers assigned to the 279th, 316th and 945th Engineering Detachments (Asphalt) combined to lay, spread and pack asphalt in support of Operation Essayons, a training mission held June 4 through June 18.

The seven-day project gave the engineers, identified as concrete and asphalt equipment operators, extensive work and training opportunities that come infrequently. Members of different units paired up to pave and surface asphalt; a number of soldiers worked on an asphalt distributor or surface roller.

Army Spc. Daniel Newton, a construction equipment operator with the 316th EN Det., said it was his first mission with asphalt.

"One of the things I've learned doing this is the base coat of the asphalt must be relatively smooth," said Newton, a Youngstown, Ohio native. "It must be able to bond with the base material (gravel)."

Soldiers distributed asphalt that reached temperatures of 350 degrees Fahrenheit and higher. Learning how to safely move material from the distributor in a timely manner was just as important as the surfacing.

"A lot of these soldiers don't get a



Spc. Justin Thomas works on an asphalt paver Jun 9 at the 25 meter zero range in Fort McCoy, Wis. Thomas, a concrete and asphalt equipment operator with the 316th Engineer Detachment (Asphalt), is on duty with the 420th Engineer Brigade in support of Operation Essayons 2011.

lot of training after AIT (Advanced Individual Training)," said 1st Lt. Chuck Crane, the officer in charge of plans and operations for Operation Essayons. "The materials are expensive and any project they do has to have a lot of land mass."

To solve this issue, Crane and his noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. Major Geraldo Pirela, contacted Fort McCoy's Directorate of Public Works. They were soon married up with troop projects coordinator Larry Morrow, who was more than happy to find some skilled labor available for projects.

"I had been told that Fort McCoy hadn't done an asphalt project for nearly 10 years," said Morrow in a phone interview. "We had one asphalt

project last year but it didn't work out well; when I brought up the offer by the 420th EN Det. to Range Control they were excited."

Crane described the arrangement as a "win-win" situation. The units get to practice their specialized skills such as operating asphalt distributors and aggregate spreaders; Fort McCoy gets the labor to work on infrastructure that they deem important (e.g. Morale, Welfare, and Recreation projects)

Sgt. Marie Isringhausen, the acting detachment commander for the 279th EN Det., said the training they received during Operation Essayons is invaluable and almost impossible to replicate back home.



Soldiers from the 279th, 316th, and 945th Engineer Detachments (Asphalt) sift excess material from an asphalt paver Jun 9 at Fort McCoy, Wis. All three units are working under the 420th Engineer Brigade in support of Operation Essayons 2011.

"Our equipment is not located in the same area of our unit, so we rarely get an opportunity to use it for training," Isringhausen said. "For example, an asphalt paver takes three people to operate it and we need to know how to use it as a team."

"The mentoring and support that we have gotten from the 316th and 945th have allowed us to move from a supporting role on the project to being the primary operators by the end of the exercise."

Morrow said the work the asphalt detachments do will save Ft. McCoy's DPW money and manpower.

"Previously, we've had to annually go out to the ranges and re-grade the gravel," he said. "By laying the coats of asphalts, the parking areas experience less degradation, which eliminates our personnel going out every year to re-grade."

"We plan to have more projects this summer with units laying asphalt,

but the soldiers of Operation Essayons have set the bar pretty high." ■



Spc. Shavon Carradine, a concrete and asphalt equipment operator with the 279th Engineer Detachment (Asphalt), shovels asphalt onto pavement in support of Operations Essayons 2011 on Jun 9 at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Citizens Honor Wife of Fallen Soldier

Story and Photo by Spc. Lindsey Schulte, 364th PAOC

ST CLOUD, Minn. – Billie Kruize stood in front of a somber crowd in the St. Cloud Civic Center on March 19, 2011 as four teenagers presented her with a quilt made in honor of her late husband, Kurt E. Kruize, her fallen hero, and member of the 367th Engineer Battalion, located in St. Cloud.

Billie Kruize was not aware that a group called the “Home of the Brave Quilt Project” had made the quilt with plans to present it, until the 367th Family Readiness Group (FRG) personnel notified her.

Billie Kruize’s husband, Kurt, died while serving in Baghdad, Iraq, in April of 2010. After hearing about Kurt’s death, teenagers Madison, Hunter and Tanner Schreifles and Chris Lamm volunteered with the Home of the Brave Quilt Project to make the quilt in his honor.

Jolene Schreifles, mother of three of the teenagers, is part of the Heart and Hands Quilt Guild, which has often donated its services to the Home of the Brave Quilt Project. The teenagers meticulously crafted the 15 blocks for the quilt, and Jolene Schreifles then skillfully completed the final assembly.

There has been a multitude of volunteers to create quilts for Fallen Soldiers. The Home of the Brave Quilt Project has distributed 4,179 quilts to 3,526 military families.

Creating the quilts is less of a challenge than distributing them, said Sandi K. Carstensen, national coordinator for the Home of the Brave Quilt Project.

“The most time-consuming [aspect of this] is locating families,” Carstensen said. “We try every venue.”

Those venues include organizations such as Survival Outreach Services, funeral homes, local police, clergy and web sites such as legacy.com.

To locate Billie Kruize, the group responded to an article in the St. Cloud Times newspaper that was written by Randy Krebs. The article called for help for 367th’s Welcome Home Warrior Citizen ceremony.

Krebs happened to be part of the ceremony’s planning committee, and he brought the quilt distribution problem to Maj. Shawn T. Hubbell, the 367th’s Operations Officer, who helped coordinate the ceremony.

Hubbell directed the unit’s FRG to contact Billie Kruize, while he contacted the Home of the Brave Quilt Project and coordinated with the 367th commander and staff to set up the special quilt presentation during the Welcome Home Warrior Citizen ceremony. ■



Billie Kruize, wife of fallen soldier Sgt. Kurt Kruize, 367th EN BN, is consoled by friends after receiving a quilt made in the honor of her husband at the 367th Welcome Home Warrior Citizen ceremony on March 19th in St Cloud, Minn.

EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES

Frequently Asked Questions

AM I ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE?

All Army Reserve Soldiers can participate in the Employer Partnership Initiative so long as they are in good standing with the Army Reserve.

DOES MY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM GUARANTEE ME A JOB?

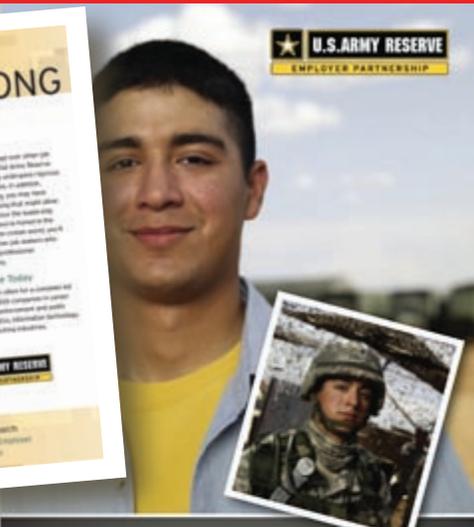
Employer Partners know that Army Reserve Soldiers are well-qualified and make good employees. That is why they are eager to consider Army Reserve applicants for their positions. Army Reserve Soldiers must still meet employer skill requirements for available job openings.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

Go to www.ArmyReserve.Army.mil to search civilian job opportunities offered by the Army Reserve Employer Partners. Once your search results display, click on the job of interest and complete the Army Reserve Referral Form. You will be on your way to connecting with Fortune 500 companies and businesses throughout the United States.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the Employer Partnership Initiative online at www.ArmyReserve.Army.mil to learn more and get a list of current Employer Partners. The search engine at the Army Reserve website can help you explore Employer Partner job openings. If you have additional questions about how you can take advantage of the Employer Partnership Initiative, contact the Army Reserve at ARCareers@usar.army.mil. Field representatives are also available to help you achieve your career goals through the Employer Partnership Initiative. Locate the one near you on the Army Reserve Web site. If you are a prior service Soldier interested in taking advantage of the benefits, contact an Army Reserve Career Counselor closest to you. Find them at www.usar.army.mil/retn/RTD/seires_poc.htm.



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Mr. Aderemi Olodun (far R), Employee Partnership Program Support Manager for Illinois, Michigan and Iowa, poses with the Commander of the United States Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, the Assistant Secretary of the Army Reserve for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, Mr. Michael Newman (far L) and the Illinois Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Administrative Assistant, Ms. Carolyn L. Murray during the Senior Leadership Conference in Chicago from 18-22 May 2011. (Photo by: Capt. Jermaine Denny)

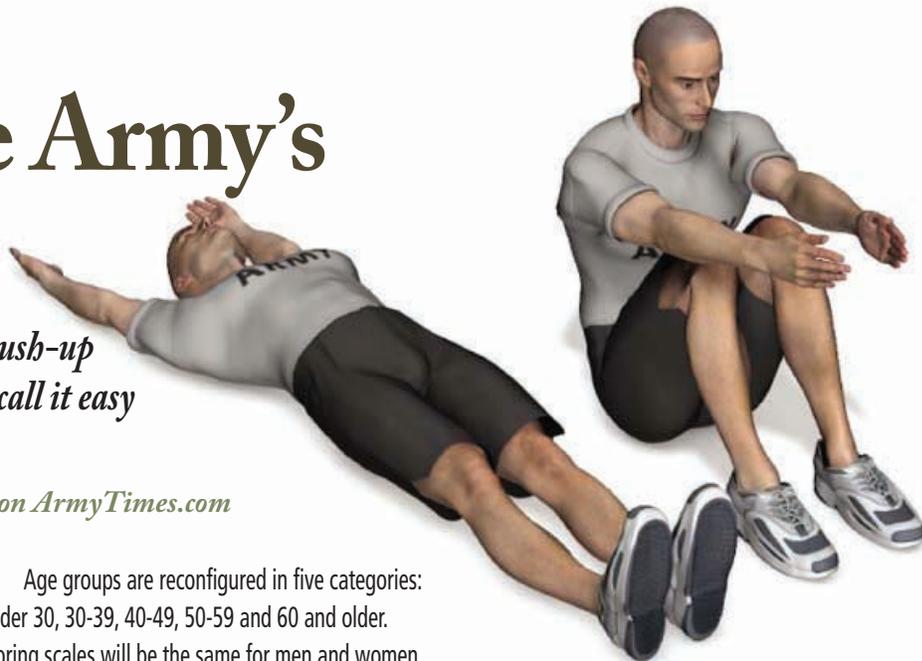


A look at the Army's new PT test

Streamlined test shortens run, pares push-up time and cuts out sit-ups — just don't call it easy

By Lance M. Bacon - Staff writer

Posted: Friday Mar 4, 2011 14:20:53 EST on ArmyTimes.com



A revolutionary new physical readiness test will shorten your run distance, eliminate sit-ups, change the way you measure push-ups and add three new events.

In addition, a new combat readiness test may replace one of the two PT tests soldiers do each year.

The changes — the first to the PT test since its inception in 1980 — stem from a nearly yearlong effort by Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, deputy commanding general for initial military training, and Frank Palkoska, director of the Army Physical Fitness School. He and a team of 16 fitness and nutrition experts have built a new test centered on five events:

- 60-yard shuttle run
- 1-minute rower
- Standing long jump
- 1-minute push-up
- 1½-mile run

Don't think for a minute that "shorter" and "easier" are synonymous.

"People look at events and say, 'That's easier!' OK, go ahead and try it," Hertling said in an exclusive interview with Army Times. "This test is much harder than it looks. I've done it and it certainly stresses the different energy systems much more than you anticipate."

Evaluators will spend the next six months putting the test to the test at eight locations. Scoring scales will be finalized during the pilot program. Officials said times and repetitions needed for top scores will be harder to obtain.

Age groups are reconfigured in five categories: Under 30, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and older. Scoring scales will be the same for men and women.

Hertling briefed the new test to Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey in early February. In the presentation, which he provided to Army Times, Hertling said the current test is not a strong predictor of successful physical performance on the battlefield or in full-spectrum operations because it "does not adequately measure components of strength, endurance or mobility." It instead provides "only a snapshot" assessment of upper- and lower-body muscular endurance and fails to identify anaerobic capacity. Anaerobic exercises are high-intensity bursts in which oxygen is not used for energy.

That's why the run is being cut to 1½ miles, which Hertling calls the "gold standard."

"A 1.5-mile run tests a different energy system in the body," said Hertling, a triathlete who has a master's degree in exercise physiology. "The physiology of your body gives you about 12 minutes of a break-even point for your anaerobic system to kick into your aerobic system. If you know you're going to go for more than 12 minutes, you have a tendency to start off slower. When running mile and a half, you'll tend to run it faster."

The old test opted for a 2-mile run simply because it is easier to measure, Hertling said.

The rowing and push-up events will be equally tough to provide a more accurate muscular endurance assessment. For example, the new test

cuts the push-up time by half, but there's a catch: You can't rest. As soon as you pause, you're done.

"You literally have to be cranking the entire one minute," Hertling said. "What we found through research is the second minute of the 2-minute test is just kind of struggling through and doesn't give a true measure of muscle failure."

The new "gender-neutral" test is designed to ensure soldiers can't train to the events. For three decades, soldiers have pumped up push-ups and sit-ups, and trimmed run times for a better score. But this was at the expense of overall physical training that would enhance mission performance.

The new test is also designed to reduce injuries. Roughly one-quarter of soldiers' injuries are a product of physical training, according to Army statistics.

The high speed and repetition of push-ups and sit-ups led to overuse injuries in the neck, shoulder and lower back, Hertling said in his brief to Casey. Repetitive, high-volume running increases risk of overuse injuries to hips, knees, ankles and feet.

The test, which is aligned with American College of Sports Medicine and Cooper Institute, also eliminates nonload-bearing alternate aerobic events such as the cycle ergometer and swim.

While the new test could become policy late this summer, Hertling said it is likely to happen in the

next fiscal year, which begins in October. Though Casey will retire long before the test would become official, his apparent Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of Training and Doctrine Command, has already given the new test his support. Dempsey has been nominated to be the next chief of staff, pending Senate confirmation, which starts March 3.

Combat test

The new program addresses functional fitness, or how well-prepared you are to do what the Army needs you to do.

Such activity requires an overall fitness that is neither obtained nor accurately measured by the current system. For example, a soldier may be able to do 1,000 push-ups but unable to traverse a mountain. Another may be able to run like a gazelle but can't carry an injured soldier out of harm's way.

To ensure that soldiers train as they fight, Hertling and his team created the combat readiness test. It includes five events founded on the warrior training battle drills concept.

It kicks off with a 400-meter run with a weapon. This enters into an obstacle course with low hurdles, high crawls and over-under obstacles to test individual movement techniques.

Soldiers then do a 40-yard casualty drag followed by a 40-yard run with ammo cans atop a balance beam.

Next come point, aim and move drills, followed by a 100-yard ammo can shuttle sprint.

The CRT wraps up with a 100-yard agility sprint.

The CRT is a balanced assessment of the Physical Readiness Training program, Hertling told Casey in his briefing.

The PRT incorporates sprinting, climbing drills and other high-intensity exercises that mimic the challenges soldiers face in combat.

Officials from the Army Physical Fitness School at Fort Jackson, S.C., said units that have adopted the PRT have seen a 30-point average increase in unit PT test scores.

The current plan would have soldiers conduct one PT test and one CRT each year.

Leadership is considering whether to keep the requirement for two PT tests each year and add a CRT before deploying. ■

What the Soldiers from the 416th TEC are saying about the new PRT:

What have you heard about the new PRT?

"My section is going to start training for it next Battle Assembly. I think it's supposed to be different events. I heard there is supposed to be a mile and a half run. I don't think it stretches you out as much though." - **Pfc. Katherine Casper, 416th TEC, HHC**



"I've heard so many things about it. I've heard about a full 'battle rattle run, heard something about an obstacle course and I definitely heard pull-ups will be on there." - **Spc. Ben Spittler, 416th TEC, HHC**

"I just know it's going to be different. I've heard it's leaning more toward what really goes on in combat. I think it's good we're changing that standard actually. You don't do a two mile run, pushups and sit-ups in combat. We're doing drags, lifting ammo cans and 50 Cals. [Calibers]. We need to train to what we really do." - **Sgt. Timothy Cooper, 416th TEC, HHC**



How has your company/battalion, etc implemented the new PRT program?

"Soldiers returning from successfully completing the Warrior Leadership Course (WLC) that were tested to standard; are leading the Company in the PRT, starting toward the beginning of the fiscal year." - **Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Goombi, 494th BSB, S1 NCOIC**



How do you think this new PRT program will help with the physical readiness of the unit versus the old PT program?

"They will get out of it what they put into it. If they still put Krispy Kremes in they will get nothing out of it." - **Lt. Col. Scott R. Shrader, 416th TEC, HHC**



"My company just started the new PRT Program last Battle Assembly. I've had to do alternative events for the APFT, and am curious what they have designated for Soldiers on profile or unable to do certain events when the PRT is fully implemented. I believe the PRT will be able to statistically show the unit commanders and leaders the mental and physical toughness of the Soldiers." - **Staff Sgt. Justin Chlarson, 494 BSB, B Co, Supply Sgt.**

"I am not a huge fan of the warm up and cool down exercises of the PRT. I know from my own personal experience that I do not get stretched out properly utilizing PRT and have been injured during PT. I think the old system worked just fine. If it isn't broke, don't fix it." - **1st Lt. Alan Fetter, 494 BSB, HHD Commander**



Safety Notes

**Mr. Richard Flanagan,
416th TEC Safety Manager**

The TEC's safety staff is comprised of one full-time Safety Manager (Richard Flanagan) and 1 AGR Safety Officer (MAJ Bruce Ladman) at the TEC Headquarters in Darien and one Safety Specialist at each of the 3 brigades (see attached articles). All battalion and company/detachment positions are staffed by Additional Duty Safety Officers (ADSO's).

The primary responsibilities of the safety staff are:

- 1) Safety Advisor to Commander & Staff
- 2) Conduct Staff Assistance Visits (SAV's) & Inspections / Provide technical assistance
- 3) Advocate for Safety Program

Motorcycle rider identification and training are the #1 priority of the safety team for FY11 - FY12.



Introduction

My name is Joe Richardson and I am the new Brigade Safety Manager for the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB).

Background

I am a retired Navy Sailor who was a Yeoman (secretary) for 20 years before getting my first job within the Army Reserve. Almost four years ago, a safety position at the 70th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) became available, so I applied for and was accepted as a Safety Specialist for the RRC. The Army Reserve sent me to a vacation resort called the Combat Readiness Center (CRC) at beautiful Fort Rucker, Alabama for four months of training, earning my Associate Occupational Health and Safety Technologist certification. Upon completion of those four months, I earned an Associate Occupational Health and Safety Technologist certification and became an Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) General Industry Outreach Trainer (qualifying to instruct both 10 and 30-hour OSHA General Industry courses). In 2009, due to the 70th RRC deactivating, the Priority Placement Program found me a job with the Navy as a Navy Region Northwest Safety Specialist. After almost two years with the Navy, I returned to the Army Reserve with the 301st MEB.

Safety Philosophy

I have one main philosophy when it comes to safety. The person most responsible for your safety is the person who stares



back at you in the mirror. No matter how good the safety professionals are (and there are many good ones), they cannot keep you safe, no matter how much they (and I) want to. The safety professional's job is to give you the tools (knowledge, training, reference materials, etc.) that YOU can use to keep yourselves and others safe. We can't buckle your seatbelts for you. We can't put motorcycle helmets and other protective equipment on you. We can't keep you from jokingly pointing weapons at your heads because you believe they are unloaded. But what we can do is give you example after example of those who did these senseless things because they didn't think "it" could happen to them. There is a saying, "Hindsight is twenty-twenty." And I bet at least 99.9% of the time, if those soldiers had known they were going to die due to the consequences of their actions, they would have done it differently. Well, instead of hindsight being twenty-twenty, let me give you a bit of foresight so you can change your actions BEFOREHAND. If you don't buckle your seatbelts, if you don't wear the proper protective equipment when riding motorcycles, if you don't ALWAYS treat your firearms as if they are loaded, or if you don't use Composite Risk Management (CRM) in ALL of your activities both on and off duty, there is a very good possibility that you will die because of it.

I can't say it any plainer than that. I take yours and my safety very seriously. I want everyone to return home to their friends and family in as good a shape (if not better) than what they left them in. I always end my monthly safety bulletins with a simple phrase that I mean from the bottom of my heart each and every time I type it: "Take care of yourselves, your families, and each other." Stay safe!



My name is Michael Vosen. I am the 372nd Engineer Brigade Safety Manager.

I have been working for the brigade for almost two years. I spent most of my first year with the brigade headquarters (HQ) deployed to Afghanistan as a civilian, working as the brigade safety officer for Forward Operating Base (FOB), Sharana.

I am retired from the Air Force Reserve. I served in the Air Force on active duty and reserve for 27 years. For the last 5 years of my Air Force career I served as the base TPU Safety Superintendent at Minneapolis Air reserve Station in Minn. In my civilian career I worked for many years for a distribution company as an engineer, operations and safety manager.

My goals and plans for my brigade safety program are to create a positive safe environment for all our operations, both training and for deployments. I want to make sure our leaders,

supervisors and additional duty safety officers (ADSSO's) have the safety skills and tools to safely and effectively complete their missions, whether it's during training purposes or deployments.

I also will focus on our off duty/non duty time. The prevention of accidents also includes our time with our family and friends, where most accidents are likely to happen, based on statistics. I want to provide the safety training and guidance for our supervisors and leaders to safely and effectively complete our missions.

I want our soldiers and leaders to have a proactive approach to safety. When you are proactive about safety, you help to achieve the Army's goal for accident prevention. A key part of this is training and educating our people on the "HOW" to be safe, but also stress the "WHY" we need to be safe. We need to take care of ourselves, our battle buddies and our families. We always have "missions" to complete, whether on deployment, on AT or at home. Safety always needs to be a key part of all our mission execution.

Thanks, and keep safe!
Mission First, Safety Always!

My name is Clint Walker and I am currently the Safety Manager for 420th Engineer Brigade located in Bryan, TX since March 2006. Prior to this, I have held various positions as a military technician (MILTECH) in the following positions: mechanic, assistant safety officer, environmental coordinator, and unit administrator. Before entering into a military technician career, I worked as a commercial diver in various locations. While working as a commercial diver, I was also a dive site safety officer.



Priority on safety:

An important part of a leader's job is safety promotion and awareness. To do this you have to make the safety of your people an integral part of your work day. Talk safety to your people. The things

that we show are important to us become important to our people. Additionally, the active involvement of leaders on safety is a motivational force for their subordinates.

Two of the most important aspects of a strong safety program are good communication and an effective safety officer.

Communication is important. The fundamentals an organization values come up during conversations. When organizations place a high value on quality, people talk about quality and organizations that place a high value on safety create an environment where people talk about safety. It should be discussed in a positive, non-threatening way.

Effective safety officers are those who are motivated, empowered, and most importantly, utilized to the fullest extent by their leadership. They create a safety culture that is equal to quality, cost, production and morale. Whether at a detachment or division, these valued personnel make a difference to the Army Reserve at all levels.

People who work safely get the job done. Morale is higher, your mission gets accomplished, and your people don't have to do another individual's job because of injury.

Lastly, "safety" is success by purpose - not by "accident"



Medical Readiness

By Maj. Eric Bullock, Command Surgeon

Influenza Immunization: Why does the Army care?

For the last several years there has been a concerted effort put forth by the Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) to ensure that as many of its soldiers as possible are vaccinated against the Influenza virus. Last year the goal was 90% immunization for the entire force, the 416th Theater Engineer Command achieved an impressive 81% immunized. I believe that this year we will be able to exceed the MEDCOM goal. However, it starts with understanding why it is important to the Army mission, this command, and you as an individual.

The Army has always led in the area of preventive medicine; specific historic cases abound where the identification, treatment and reduction of specific illnesses increased the Army's ability to complete its mission. The identification, treatment and reduction of exposure to yellow fever and malaria during the construction of the Panama Canal is a

classic case. Prior to US Army involvement 21,000 of the 26,000 employees were hospitalized during their employment. After the Army medical corps became involved in the reduction of mosquitoes and the prophylactic treatment of the diseases, while the working population increased to 50,000 personnel the illness rate dropped to 5,600.

Influenza is a virus and as such is very adaptive to its environment and adjusts rapidly to enable it to continue to spread from one host to another. These hosts are not all human; within the recent past we have seen N1H1 which originated in the pig population of Mexico and Avian Flu in birds which never migrated to the human host but was of concern. These viruses tend to spread rapidly, are very debilitating, and can cause death.

Recent concerns about the pandemic (or worldwide) potential for causing significant numbers of deaths are based on historical cases; 1918 the Spanish flu killed an estimated 50 million people, 1957 the Asian flu estimated to have killed 1.5 to 2 million, 1968 the Hong Kong flu killed 1 million people. Relative to these cases the N1H1 only killed an estimated 18,000 people. Last year 6.6% of all US deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza, which is slightly higher than the previous year.

The US Army Reserve (USAR) funds the Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP) to support your immunization requirements, to include the Influenza vaccination. Your unit will be scheduling an immunization clinic in the fall, between 1 September and 1 December, or you can call for a voucher through the RHRP contractor, Logistic Health Inc. (LHI), to be seen in a clinic. If you are Veterans Administration (VA) eligible, they will provide you with an immunization, but bring a copy of the administration record to the unit. If your employer provides the immunization or you choose to pay for it yourself, then a form can be completed and forwarded to the LHI to update your record.

So why is the Influenza vaccine of such importance to the military? Primarily the Army is concerned for your health it recognizes that the Flu vaccine will increase your survival should you become infected and help maintain your productivity during the season. The vaccine also improves your ability to take care of your family should they become ill with the disease. Finally, should there ever be a pandemic outbreak of influenza, then the US Army will be in a position to provide immunized personnel to assist in the massive efforts that will be required to care for the large numbers of ill individuals. ■

Helpful websites:

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>

Military Vaccine Agency (MILVAX): <http://www.vaccines.mil/default.aspx?cnt=disease/minidv&dID=30>

Stop the Spread of Germs

Tell your health care provider immediately if you have any of these symptoms: fever, headache, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion or body aches

Cover Coughs and Sneezes



- ▶ Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
or
- ▶ Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands



- ▶ Drop your used tissue in a waste basket

If Asked, Wear a Mask



- ▶ Secure ties behind head or place elastic bands behind ears
- ▶ Fit flexible band at top of mask to bridge of nose
- ▶ Fit mask snug to face and below chin

Clean Your Hands



- ▶ Wash with soap and water for at least 15-20 seconds
or
- ▶ Clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner

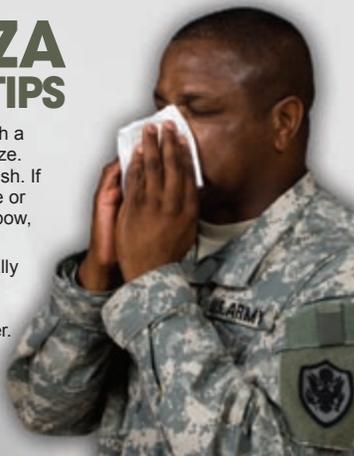


Especially:

- ▶ After using the restroom
- ▶ After sneezing or blowing nose
- ▶ Before touching food
- ▶ Before touching your eyes, mouth or nose

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.



<http://usachppm.apgea.army.mil>

USACE, EUCOM successfully integrate joint engineer team onto 'battlefield'

By Rachel Goodspeed, Public Affairs U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – In 2009, U.S. military forces saw the activation of the first Joint Force Engineer Command or (JFEC) in Afghanistan, which centralized engineering efforts and assets across the theater to facilitate and coordinate engineer operations.

Recently, U.S. forces saw another first for the JFEC concept – the integration of this team of professional engineers from all service branches in support of the U.S. European Command's area of responsibility.

With help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or (USACE) and the U.S. Army Reserve's 416th Theater Engineer Command, EUCOM tested the JFEC's capability outside the war zone during a training exercise.

"Overall, it's been an astounding success and a positive ordeal," said Lt. Col. Frank Hopkins, JFEC director and 416th TEC deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations. "We were able to demonstrate the flexibility of joint engineering and how quickly the JFEC can adapt. We had a pretty solid plan once we hit the ground."

Prior to deployment, a deployable command post or (DCP) was established in exercise that required modifying Joint Military Doctrine to incorporate Field Force Engineering and service component engineers into the DCP to become a JFEC. USACE and the 416th



(From left to right) Lt. Col. Reginald Truss, Maj. Bill Holstine, Lt. Col. Frank Hopkins and Master Sgt. Wade L. Mano, members of the 416th TEC JFEC team in Kaiserslautern, Germany. (Courtesy Photo)

Maj. Bill Holstine and Master Sgt. Wade L. Mano, 416th TEC JFEC team, discuss the Joint Operation Area (JOA) during the Austere Challenge 2011 at the Warrior Preparation Center. (Courtesy Photo)



TEC were also heavily involved in the Master Scenario Events List process, allowing them to conduct a shaping operation to produce the desired effects.

"In the future, we hope to provide an even more robust JFEC capability with additional interagency plugs to include a Joint Program Integration Office," Hopkins said. "This would be the model used prior to an operational deployment to validate a DCP."

The resulting success proved a concept of technical engineers fielded forward to answer questions that traditionally wouldn't be available in theater or to the Joint Task Force or (JTF), said Maj. Mabry Sumner, exercise control group coordinator for all engineering activities.

"The JFEC cuts down on response time and puts a visible face to the JTF commander with a robust technical capability," said Sumner, a supervisory engineer from the USACE Baltimore District who is also a member of the 416th TEC and USACE's Contingency Response Unit. "The JFEC concept works, follows engineer doctrine and has a strong potential for use for any JTF that will face any infrastructure issues."

The team's efficiency was clearly demonstrated by its response to the scenario and more than 20 situational events, Sumner said. All engineer events

injected to the training audience were successfully analyzed, resolved and communicated between the JFEC, the JTF, EUCOM and all subordinate commands via daily engineering sync meetings.

Before AC11 our team had limited experience with managing RFIs and understanding the capabilities that each service brought to the JFEC, explained MAJ Bill Holstine, JFEC Effects Officer and RFI Manager.

“Initially, managing the RFI’s was a challenge, in particular because we did not have a system in place. But, once we developed and initiated our RFI process and effectively communicated the RFI status through daily Engineer sync meetings, we were able to produce accurate and professional looking products in an efficient manner to our “customers”.

Additionally, said Holstine, “our team of action officers spent the first day briefing their service specific engineering capabilities which helped me assigned the RFI to the most appropriate engineer, enabling a expeditious delivery of a quality product.”

The exercise also tested the FEST’s capability to establish and utilize tele-engineering communications systems, conduct reconnaissance, develop a base camp, and test contracting and acquisition support.

The JFEC, in essence, is a deployable, movable command post that supports both the Joint Task Force engineer and the Combatant Command engineer, according to Lt. Col. Reggie Truss, JFEC deputy director and 416th TEC operations officer.

“Doctrine is still being developed, but the exercise helped us validate JP3-34 [Engineer Doctrine for Joint Operations],” he said. “The JFEC is joint in nature. It has people trained in a joint language and has people who are trained on equipment.”

The JFEC also provides additional operational and tactical engineering capabilities not normally available during an exercise, according to Erik Fleischner, USACE liaison officer to EUCOM who introduced the idea of utilizing the JFEC to the joint command and service component engineers.

“Our Joint Task Force engineer staff standard

operating procedures pre-dated the DCP/JFEC concept. The doctrine is still valid, but the engineering structure needs to be updated and the JFEC plugged in,” he said. “The JFEC gave us a powerful liaison capability to the engineers on the ground. We had service engineers integrated from the strategic level all the way down to the tactical level and the JFEC was the facilitating mechanism. The JFEC was a significant force multiplier for engineer future operations planning.”



The JFEC, (from left) Maj. Peter Rynkiewicz, Lt. Col. Frank Hopkins, Lt. Col. Reggie Truss, Capt. Nathan Smith, Master Sgt. Kenneth Mano, Air Force Master Sgt. Olson, Master Sgt. Lyn Belfor, Navy Lt. James Taylor and Maj. Bill Holstine take a break from exercise activity May 4, 2011, in Kaiserslautern, Germany. (US Army Corps of Engineers photo by Rachel Goodspeed)

...continued on page 43



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 or call 1-866-345-8248 or contact Antonio B. Abin, 404-543-5806 or by email at Antonio.b.abin@usar.army.mil or contact Randy Voll, 404-819-5093 randall.voll@usar.army.mil

"I returned to the male patient, who was now beginning to move, and protected his airway," said Miller. "1st Sgt. Gustafson had returned with his CLS kit, and he held C-spine immobilization while we cut off the patient's clothing and I initiated an IV in the patient's right forearm."

Ryder assumed second-in-command of the medical team while initiating an IV in the patient's other arm.

Delao, Schubert and Spc. Melissa Bomar, a telecommunications specialist in the COARNG who had just arrived, worked together to cut off the patient's remaining clothing, check him for further injuries and attend to his injured leg while helping hold IV bags.

Sirens wailed nearby, reminding the troops – and their patients – that even more help was on the way.

An exceptional score

When firefighters from Aurora Fire Department's Engine 5, and paramedics from Rural Metro Ambulance, arrived on the scene, they witnessed what others in the lifesaving business might deem remarkable:

"Seeing the treatment being performed by our team, the fire paramedic stated that it looked like our team had the situation under control and handed us C-collars," Miller said.

Paramedics from Rural Metro Ambulance agreed, and provided backboards and scissors.

"In my 25 years of EMS experience, I found this to be the ultimate compliment," said Miller, who had expected to give a brief report then transition patient care to the paramedics.

Instead, the paramedics provided medical oversight as the troops continued treatment.

"The paramedics assessed the patients' medical needs and determined that the care being provided by the troops was very good, so it wasn't necessary for the paramedics to intervene," said Capt. Allen Robnett, public information officer for the Aurora Fire Department.

The troops' swift actions also freed the firefighters to suppress the flames without the added challenge of extricating crash victims, Robnett said.

After receiving the additional medical equipment, the troops placed a C-collar on the patient, then rolled him and evaluated his back and spine.

"The captain (Miller) took charge and every one of the service members fell into line," said Nathaniel Kelley, a paramedic with Rural Metro Ambulance. "He didn't have to say anything twice."

Because of this, Kelley said, it was easy for the paramedics and troops to work in tandem to place the injured man on a backboard, then onto a stretcher, then into the ambulance idling nearby.

The ambulance then sped away.



1st Sgt. Esley Gustafson, 244th Engineer Battalion at FOB Sharana, Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Heather Kendall)

Meanwhile, the female patient had taken shelter from the crisp March winds at the bottom of a short hill. The newly-formed team of troops and paramedics worked quickly and diligently to ensure her safety as they immobilized her spine, strapped her onto a backboard and stretcher, and then rolled her up the hill and across the street to a second ambulance.

Once the two ambulances had gone, Bomar noticed that a pedestrian, who had apparently witnessed the accident, was displaying apparent symptoms of shock.

"She was shivering, a bit pale ... and just looked ... empty," said Bomar.

Bomar approached the witness and offered her some juice and a jacket. Bomar then lent a shoulder to cry on as the witness described her disbelief and terror. Shortly after that, Bomar cued a paramedic to attend to the witness.

"It wasn't just the passengers in the burning car who were affected by the accident," said Bomar. "It was a life-altering event for everyone."

Exam complete

After the flames were successfully suppressed, the troops gave their statements to the authorities.

"They did what they had to do – upholding their oaths – and wasted no time in rendering aid," said Officer Roland Albert of the Aurora Police Department.

Several then stayed behind to help clean up debris that had scattered across the roadway and surrounding fields.

Was it divine intervention that brought these seven men and women together? Coincidence? Fate? Or is seven really a lucky number?

"This response was 100 percent military training," said Ryder. "We're trained to act."

"Our training as military members helps us to organize a chaotic scene, each doing his or her part to help where needed," said Gustafson.

"This was business as usual," said Yoder. "Everyone was doing his or her job. There was no panic or frustration, only military personnel doing what they'd been trained to do."

Regardless of faith or conviction, though, one thing is clear: not one of these Guardsmen and Reservists would have been there, at that place and time, had they not been scheduled to train March 6.

"The ability of this team to assimilate into a high-speed, effective unit – and the access to the Army CLS kit – saved two lives," said Miller. ■

Lone Star Stepping Stones

Story and Photos by Spc. Valerie Willboite, 980th Engineer Battalion, HHC UPAR

If you were to travel towards northwest Texas on highway (HWY) 183 past the small towns, farmlands and cattle ranches, to the outskirts of Brownwood, you will find Camp Bowie, Texas. From March 29-April 3, Camp Bowie was the stage for the 980th Engineer Battalion's (EN Bn.) "Marchallapalooza". For six days, five units consisting of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and Fire Support Company (FSC), 302nd Engineer Company (EN Co.), 321st EN Co., and 721st EN Co., came together under the 980th EN Bn. for intense mobilization training. The long days and short nights consisted of the units rotating through various training exercises instructed by both civilian and military personnel.

Level 1 Soldier Readiness Processing, headed by Staff Sgt. Cassandra Clemons, Noncommissioned

Officer in Charge (NCOIC), included medical, personnel, finance, legal, ID cards and tags, chaplain, Family Readiness Group (FRG), and Defense Travel System (DTS) to prepare soldiers on the administrative side for the upcoming deployment. The BN S1 staff alongside with the BDE G1 worked efficiently and diligently to SRP a total of 450 soldiers.

Land navigation, convoy simulator, mount clearing exercises and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) lanes were also available for the soldiers to enhance their knowledge and skills to be mission ready. The High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV[pronounced "humvee"]) Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) training, lead by Staff Sgt. Hector Vergara, prepared the soldiers for a life like experience of a HMMWV rollover and the protocol for a safe exit

of all personnel. Following a safety and range briefing, the soldiers began to zero and qualify with their M16 or M4 weapons as well as having the opportunity to visit the other ranges to fire the M240B and M2 machine guns. Along with the live fire ranges, the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST 2000) was also accessible to the soldiers for practice and offered a variety of scenarios. Civilian instructors held enlightening classes in biometrics, teaching soldiers the automatic identification of a person based on his or her anatomical or behavioral characteristics or traits.

Robotics offered instructional and hands on training with the robots to assist in IED detection, casualty recovery up to 200lbs, and the ability to function up to 300 yards away from the control system. Linguistics gave the soldiers an overview of the Afghan culture and language of Pashto with short helpful phrases and interactive training.

In the middle of it all, Lt. Col. Wyatt Lowery, Battalion Commander, remained involved in everything; taking part in the quality training, leading and interacting with the soldiers, heading the battalion formations, and not to mention, traveling from Camp Bowie to Houston on to Camp Bullis in San Antonio.

As Marchallapalooza came to a close, the training was advanced, leadership was superior, and most importantly, the soldier's morale was high. The last early morning wake up led into the last and final Battalion Formation involving HHC and FSC EN Co., 302nd EN Co., 321st EN Co., and 721st EN Co. together.

"Great to see the bulk Lone Star come together for such a great training exercise," said Lowery. "As expected we continue to progress each time we come together! Engineer Ready!!" ■



CAMP BOWIE, Texas – The Battalion Colors posted outside the TOC during the 980th Engineer Battalion's 2011 CTX on March 31 here.



CAMP BOWIE, Texas – Spc. Samantha J. Sanford from the 302nd Engineer Company, Camp Bullis, Texas, fires the M249 down range during the 980th Engineer Battalion's 2011 CTX here on March 31.

CAMP BOWIE, Texas – Staff Sgt. Angelo Vacciani from HHC 980th Engineer Battalion, Austin, Texas, guides the Black Hawk in for a safe landing during the 980th Engineer Battalion's 2011 CTX here on April 2.





994th Engineers Industrious at Pinion Canyon

Story and Photos by Sgt. Spencer Case, 207th Public Affairs Detachment

The project, when finished, is expected to resemble two enormous, up-side-down onions sitting about 200 yards apart on the Colorado prairie.

The construction of these two “Sprung” buildings constitutes the biggest project for the troops of the 994th Engineer Company (EN Co.-Vertical) during their 2011 annual training. Sgt. Erik Duwe, a squad leader in the 994th EN Co., described the structures as “more onion-like than traditional clam shell [buildings].”

Unlike most other Reservists of the 244th Engineer Battalion, the 994th EN Co. troops conducted annual training from June 3 to June 18 at Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, Colo., about a five-hour drive away from the main body of their parent unit at Fort Carson, Colo. Duwe said, the distance doesn’t appear to be affecting the troops’ performance.

“It’s normally a 30-day project and we’re cramming it into a 2-week [annual

training]—two of them at that,” Duwe, a native of Lakewood, Colo., said of the project.

Duwe may have been understating his case, since the first leg of the project was done by only the eight members of the advance party, with the assistance of a borrowed crane and a crane operator from another unit, said Staff Sgt. Sean L. Steeley, the platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, 994th EN Co., who hails from Aurora, Colo.

When the advance party arrived June 3, only the concrete bases of the buildings existed. By the time the rest arrived the night of June 6, making the 994th EN Co. troops more than 40 overall, two skeletal aluminum frames sat assembled on the concrete pads.

On that Monday, the 994th EN Co. troops got to work installing the square tubing between the aluminum ribs of the frame and the “outer membrane,” a whitish tarp that would serve as the

Spc. Joseph S. Archuletta of Del Norte, Colo. and Pfc. Fabian A. Guzman of Grand Junction, Colo., both electricians for the 994th Engineer Company (Vertical), place electrical cable along the frame of a new “Sprung” building during annual training at Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, Colo. June 10.

building’s first defense against the elements. The tarp had been in storage at Fort Carson, Colo. for a period of about 10 years and showed signs of rat infestation so the troops had to clean it thoroughly before continuing with the assembly, Steeley said.

Most of the troops found installing the inner membrane to be the most difficult parts of the project since even small gusts of winds could foil their efforts, but other tasks proved challenging, as well.

“It was a very big group effort,” Spc. Paul D. Young, a carpentry and masonry expert from Henderson, Colo., said about installing the insulation. “Other tasks could be individualized or could draw on teams of two or three but the insulation took about eight people.”

Once the exterior membrane, insulation and inner membranes were added, the construction of the Sprung buildings took an odd twist, or rather, an

Spc. Jonathan Stewart of Westminster, Colo., a carpentry and masonry expert with the 994th Engineer Company (Vertical), helps Pfc. Terry A. Runyon, an electrician with the 994th Eng. Co. who hails from Louisville, Ky. apply a safety harness at Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, Colo., June 11.



odd stretch. The frames of the building which had been bolted to the concrete had to be unbolted and stretched with a hydraulic stretcher, adding about another four feet to the building's length and tightening the membranes until they are not much softer than concrete, Steeley said.

The last phase of construction, which the troops may not reach during annual training due to inclement weather, involves attaching two large, round doors on both of the open sides of the newly stretched structure. The doors slide past each other to open, like layers of an onion.

Although about 20 percent of the 994th EN Co. troops present at the annual training returned from deployment to Afghanistan in February, none of them had assembled a Sprung building before, Steeley said. The new task provided opportunities for discovery as several of the 994th troops found short cuts in the construction.

Once, the troops had gone to lunch without properly staking the outer membrane, causing it to creep up two inches. Just as the troops were resigned to redoing that work, Spc. Jose Luis Morgan, a carpentry and masonry specialist from Aurora, Colo. realized it was possible to stretch the outer-membrane using the

hydraulic stretcher. His method saved the team about 45 minutes, prompting Spc. Anthony J. Carrillo, a carpentry and masonry expert from Denver, to lightheartedly call the method a marvel.

While the bulk of the 994th EN Co. troops labored at the construction site of the Sprung buildings, others provided support. A handful of maintenance soldiers headed by Staff Sgt. Thomas L. Taylor, the senior mechanic in the 994th EN Co., stood ready to repair any malfunctioning equipment. Since malfunctions were few, they passed the time learning how to drive wrecker vehicles and troubleshooting HMMWVs to stay fresh. In addition to the maintenance platoon, two cooks remain perpetually on kitchen patrol duty and a few others work on independent missions at Fort Carson, Colo.

Duwe said the 994th EN Co. troops, especially the new ones, handled themselves well in carrying out this unfamiliar task.

"We're working them long and hard days and [we're getting] no complaints," Duwe said. "I think we're moving as fast as I would expect with an experienced crew."

Young added, "I think we're doing really well. When we're tasked to do

things it's a slow start but at the end we all work as a team at getting the job done." ■

Four soldiers of the 994th Engineer Company work together to hoist a role of insulation onto a "scissor lift" machine during annual training at Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, Colo., June 10. Spc. Nicole Martinez of Minturn, Colo., an electrician for the 994th EN Co. and Pfc. Ida E. McComb, an electrician of Fountain, Colo. stand on the ground and Spc. Paul D. Young, a carpentry/masonry expert of Henderson, Colo. and Spc. John H. Cox, a plumber from Denver stand on the scissor lift.





Civil Support Corner: Your Unit, Local Disasters, and Immediate Response Authority...

By Keith Eichorst, Civil-Military Projects Officer, 416th Theater Engineer Command

Did you know that your Army Reserve unit, in an emergency, can assist local civilian authorities? A Department of Defense (DoD) directive was released at the end of 2010 (DOD DIRECTIVE 3025.18, 29 DEC 2010) granting federal military commanders "Immediate Response Authority." Immediate Response Authority is authorized according to the directive "in response to a request for assistance from a civil authority, under imminently serious conditions. If time does not permit approval from higher authority, DoD officials may provide an immediate response by temporarily employing the resources under their control, subject to any supplemental direction provided by higher headquarters, to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage within the United States. Immediate response authority does not permit actions that would subject civilians to the use of military power that is regulatory, prescriptive, proscriptive, or compulsory."

If a Commander is approached in an emergency situation to provide support for a civil incident that cannot be handled by local authorities, he should immediately notify his chain of command, and the Army Reserve requires that must be no later than two hours after the request, since using this authority needs to be reported as quickly as possible up

the chain of command to the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center (NJOIC) and Northern Command (NORTHCOM) Combatant Command.

Immediate Response Authority is extremely limited in its time duration. "An



Spc. Percy Watkins backing up Spc. Ben Haley on the hand line. The handline is using SR-AFFF (Alcohol Resistant Aqueous Film Forming Foam) to blanket the fire so as to minimize the spread (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Pace; Camp Gary Owen)

immediate response shall end when the necessity giving rise to the response is no longer present (e.g., when there are sufficient resources available from state, local, and other federal agencies to respond adequately and that agency or department has initiated response activities) or when the initiating

DoD official or a higher authority directs an end to the response. The DoD official directing a response under immediate response authority *shall reassess* whether there remains a necessity for the DoD to respond under this authority as soon as practicable but, if immediate response activities have not yet ended, *not later than 72 hours after the request for assistance was received.*"

Funding for immediate response is also limited to service members or civilians under existing funding authorizations. If army reserve staff is used for immediate response, this use may draw funding away from training or other activities. But the directive also states that... "Support provided under immediate response authority should be provided on a cost-reimbursable basis, where appropriate or legally required, but will not be delayed or denied based on the inability or unwillingness of the requester to make a commitment to reimburse the Department of Defense."

Immediate Response Authority (IRA) should not be confused with other legal authorizations and federal force limitations, and Army Reserve forces shall never be used with IRA as local law enforcement, or to quell civil disturbances on non-federal lands except as authorized by the President of the United States or his appointees. More on this later.... ■

JAG Saves the Day

An anonymous AGR soldiers' landlord horror story averted:



When I received my notice from my career counselor that I had to PCS and an approximate date, I thought I'd do the courteous thing and let my landlord know that I might possibly move out around a certain month. My wife, on my behalf, told him we didn't have orders and weren't sure as of yet if and when we'd move. She also asked him if it was possible to go to month-to-month leasing if our orders came through for a month or two after our lease expires. Little did I know my landlord took that courtesy as a green light to rent out my apartment immediately after my current lease was up.

Even though we had already signed a new lease that was to come into effect in a couple months my landlord went ahead and re-leased out the apartment to someone else and told us we had to leave and stated the newly leased contract was void. I was due to PCS sometime in the next few months and there was no way I could afford to move someplace else for a month or two. I attempted to negotiate with the landlord directly numerous times and reasoned that I only was letting him know as a courtesy. He was indignant, rude to my wife and wouldn't budge. I decided to go above his department head by contacting the CEO of the management company in charge of my complex, only to be stonewalled with false courtesy and promises of non-discrimination of service members.

After trying everything to solve the problem on my own, I involved my chain of command (CoC) who recommended I go to JAG to see if they had any resources that could help me. JAG saw this as a clear issue of discrimination against a serviceman and contacted the CEO directly to inform them of the repercussions of violating the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act (SSCRA). The only problem was it is actually enforced by the US Attorney's office. But of course the CEO of the management company did not know this and immediately started trying to back track on what they said and did. The last thing they wanted was to deal with litigation and, only when confronted with that possibility, were they willing to make concessions and be understanding of my situation. At the end of the day, it was as if nothing happened. They ended up giving me two weeks free rent while I waited to PCS. The lesson to be learned in this is to know your rights and use your resources if you feel you are being discriminated against as a service member. Involve your CoC, and don't be afraid to go to the Judge Advocate to ask for legal advice. ■



104th Training Division Leader Training (LT) dedicates headquarters building April 9 in honor of Puyallup Soldier

Story and Photos courtesy of Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs Office

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. – Brig. Gen. Daniel York, commanding general of the 104th Training Division Leader Training (LT), along with other senior military leaders and elected officials, will dedicate the 104th Training Division Headquarters building Saturday, April 9, in memory of Staff Sgt. Coby G. Schwab, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier and former member of JBLM's 3rd Stryker Brigade.

The building dedication ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at the 104th Headquarters building located at the JBLM Logistics Center. Family and friends of Staff Sgt. Schwab will be in attendance.

Staff Sgt. Schwab, an Army Reserve Soldier and a Puyallup resident, was killed May 3, 2007, during a recovery operation of a damaged vehicle near a canal. Schwab was returning to his vehicle after reattaching the recovery straps to the disabled vehicle which was threatening to pull both vehicles into the canal when he was killed in a secondary explosion caused by an IED. The incident took place near Ar Ramadi, during his second deployment in Iraq.

Schwab was assigned to Company B, 321st Engineer Battalion, 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 416th Theater Engineer Command. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Valor Device, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge. At the time of his death, Schwab was 25.

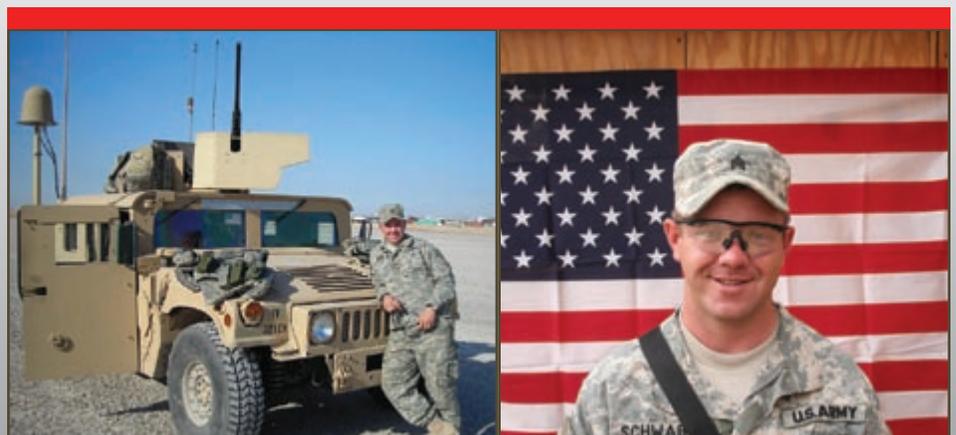
Schwab served previously as an Infantryman with the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, from February 2001 to February 2005. He was a Stryker vehicle commander and team leader and deployed with 3/2 SBCT to Iraq in 2003-2004. Following that deployment he left active duty and continued his military

service by transferring to the United States Army Reserve.

Schwab was passionate about ensuring that Soldiers had proper training and he used his previous active duty deployment experience with the Stryker Brigade to prepare his fellow Reserve Soldiers for duty in Iraq.

Media interested in covering the headquarters building dedication should RSVP to the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs office no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 8. After duty hours, call 253-967-0015 and ask for the on-call PAO.

For additional information about the ceremony or about Staff Sgt. Schwab, please contact the 104th Training Division (LT) Public Affairs Office at 253-968-7966. ■



Building more than Buildings in Afghanistan

Story and Photos by 1st Lt. Michael Skarr

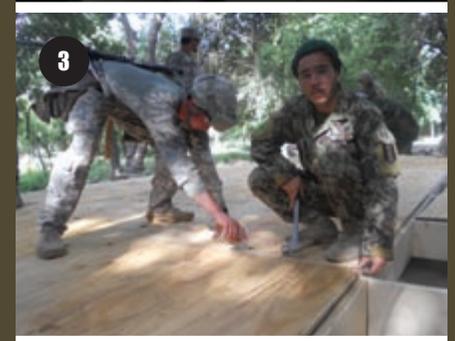
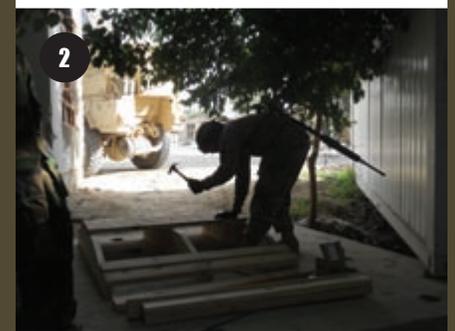
Soldiers of the 322nd Engineer Company (EN Co), attached to the 368th Engineer Battalion (EN Bn.), found themselves deployed to Southern Afghanistan this last spring after nearly six months of pre-mobilization training. The training paid huge dividends as soldiers in the company were doing jobs ranging from vertical construction to convoy operations. One thing that is stressed during training is that the U.S. Army is in Afghanistan as a partnership with the local national army and security forces. Soldiers are trained to know that in order to win this war we need the support of the local national civilians, as well as their armed forces. Soldiers from the 322nd EN Co. find themselves doing just that on many of their missions. Spc. Steven Higgins recalled working with local truck drivers, stating "U.S. Government contracting gives local nationals jobs and they are friendly toward us every time we see them." This, of course, starts with the attitude of every U.S. Soldier in Afghanistan; who are each ambassadors in their own right. To fight an insurgency the local population must have trust and confidence in the resolve, character and intentions of every troop on the ground.

Daily missions vary for soldiers in the 322nd EN Co; they have found themselves engaged in various building projects such as constructing guard towers, Tactical Operation Centers (TOC's) Forward Operating Base (FOB) construction/ expansion, etc. Additionally, soldiers have gotten several opportunities to do projects that directly contributed to the Afghan police and army who continue to take over security in Afghanistan. Platoons in the 322nd tend to migrate throughout

Southern Afghanistan. A common idea is that as soon as living conditions at a given FOB start to get comfortable, it is time for the engineers to move on and make improvements at the next location.

Soldiers in the company have been given tasks to improve living conditions for other coalition forces in Afghanistan. One mission involved working with a Romanian Company at a small Combat Outpost (COP) to build and repair various structures. Soldiers took the opportunity to learn about these troops from Eastern Europe and to exchange small tokens from each other's respective country. Spc. Jaycob Weber, from 2nd Platoon stated that the opportunity to be at such a small, austere location gave him a chance to bond with his squad, "it was worth graduating from high school early in order to make this deployment, said Weber" Sometimes as Soldiers, when you take all the luxuries of civilization away, you learn that your comrades in arms are more than just the guy with whom you got deployed.

The 322nd EN Co. won't return home until sometime next winter, at which time much of the company will disband. "The company is comprised of reserve soldiers from 19 states" stated 1st Sgt. Brian Losen. "We are fortunate in many ways, many of our troops are professional carpenters as civilians, this has helped us to construct high quality products to professional standards." For now the company is continuing to conduct missions with the goal of creating a better, more stable life for the citizens of Afghanistan through the construction of infrastructure which is needed by coalition and Afghanistan forces to complete their mission. ■



1) Members of 2nd Platoon, 322nd Engineer Company erect the gable end onto a TOC structure on FOB Walton. The building would later support the Security Forces Advisory Team in support of training local nationals to become Afghan National Policemen.

2) Sgt. Joshua Geno does some finish work inside 2nd Platoon's first project at FOB Walton near Kandahar city. The building would later support the Security Forces Advisory Team in support of training local nationals to become Afghan National Policemen.

3) Spc. Bradley Vandekreeke strikes a chalk line while working with Afghan National Army Soldiers in Kandahar city. 2nd Platoon was tasked to construct a deck for official meetings of Afghan officials, increasing infrastructure for Afghanistan security operations.

“Camp” Red Devil soon to be FOB Red Devil

Story by Sgt. Spencer Case, 207th Public Affairs Detachment

This year’s annual training for the 244th Engineer Battalion (EN Bn.) provided an abundance of real-world engineer missions that gave its soldiers more to accomplish than they may have bargained for.

Every year, Army Reserve units are required to conduct Annual Training to keep their Warrior Training Tasks and Military Occupational Specialty skills sharp; but it’s not every year that units walk away with projects accomplished for a real customer.

“We’re getting a lot of good training,” said Sgt. Keith Gabrielson, a team leader for 1st Platoon, 409th Engineer. Company (EN Co.) from Casper, Wyo. The annual training experience has provided “a little bit of cross-training amongst all the engineer teams. It’s worked out pretty well, actually.”

The project consuming the most manpower has been the construction of a new austere

training area at Fort Carson, Colo. Upon completion of construction “Camp” Red Devil base will become “Forward Operating Base” Red Devil.

The troops of the 409th are spread out across a number of different projects and locations. First Platoon, 409th soldiers are working in conjunction with the 282nd EN Co. to place culverts, to changing the way water flows away from the training site.

If the culverts are not built, water would build up and it would be hard for the site to drain, explained Maj. Joseph Cox, battalion operations officer. The entry control points around Red Devil are being reinforced with rock and concrete at the base of each tower.

Other contingents are living out of tents and trucks on two sites that are both about an hour drive away from Camp Red Devil. The soldiers of 3rd Platoon are busy assembling a cinderblock wall for the 10th Special Forces’ demolition range, while those in 2nd Platoon are installing a roof for a shoot house at North Village, a training site designed to look like an Iraqi village.

With soldiers working around the clock to complete these projects on time, there’s plenty for the Forward Support Command (FSC) to do, like making sure troops are fed, trucks have fuel, and water buffalos (major water reservoirs) are full.

“Basically we’re here to support the whole battalion operations,” said 2nd Lt. Marcel Thiare, the platoon leader for Distribution Platoon, FSC.

U.S. Army Reserve Spc. Daniel A. Tilton, of the 282nd Engineer Company Horizontal based out of Denver, strips the flashing off of a guard tower June 16, at Forward Operating Base Red Devil located at Fort Carson, Colo. Soldiers of the 282nd EN Co. spent their two weeks of annual training completing a variety of construction projects to help improve Forward Operating Base Red Devil. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marla R. Keown)



U.S. Army Reserve Spc. Daryl Rau (left) and Spc. Daniel Tilton (right), Soldiers of the 282nd Engineer Company Horizontal located in Denver, adjust straps so that a crane can evenly raise the guard tower to a vertical position, June 16, at Forward Operating Base Red Devil, located at Fort Carson, Colo. Soldiers of the 282nd EN Co. spent their annual two weeks of training completing a variety of construction projects to help improve Forward Operating Base Red Devil. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marla R. Keown)



“We have to feed them, give them fuel and do maintenance, too.”

FSC provides 24-hour fuel support at Red Devil and troops make one fuel trip per day to the site where the two guard towers are being installed. On June 9 alone, the vehicles consumed 1,000 gallons of fuel, said Sgt. Adam Booth, a resident of Evans, Colo. and fuel section chief in the FSC. Booth said the experience troops get an annual training is indispensable for his soldiers.

“... We’ve got a bunch of new soldiers who don’t know how to use the equipment,” Booth said. “We don’t get to use it at the unit, only when we’re in the field... Several new people were chomping at the bit to get into the trucks.” ■

“Based on what has been done here, we have validated the doctrine. We know what specific engineers and skill sets we need on the JFEC, and now we can define them more clearly. Before, it was just a guess,” said Lt. Col. Damon Montgomery, an exercise and training planner for USACE in Europe. “Even though we were exercising the JFEC concept for the first time [in EUCOM’s AOR], the JFEC handled much more operational engineering tasks than I envisioned they would, which is great because we’re supposed to be planning for the real world.”

Overall, the training event included a large amount of engineering play. Historically, exercises more often than not simulate rather than play out engineer roles, according to Lt. Col. Michael Seguin, EUCOM’s branch chief of Operations.

“In exercises, they [the engineers] become the hodgepodge because no one knows how to do the job,” he said. “Without a robust engineering footprint, nothing gets done. The military engineers are the first guys on the ground. They affect the mobility of the force. And then, once we ‘win the war,’ what do we do? We have to re-establish the infrastructure, essential services and transportation networks.”

“The JFEC is a force multiplier, a proficient coordinating mechanism,” Fleischner added. “Many times in exercises, engineers are thrown into the mix regardless of training. The result is the placement of tactical engineers at the operational level for which many times they don’t really have the skill set. The JFEC are the engineers who can do this and they do it exceptionally well – bridging the gap from the tactical level to strategic. They were the ‘Engineer Hero’s of the Exercise’ providing the engineer planning and reachback that allowed engineers to consistently stay ahead of the commander’s decision cycle.”

Not only was the JFEC successful in demonstrating its capabilities in EUCOM’s joint

operations, the joint team learned a lot about each other’s sister service capabilities. The team linked up with the U.S. Army, USACE Field Force Engineering, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and U.S. Air Force to become a command post of engineers, Truss said.

“We’re trying to train our Army guys to not be afraid to assign a Navy person an activity, and vice versa, because they weren’t sure what their capability is,” he said. “But as we learn about each other and we know their capability, we’ve minimized the duplication of efforts. We’ve gotten to the point where we don’t see the different color uniforms.”

The integration allows for an even greater network of reachback support, Montgomery said.

“The JFEC is a big ‘helpdesk’ where they have the ability to call back to the experts if they don’t have the answer,” he said. “This is our first time combining Field Force Engineering assets with a JFEC to participate in an exercise and it’s something we hope to keep doing.”

Col. Leon Parrot, EUCOM’s deputy engineer, said the JFEC was the right step in the right direction.

“The JFEC allowed us to truly sync all engineering activities throughout the theater. It allowed us to focus on the strategic level of combat. While the JFEC was looking inside each of the countries, we were able to look outside that area,” he said. “Not only does the JFEC allow me to do my job, it allows the JTF engineer to do his job.”

“The JFEC made life a lot easier for us because we had a lot of engineers down range,” Seguin added. “From our standpoint, people don’t have their arms around the engineering portion when we run these exercises because they don’t have that engineering background. The JFEC members are engineers by trade so they really contributed a lot to the effectiveness and practicality of this exercise.” ■

AROUND THE ARMY

Photos from the Field



1) (Clockwise from top left) Pfc. Jonathan Anderson, Pfc. Louis Bolasina, Sgt. Benjamin Lindsey, Spc. Philip Farris, and Spc. Kentrell Ousley, 383rd Engineer Company (MAC), attach a DET Cord branch lines from the M112 C4 to a line main during demolition training at Fort Chaffee, AR, Mar 5. (Photo by Staff Sgt Ron Marsh, UPAR, 383rd Engineer Company (MAC))

3) KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- Spc. Prince Nagbe, of the 809th Engineering Company, 863rd Engineering Battalion, is awarded the Purple Heart medal by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commanding General, 416th Engineering Command. Nagbe sustained injuries during an improvised explosive device explosion during a route clearance patrol while deployed to Afghanistan as part of Task Force OVERLORD. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Scott B. Boyle)

4) KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- Spc. Brian P. Lewis, of the 809th Engineering Company, 863rd Engineering Battalion, is awarded the Purple Heart medal by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commanding General, 416th TEC. Lewis sustained injuries during an improvised explosive device explosion during a route clearance patrol while deployed to Afghanistan as part of Task Force OVERLORD. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Scott B. Boyle)



5) KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -- Spc. Matthew Bissen shows Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Zimmerman, South Dakota National Guard State Command Sergeant Major, some of the 809th Engineering Company's route clearance vehicles during Zimmerman's visit to Kandahar. The 809th is one of the primary route clearing companies under the 863rd Engineering Battalion, currently deployed to Afghanistan with Task Force Overlord. Task Force Overlord, under the leadership of the 25th Naval Construction Regiment, is responsible for command and control of construction engineering and engineering support throughout Southern and Western Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Scott B. Boyle)

6) The National 9/11 Flag is one of the largest American flags to fly above the wreckage at Ground Zero. It has become our generation's Star-Spangled Banner. Destroyed in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks on September 11 and stitched back together seven years later by tornado survivors in Greensburg, Kansas, The National 9/11 Flag is a living testament to the resilience and compassion of the American people. (Photo by Emil Schiavo)

7) Pvt. Brian Stehlin (left) and Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, commander for the 416th TEC prepare to cut the cake in celebrating the Army's 236th birthday during June's Battle Assembly at the Parkhurst Reserve Center in Darien, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson)



8) Staff Sgt. Mano N. Kachatorian places a firefighter hat on a child at a vehicle fair presented by the Village of Willowbrook, IL on July 14. The 416th TEC motor pool section led by Sgt. Jaime Canales (not pictured) and Staff Sgt. Michael J. Fittanto participated in the yearly event. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

9) From left to right- Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, 416th TEC, Col. (r) Lawrence Slavicek, 416th TEC and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Reeve, 416th TEC command sergeant major, listen to a presentation during the 2011 Senior Leaders Conference held in downtown Chicago on May 24. The conference hosted speakers Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Army Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Army Reserve Chief of Staff, and Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Raymond F. Chandler III. The biannual conference brings top leaders together to discuss and plan future operations. The 416th TEC provided essential support during the weeklong conference. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

10) From left to right- Sgt. Daniel Florez, 416th TEC NCO of the Year, Command Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Reeve, 416th TEC command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, command sergeant major of the Army Reserve, and Spc. Yasutaka Dote, 416th TEC Soldier of the Year at the 2011 Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition awards banquet in Sparta, Wis. on June 24. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



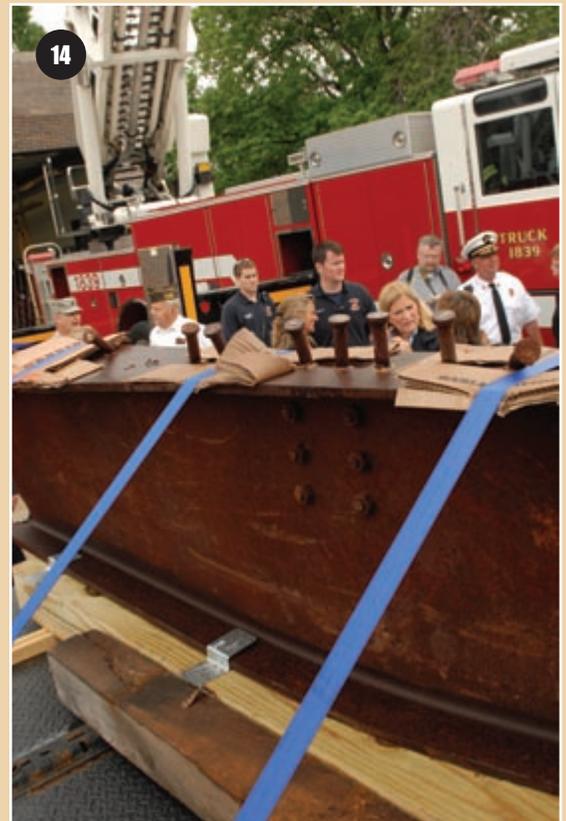
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11) From left to right- Col. Miyako Schanely, 416th TEC Chief of Staff, 416th TEC's Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, the 416th TEC's incoming Deputy Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Charles D. Martin, and Col.(r) Lawrence Slavicek the former 416th TEC G3 all gather for a command huddle while attending the Annual Engineer Ball on April 9, 2011 at Nutter Field House at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. (Courtesy Photo)

12) Major General Jeffery Arnold shares a laugh with Tech Sgt Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi while visiting, to show his respect to the Distinguished Service Cross recipient during a video interview for the Library of Congress by the 416th Theater Engineer Command's Sgt. Jeremiah Richardson. To see the interview go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SbJQetH2tE>

13 & 14) Members of the 416th Theater Engineer Command pay honors to a piece of the World Trade Center as it's escorted to a memorial by the Tri-State Fire Protection District in Darien, IL. (Photo by Sgt. Jeremiah Richardson)



Photo of the Quarter