

The Castle



**Iraq's new SWAT
team courtesy of the
94th MP Company**

Pg. 24

**The 716th Engineer Company;
Haiti's 'good neighbors'**

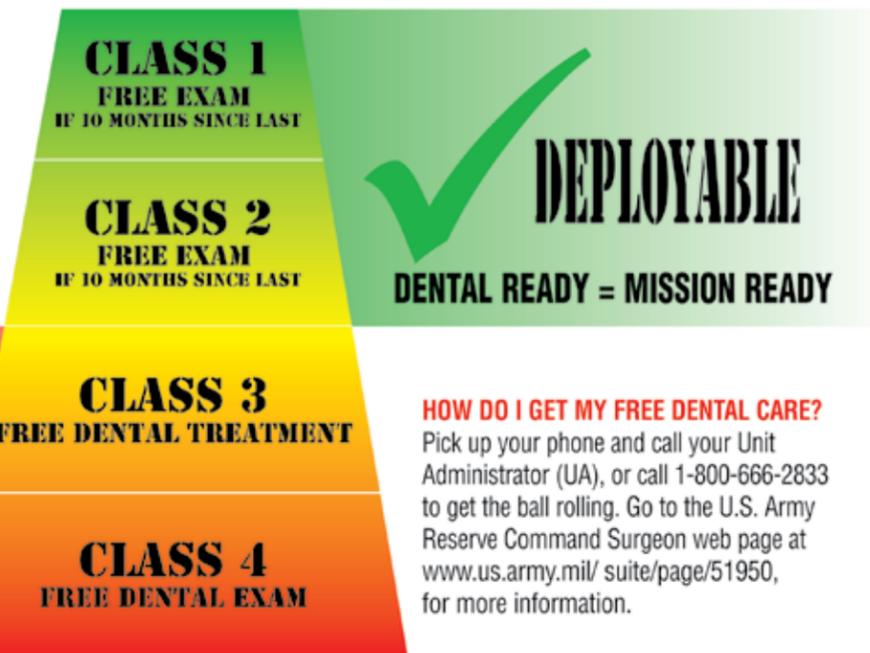
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- Class 1:** Worldwide Deployment with no further treatment required.
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- Class 3:** Nondeployable without treatment for urgent conditions that likely will cause a dental emergency within 12 months.
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*A Synopsis of Reference: DoD Health Affairs: Policy 02-011 on the Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications, 4 June 2004



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The Castle Spring/Summer 2011

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Photo by, Sgt. Kimberly Johnson 196th MPAD, 25th Inf. Div., USD-C

Cover photo-Sgt. Nicholas Laganas (center), a military police officer with 94th Military Police Company, leads a formation of Iraqi Police officers in physical training during Special Weapons and Tactics training in Baghdad, Jan. 3. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Johnson, 196th MPAD, 25th Inf. Div., USD-C) (Story, page 24)

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene, 412th TEC PAO

Spc. Michael McGovern (L) and Pfc. Dustin Mackiewicz, 716th Engineer Company, load cement into a cement mixer at a medical clinic construction site, Bardon Marchon, Haiti, May 29, 2011. Related Story, Page 18



Photo by Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley, 412th TEC PAO

Jana Banks, a Dana Road Elementary School third-grader, shows off her "Best Fair Project" trophy in the class one division of the Vicksburg, Miss. School District Science Fair on Feb. 24, 2011. Staff Sgt. Constance Smith, 412th Theater Engineer Command, presented the trophy which the 412th TEC donated. Smith was one of four Soldiers from the command's headquarters company who volunteered to judge the event.



Contributed photo

The plane carrying 323rd Engineer Company Soldiers returning from Afghanistan pass through a hydro arch created by airport fire fighters at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport on March 12, 2011. The plane taxied to Stephens Aviation Hanger where family members, state and local leaders honored the Soldiers with a Welcome Home ceremony. The unit mobilized in April 2010 then deployed to Afghanistan in June, where the company headquarters and the four platoons conducted route clearance patrols as their primary mission. The Reserve Soldiers conducted major operations in both the Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan, and Kandahar Province in the south. They cleared routes daily for the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade in Nangarhar. The engineers also teamed up with 1st Brigade to assault insurgent and Taliban positions from helicopters. They cleared and secured routes in Kandahar Province for Coalition Forces into territory that insurgents had operated in for the past year. They continued to support infantry units in the province throughout the year.



A word from the commander

It is a pleasure to contribute my initial commentary to the command's news and information magazine.

Much has happened since I took command back in April. For example, in June, we ran a productive Theater Engineer Operations Course, and we hosted our annual Warfighter's Seminar. We culminated the week's events with a grand Castle Ball in conjunction with the great Vicksburg area engineers. Most of our commanders and command sergeants major from the brigades, battalions, and direct reporting units participated in the events along with the staff members from the command headquarters in Vicksburg. I am happy to say that we conducted a lot of business with all the talent we had in one place. A good deal of effort went into pulling off all the activities, but by the end of the week, we were very successful!

As a new commander, I'm often asked for my vision and philosophy. I have issued a document that summarizes both points of view along with a very



Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr.

general strategy.

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, has issued his 2020 Vision, which is the framework of the strategic decisions and the direction of the Army Reserve for the next decade.

It is my intent that as a command, we are fully nested in Lt. Gen. Stultz's vision. In future editions, I will discuss different aspects of the vision and philosophy as well as our progress.

For now, here are the major points of my command philosophy:

- Take Care of Soldiers
- Get the Mission Done
- The Team is Key to Our Success
- Make it Work
- Freedom of Action
- Getting Better

The first part of "Taking Care of Soldiers" is: SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY!!! When I visit units in the field, I ask to see a risk assessment, but we don't achieve safety by just doing an assessment; it is the result of Soldiers seeing possible problems and then taking action to change the unsafe condition. I challenge every Soldier to keep themselves, and their fellow Soldiers safe.

As I have gotten more seasoned (older), I've stopped playing contact sports – except one. Safety is a contact sport! You have to reach out and touch someone and help him or her stay safe. We need every member of the command to be involved in this contact sport. Make Safety Happen.

I look forward to serving with you! Essayons!

BUILD TO SERVE!

Command Sergeant Major's Corner

What is the primary responsibility of the senior noncommissioned officer? One of my mentors, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Roger Dale always told his NCOs that ownership of Soldiers is a NCO's first responsibility. Another mentor, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Edward Holmes would tell his NCOs that if they did their best in their current positions then the rest would take care of itself. Both of these command sergeants major were very successful in their military careers, and I have great admiration for both. What made Command Sgt. Maj. Dale, and Command Sgt. Maj. Holmes successful? They believed in the above statements and they based their actions on those statements.

Reflect a moment and realize that this applies to Soldiers at all levels. Ownership of Soldiers begins with the squad leader, and continues throughout that individual's career to the rank of Command Sergeant Major. The



Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor

same applies to doing the best job that you can in your current position. We should all consider these fundamentals while we are serving in our great Army.

As a Command, we leaders are allowing our Soldiers to attend schools even if the Soldiers don't meet height and weight standards. We are allowing late submissions of NonCommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports. We are not holding Soldiers to the Army

Physical Fitness Test standards. We are allowing "no-shows," and I could go on.

Is this taking ownership and doing the best that we can do? I understand that not all leaders fall into this category, and most do a great job, but it only takes a few to give the entire group a black eye. I ask that you reevaluate yourself and see if you're taking ownership of the Soldiers in your care, and see if you're doing the best you can at your current position.

The 412th continues to have the same high tempo of recent years. We continue to deploy Soldiers into harm's way. Engineer Soldiers will continue to be in high demand in the foreseeable future. Be prepared as we all must be ready when called.

Thanks for all you do every day for our nation and Army. You continue to be America's heroes. It's an honor for me to wear the same uniform as you.

"BUILD TO SERVE"

Chaplain's greetings

I am very pleased to begin my tenure as the Command Chaplain of the 412th Theater Engineer Command, and I look forward to meeting other members of the team. My goal is to continue the excellent ministry you are accustomed to under the inspired leadership of my predecessor, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Barnett.

I've recently completed a five year tenure as the command chaplain for our sister unit, the 416th TEC. I'm looking to apply the lessons learned from my experience at the 416th to my present position. I've served for more than 20 years in a variety of chaplain positions throughout the United States Army Reserve, and have more than 30 years of total commissioned service.



Chaplain Col. Timothy M. Samorajski

In my civilian capacity, I'm a hospice chaplain in the greater Milwaukee, Wisc., area. I find the ministry rewarding as I do challenging. Just recently, my wife

Tami and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary and marvel at where the time has gone. Our son Jordan enters his junior year in high school this fall and our daughter Brittany looks forward to eighth grade.

My prayer is that each of you would take a fresh look at your spiritual lives and consider that a life lived in service to the Lord is the greatest and most fulfilling life imaginable. I invite you to attend chapel services when available and to seek out the fellowship of other believers. Finally, I invite you to stop by the Ministry Team's office whenever you are at the headquarters and say hello.

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

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2011 Schedule



81st Regional Support Command AOR

The following dates are for Married and Single Soldiers except for 4-6 FEB married Only and 15-17 JUL Families Only

Jul 15-17	Orlando Fla.
Jul 29-31	Orlando Fla.
Aug 5-7	Savannah Ga.

Questions? Contact SSG Jeremy Glasco at RSC081_STRONGBONDS@usar.army.mil or call 803-751-3230

99th Regional Support Command AOR

July 8-10	Poconos, Pa.	Singles
July 15-17	Washington, DC	Singles
July 15-17	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Marriage
July 22-24	Boston, Md.	Singles
July 29-31	Gettysburg, Pa.	Marriage
July 29-31	New Hampshire	Family
August 5-7	Charleston, W.Va.	Marriage
August 5-7	Poconos, Pa.	Family
August 12-14	Virginia Beach, Va.	Marriage
August 19-21	New Hampshire	Marriage
August 19-21	New Hampshire	Marriage

A 412th icon bids farewell

A last word from Brig. Gen. Fowler

I am an American Soldier, and have been for the last 36 years. It is amazing how quickly the time has passed, but this really is IT for me. During the June 2011 Battle Assembly, Brig. Gen. Doug Satterfield took over as the 412th's deputy commanding general, and I most likely wore my Army Combat Uniform for the last time in an official capacity. I will miss being a Soldier dearly and believe me, if it were possible, I'd sign up for as much more time as I could. Besides my marriage to Debbie and the births of my



Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Jimmy E. Fowler

two daughters, the time I spent in the Army Reserve is my proudest accomplishment.

Although I served for 36 years, 23 of which were with the 412th, I've actually been a part of the Army for more than 58 years. I grew up as an Army brat in a proud Army family. My father and mother were always my biggest heroes, and were my best role models.

Speaking of heroes and role models, there are many within the 412th and it has been a pleasure having them as peers, subordinates, and supervisors during my years here at the headquarters. There is absolutely no doubt that I owe a tremendous debt to all those who mentored me, and kept me out of trouble on my way to somehow becoming a general officer.

During the May Battle Assembly, I had the pleasure of continuing what has become a bit of a tradition since I became a GO – awarding Clemson University baseball style hats to people who have been special to me, and have gone out of their way to take care of Soldiers. As a three-time Clemson graduate and one of the University's biggest fans, I conceived the idea as a different way of showing my appreciation to some truly great Americans. After I had presented nearly

twenty hats, Capt. Carl Weimer suggested that I number and sign them. I am pleased to say that I have now awarded 51 hats, with potentially more to follow.

I've asked to use this forum to offer a special thanks to all the men and women of the 412th, and all others, not just for what they've done for me, but much more importantly for what they've done and continue to do for this country.

As American Soldiers, we

are all part of the most respected organization in the United States. That has not always been the case, so it's not something that should be taken lightly. I challenge every Soldier to memorize the Soldier's Creed if he or she hasn't already done so. It is what defines us, and sets us apart from other organizations. Be proud of what you are doing, and continue to do as much as you can for the 412th, your community, and the USA.

I love the USA and particularly

those who have dedicated themselves to serving and safeguarding our country and its citizens, particularly those who are serving or have served in the Army. The Soldiers, civilians, and family members I've served with have made my life richer. It's been a tremendous privilege. I have fond memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you and may God bless you.



Photo by Spc. Sam White, HHC 412th TEC, UPAR

Lt. Col. Mark Leighton, the secretary of the 412th TEC general staff, shortly after Brig. Gen. Jimmy Fowler awarded him specialized Clemson University hat number 47. Fowler said that Leighton takes care of Soldiers, and always made an extra effort to take care of him and the rest of the Command Group.



Photo by Spc. Sam White, HHC 412th TEC, UPAR

Brig. Gen. Jimmy Fowler awards Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Henderson specialized Clemson University hat number 48. In Henderson's capacity as a military technician where he serves as a staff administrative coordinator, Fowler said that Henderson handled his (Fowler's) travel requirements expertly. "He's intensely loyal to me, and would not rest until everything was done correctly," Fowler said.



766TH ENGINEER COMPANY DEMOLISH ABANDONED FLA. CONDOS

Story & photos by Spc. Devin Wood, 412th TEC, PAO

Reserve Soldiers of the 766th Engineer Company look on as Pvt. Rene Soca uses a Track Hoe, 230 LCR Hi-Ax, to demolish a building deemed unsafe by Opa-Locka, Fla. city officials.

The 766th Engineer Company teamed up with Opa-Locka, Fla. city officials on a project to demolish abandoned buildings that concerned area citizens due to frequent criminal activity.

Five years ago, developers deserted condominium project ‘Villa Francine’ located at the Northwest corner of 27th Ave. and 132nd St., leaving several structures unfinished. The incomplete buildings were exposed to the weather, and they

began to deteriorate. Over-grown vegetation made them unsightly, but vagrants, drug users and other criminals found them appealing.

The Miami-Dade County Unsafe Structure Board determined that the buildings were hazardous, so last year Opa-Locka city officials took their problem to the 841st Engineer Battalion in Miami. The battalion leadership recognized the issue as a training opportunity, so they assigned the 766th the task of demolishing the

structures.

In December, a team of engineers demolished three of the five buildings with two Hydraulic Excavators, one D7 Dozer, and approximately six 20-ton dump trucks. Another team tore down the remaining structures in January.

One of the benefits for the Soldiers was the experience they got operating under someone else’s rules in a non-military environment, according to 1st Lt.

Thomas Nettles, former 766th commander, and organizer of the December demolition exercise.

Sgt. Jeremy Powers operates heavy equipment as a civilian, and he was one of the Non-Commissioned Officers instructing the younger Soldiers during the January exercise.

“This gives Soldiers the opportunity to learn how to better operate their equipment and really get proficient in their MOS,” said Powers.

“We have very helpful NCOs,” said Spc. Mark Smith. “They encourage us to get on the machines, learn the job, have fun, and stay safe.”

Powers said the unit seldom gets this type of training in South Florida due to the limited number of military training sites, but he hopes that the ‘Villa Francine’ project will lead to more training opportunities for the unit.



Sgt. Jeremy Powers, a heavy equipment operator with the 766th Engineer Company, coaches Pvt. Rene Soca while Soca operates a 230 LCR Hi-Ax. (Track Hoe) 766th Engineer Company engineers used the equipment to demolish buildings deemed unsafe by Opa-Lock Fla. city officials.

“Citizens that live here are pleased that the buildings are coming down, and (they) can rest a little easier knowing they won’t have more undesirables coming in,” said Lady Myra Taylor, Mayor of Opa-Locka.

Taylor said, the city can now move forward with plans to develop the area, thanks to the Soldiers of the 766th Engineer Company.



Spc. Nolan Lyles, a heavy equipment operator with the 766th Engineer Company, uses a bulldozer to keep the work area free of debris, during a project to demolish buildings deemed unsafe by Opa-Locka Fla. city officials.



*The 716th Engineer Company and some
southern neighbors extended...*

A gesture from the heart... *to the Haitian people*

Story & photos by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

Story on page 20

Sgt. Megan Moore, 716th Engineer Company, accepts a gift from some of her new friends at a medical clinic construction site, Bardon Marchand, Haiti, June 2, 2011. Moore and 57 other Reserve Soldiers from the 716th deployed to Haiti to help build two medical clinics, a school, and one latrine facility as part of Task Force Bon Voizen, or "Good Neighbor."



716th Engineer Company Soldiers and members of the Belizean Defence Force construct a three-room school at Upper Poteau Haiti, May 28, 2011

What motivated the United States to send its Army engineers to Haiti to help?

Jeean Babtiste Moncleste asked the question after observing progress the 716th Engineer Company had made on a medical clinic construction project that the Reserve Soldiers were working on in Bardon Marchand with their counterparts from the Belize Defence Force's Light Engineer Company.

Moncleste is the principal of the National School of Bardon Marchand, and the construction

was taking place next to his institution. He said that he was looking forward to the project's completion, because of the need for such a facility.

"Some of the kids come in with sicknesses, [and] there's no other clinic nearby," Moneleste said. "I can just send them right over here. I'm happy that you guys put the clinic here."

"Being able to provide something... that make their lives easier, to me, is the greatest thing we can do," said Sgt. Joao Daluz, 716th Engineer Company and noncommissioned officer in charge.

Approximately 35 minutes away, another team of 716th and BDFLEC engineers was helping to build a three-room school, a latrine and a second medical clinic.

The 716th and the BDF engineers augmented Task Force Bon Voizen, which means Good Neighbor, to help build the three facilities as part of exercise New Horizons Haiti 2011. The exercise is a humanitarian and training effort, so the first-line leaders of both organizations seized the



Spc. Adilson Cabral, 716th Engineer Company, preps a window for painting at a medical clinic construction site, Bardon Marchon, Haiti

opportunity to cross-train many of their Soldiers.

"Plumbers ended up doing something electrical, and electrical guys ended up doing some plumbing," said Staff Sgt. Neal Hastings, NCOIC of the medical clinic project at Upper Poteau. "I had one guy who knew how to put in a drop ceiling, now I have four... because he trained them."

Cpl. Alejandro Canelo, a welder with the BDFLEC, did masonry and carpentry at the



Pvt. Clifford Cadle (L), Belizean Defence Force, & Spc. Robert Page, 716th Engineer Company, secure a ridge cap to the roof of a three room school being constructed at Upper Poteau Haiti.

Upper Poteau medical clinic, and he was able to use a tool that had always appealed to him.

"Back in Belize I'd seen carpenters using jigsaws, and I always wanted to use one," Canelo said. "I got to do that here. It wasn't as hard as I thought."

Spc. Robert Page, a 716th plumber and New England native,

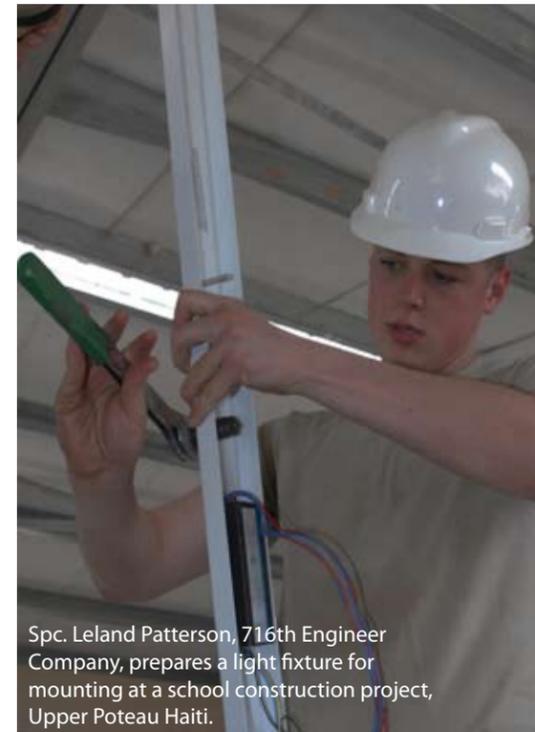
acclimated the hard way to the tropical climate when he worked on the roof of the Upper Poteau School project.

"I'd never worked on a metal roof before; it gives a whole new meaning to cat on a hot tin roof," Page said. "The first day I was up there, it was about 100 degrees. I could actually feel the hot roof underneath my steel toe boots."

The progress the 716th made on all three projects while working with the BDFLEC engineers is a testament to the working relationship they established during their two weeks together. The cohesion reached a point where some of the engineers exchanged addresses and discussed vacationing in each other's hometowns.

"I don't know why anybody would want to come to Maine, but it's a vacation, right?" Hastings said referring to the climate differences between the two regions.

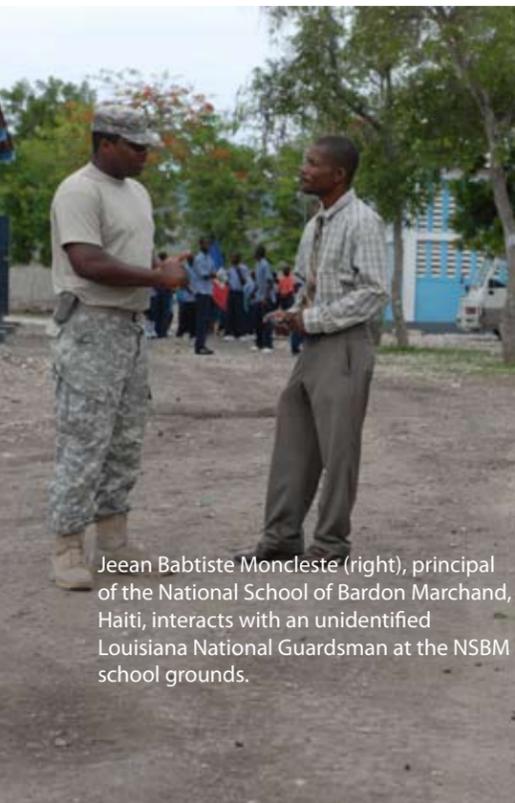
"These guys are hilarious to work with," said Lance Cpl. Meredith Bregal, BDFLEC.



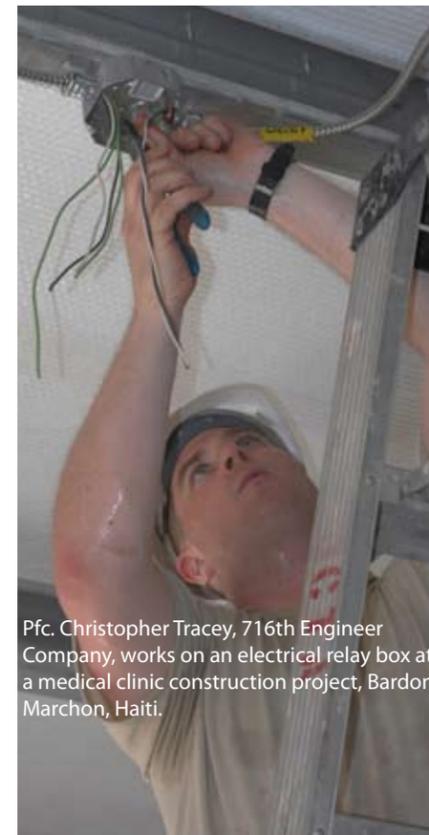
Spc. Leland Patterson, 716th Engineer Company, prepares a light fixture for mounting at a school construction project, Upper Poteau Haiti.

"They'd be there just motivating you, having a laugh while working."

Many of the engineers understood the critical nature of the mission, and took a level of comfort in knowing that the people they came to help appreciate their work.



Jeean Babtiste Moncleste (right), principal of the National School of Bardon Marchand, Haiti, interacts with an unidentified Louisiana National Guardsman at the NSBM school grounds.



Pfc. Christopher Tracey, 716th Engineer Company, works on an electrical relay box at a medical clinic construction project, Bardon Marchon, Haiti.



Sgt. Daryl Ayers (center), 716th Engineer Company, Lance Cpl. Meredith Bregal, (left) and Cpl. Alejandro Canelo (right), Belizean Defence Force, attempt to control the flow of concrete into a wooden form while Air Force Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, adjutant general of the Colorado National Guard, and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, observe at a medical clinic construction site, Upper Poteau Haiti.

“It makes us feel a little better about what we’re doing,” said Sgt. Cory Syvinski, 716th Engineer Company, and NCOIC of the Upper Poteau school project.” We’re actually helping people, and in some cases we can see right around the job site the people that we’re going to be impacting.”

“Only a handful of us got the opportunity to come here,” Bregal said. “Using my skills to do something good is

something that I feel proud of.”

“The gratitude these people have... is pretty awe inspiring,” Page said. “You can see they’re genuinely happy to see us. It’s pretty hard to hide that, they smile, and they wave.”

At the Bardon Marchand site, the engineers



Pvt. Mario Marin, Belize Defence Force, operates a circular saw while Lance Cpl. Domingo Cal, BDF (center), and Spc. Robert Page observe at a school construction site, Upper Poteau, Haiti.

built mini soccer goalposts for the NSBM students, and they fixed swing and seesaw sets on the playground.

Staff Sgt. Megan Moore, who on a few occasions received captured lizards as gifts from children, used caulking compound and tape to repair shoes that appeared irreparable on the students’ feet.

To date, it’s unclear whether Moncleste found an official answer to his question about the motivation behind the United States’ willingness to help his country.

“Your country loves God as much as our country [does], was it the Lord who motivated you guys to help us?” Moncleste asked rhetorically.

“It’s in your heart to help this country get better,” Moncleste concluded.

A day with the ... **‘Reds’** helps Soldier’s blues

Story by Sgt. Nancy Glasgow HHC, 478th Engineer Battalion UPAR



Photo by Sgt. Danny Davidson 396th Engineer Company

Michael Boyd, “Thank You Foundation,” (L) and Spc. Joseph Nelson, 396th Engineer Company, at the Cincinnati Reds’ Great American Ball Park shortly after Boyd presented Nelson with a Certificate of Appreciation from the foundation.

Waiting around for doctors’ appointments and physical therapy can hinder a wounded warrior’s morale. That’s the predicament Spc. Joseph Nelson, 396th Engineer Company, was in when the “Thank you Foundation” teamed up with the Cincinnati Reds to lift his spirits.

The Reds made Nelson an honorary captain during their home game against the Houston Astros on May 4th. He accompanied a Reds team member to deliver the line-up card to the home plate umpire, and he interacted with other players and Rosie Red, the team mascot.

“I never thought I would ever be able to meet those guys and shake their hands,” Nelson said.

The Thank You Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports veterans, service members and families, also presented Nelson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service and sacrifice.

Nelson suffered a concussion and a knee injury after his Husky route-clearance vehicle hit a roadside bomb during a mission last year in Afghanistan.

The Kistler, W.Va. native volunteered for the deployment with the 806th Engineer Company, out of Conway, Ark. He’s been going through recovery and rehabilitation at the Fort Knox, Ky., Warrior Transition Unit since January.

In an attempt to break up Nelson’s monotony 1st Lt. Kristin Shaw, 478th Engineer Battalion, planned the occasion with Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Michael Boyd, a former 478th Soldier and current “Thank You Foundation” board member.

“I was really excited about it,” Nelson said after Boyd made the announcement the day before the event. “I would like to say thank you to The Thank You Foundation and everyone who helped put this together for me; this is something I’ll never forget.”



Photo by Sgt. Danny Davidson, 396th Engineer Company
Spc. Joseph Nelson, 396th Engineer Company, accompanies a Cincinnati Reds team member to deliver the team’s line up card to the umpires at home plate prior to a May 4th baseball game against the Houston Astros at Great American Ball Park.

94th Military Police train Iraq's first SWAT team

Photos by Sgt. Kimberly Johnson 196th MPAD, 25th Inf. Div., USD-C

In an act of terrorism, a church is bombed. Its people held hostage—those who are not already dead from the blasts and gunshots—and the police are called. They perform to the extent of their training—cordon off the area and pull security. But what about what is happening inside? A need for a Special Weapons and Tactics team in Baghdad is realized.

Soldiers with the 94th Military Police Company, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division – Center began training select members of the first Iraqi Police SWAT team, in response to that incident during the fall of 2010 in Baghdad, which, according to Associated Press, left 58 Iraqi Christians dead and 78 wounded.

“After the incident that happened at the Church of Our Lady of Deliverance,” said Maj. Gen. Sabah al-Shably, head of Baghdad patrolling police, “we realized Iraq needed a SWAT team to deal with that kind of situation—a hostage situation. What’s going on here in

Iraq—what has happened before, with the church or other terrorist attacks—can happen again. The best way to deal with a situation like that, has to be a SWAT team that is high-tech and always ready.”

Sgt. Nicholas Laganas, a military police officer with the 94th MP Co., 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div. and a Lowell, Mass., native, said during the hostage situation at the church, there were Iraqi police officers all around, but they did not know what to do. They did not have the training needed to handle the hostage situation.

“That was a perfect opportunity for the Baghdad Police Advisory Team to establish a SWAT team,” Laganas said. “With the help of Maj. Gen. Sabah, here at the police headquarters, and the whole BPAT, we’ve been working with select SWAT trainees for the past month. Little by little, we’re getting there.”

Spc. Albert Barnes, a military police officer with the 94th MP Co., 2nd AAB, 1st Inf. Div. and an Oxford, Conn., native, said the purpose of a SWAT team is

Iraqi Police officers prepare to conduct a room clearing exercise Jan. 3 during Special Weapons and Tactics training in Baghdad



Sgt. Nicholas Laganas (right), a military police officer with 94th Military Police Company, demonstrates how to lead with the weapon upon entering a room during Special Weapons and Tactics training for Iraqi police officers in Baghdad

to conduct operations necessary for capturing people who pose a threat to the security of Iraq and to diffuse hostage situations.

Laganas said the significance of training the selected Iraqi Police officers as a SWAT team, versus training the Iraqi Army, is that the IA is trained in heavy weaponry and the IP officers eventually will be the ones patrolling the streets.

“If we can get the Iraqi Police to start working as a SWAT team to take care of the hostage (rescue) situations, that’s what we need to do,” Laganas said, “because the future of Iraq lies within the Iraqi Police force.”

The American Soldiers pooled their experience and created a training program that includes physical fitness, classroom learning and practical exercises.

“Every morning we start the

day with physical training,” Laganas said. “Then, we work our way into classroom learning and into practical exercises using the crawl, walk and run stages of learning. We try to drive into the trainees that slow is smooth and smooth is fast.”

Barnes said the SWAT trainees are highly motivated for the training and are proud of being the first SWAT team ever in Iraq.

“The Iraqis are very eager to learn,” Laganas said. “Every day they come out screaming

Sgt. Nicholas Laganas (standing, left), demonstrates a take-down technique with Spc. Albert Barnes, before Iraqi police officers during SWAT training in Baghdad



our names, ready to (work). They don’t go through the extensive training like Americans do in the (United) States as police officers, so we all do our best to teach them everything we know.”

The training is scheduled for at least three times per week for about two months, and every minute counts.

Once the American forces withdraw from Iraq, the responsibility for continuing SWAT training will be the Iraqi Police force, alone.

“The BPAT has a lot of stock in this SWAT team, because they’re going to be patrolling the streets right away,” Laganas said. “We need to make sure we train them the best we can, because lives are at stake.”

Additional photos available on the 412th TEC’s Facebook page.



HHC 412th TEC Soldiers help ERDC develop blast wall manual



Sgt. Maj. Terry New (R), Spc. Samuel White (foreground) and Sgt. 1st Class Carl Johnson (background), HHC, 412th Theater Engineer Command, assemble a Joint Modular Protective System

Story & photos by Maj. Jesse Stalder, 412th TEC PAO

Six Soldiers from the headquarters company of the 412th Theater Engineer Command spent two days setting up and tearing down a portable blast wall designed to guard against small arms fire, and rocket-propelled grenade attacks.

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center configured the structure, which they named The Joint Modular Protective System, so Soldiers can easily assemble and disassemble it in remote locations where concrete barriers are unavailable.

“We wanted something that was light weight, and reusable,” said Thomas McGill, a representative of ERDC’s Geotechnical and Structures laboratory.

In conjunction with the Army Test and Evaluation Command, ERDC photographed and video taped the 412th Soldiers repeating the set up and tear down process. The designers plan to use the video and still photos to create illustrations for an instructional and maintenance manual.

In the mean time, the 412th Soldiers made use of

the initial instructions available to them.

“I looked at the instructions for maybe five minutes and we started putting it together... it was that simple,” said, Sgt. Maj. Terry New, the senior enlisted leader of the 412th TEC’s Deployable Command Post Two.

“It is pretty easy to put up and tear down... it is a good piece of equipment,” said Pfc. Lamont Patterson, Deployable Command Post One, 412th TEC.

“Knowing that we are doing something that is going to protect Soldiers...in Afghanistan and Iraq... gives you a good feeling,” said Spc. Samuel White, Finance Section, 412th TEC.



Spc. Samuel White, HHC, 412th Theater Engineer Command, assembles a section of ERDC’s Joint Modular Protective System in Vicksburg, Miss.



(Seated in front from L-R) Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, the Army Reserve commander, Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr., the new commander of the 412th Theater Engineer Command, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Paul F. Hamm, former 412th TEC commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor, the 412th TEC senior enlisted leader listening to the master of ceremonies during one of three consecutive ceremonies at the Vicksburg Convention Center that changed the command's leadership.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

A 'general' change atop the 412th TEC

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene, 412th TEC PAO

"The only thing we haven't done is a funeral," said Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, commander of the Army Reserve, to a crowd of approximately 400 Soldiers and civilians after he presided over three ceremonies that changed the leadership of the 412th Theater Engineer Command at the Vicksburg Miss., Convention Center on April 2.

Photo by Maj. Jesse Stalder, 412th TEC PAO

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, commander of the Army Reserve, and Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr. share a moment while passing the colors during the 412th Theater Engineer Command's Change of Command Ceremony at the Vicksburg Miss., Convention Center



Continued on page 30



Photo by Maj. Jesse Stalder, 412th TEC PAO

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, commander of the Army Reserve, hands the certificate that accompanies the Distinguished Service Medal to Maj. Gen. Paul F. Hamm while Hamm's wife Carol looks on during Hamm's retirement ceremony at the Vicksburg Miss., Convention Center April 2, 2011. Hamm received the medal for 37 years of service to the Army from 6 June 1973 to 2 April 2011.

During the first ceremony, Stultz promoted Brig. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr. to the rank of major general, then he administered the 412th TEC's change of command ceremony where Maj. Gen. Paul F. Hamm relinquished leadership of the command to Buckler. Immediately after the change of command, Stultz administered Hamm's retirement ceremony where he presented Hamm with the Distinguished Service Medal for 37 years of dedication to the Army.

"It has been a long journey for me to this day," Hamm said during his retirement speech. "I

still remember the longest day of my life, the day I reported to West Point on July 1, 1969.

Hamm said that acknowledging retirement was difficult, but he knew that it was time to move on.

"We're gonna miss you Paul," Stultz told Hamm during the address. "But we're not gonna forget you. You've got a legacy here at the 412th, and throughout the Army engineer corps that will be there forever."

Hamm commanded the 412th during the last three years of his career, transforming the organization from an engineer command, which is a strategic and planning organization, to the

current theater engineer command, which is an operational, and functional headquarters that governs all Army Reserve engineer and engineer support units east of the Mississippi River. Hamm also guided the successful mobilization of 34 subordinate units totaling more than 2,000 Soldiers in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn.

While serving as Hamm's deputy, Buckler led one of those units, an element of the 412th TEC headquarters known as Deployable Command Post One, to Afghanistan in Aug. 2009. DCP One was responsible



Photo by Maj. Jesse Stalder, 412th TEC PAO

Mrs. Carol Buckler places the major general insignia on her husband's uniform during Maj. Gen. William Buckler Jr.'s promotion ceremony at the Vicksburg, Miss., Convention Center. Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, commander of the Army Reserve, promoted Buckler to Maj. Gen., April 2.



foundation of the Army, then he narrowed his focus on the noncommissioned officers.

"Whenever I can I acknowledge the great NCOs that we have; I learned most of what I know about character and being a father from my father, a retired sergeant first class," Buckler said.

His dad, William Sr., his wife Carol and Hamm assisted Stultz with the promotion ceremony.

Buckler then ended the speech by quoting Luke 12:48, which says, "To whom much is given much is expected."

"I realize what I've been given, and I realize what is expected, and I will do my best," Buckler said.

Additional photos available on the 412th TEC's Facebook

for coordinating all engineer operations throughout the country.

Stultz visited DCP One in Afghanistan, and he told the Vicksburg crowd that he was impressed with the unit's accomplishments based on his discussions with Buckler's superiors. Stultz also referenced Buckler's bio and said that the word commander stood out significantly.

"It wasn't very hard, when the board came out and said we recommend Bill Buckler to be a two-star [general] for me to say yes," Stultz said. "He is exactly the right person to take over the reins of the 412th engineers."

During his promotion speech, Buckler reminded the TEC's Soldiers that they were the



Photo by Maj. Jesse Stalder, 412th TEC PAO

Maj. Gen. Paul F. Hamm, commander of the 412th Theater Engineer Command receives the command's colors from Command Sgt. Major Guy Taylor, the 412th TEC's senior enlisted leader and colors' custodian. Hamm then relinquished his command by passing the colors to Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, the Army Reserve commander, who handed them to Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr., making Buckler the new 412th TEC commander.

The tough got going...

during this year's Best Warrior Competition

Story & photos by Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley, 412th TEC PAO



Pfc. Aurelio Hernandez tests the M57 Firing Device of an M18A1 Claymore Mine using an M40 Test Set during the 412th TEC's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Smith N.Y. April 26. Hernandez beat out 14 other competitors to earn the title of "Best Warrior."

For some competitors, the Army Physical Fitness Test, the daytime and nighttime land navigation courses plus the 10-kilometer ruck march all within 26 hours was a true test.

"The level of competition here is a lot higher than [at] battalion," said Spc. Christopher Torres, the runner up in the enlisted category from the 357th Engineer Company.

"We tax our Soldiers to see who rises to the top; this is only preparation for USARC," said Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor, the 412th TEC's senior enlisted leader.

Sgt. Grant Baginski, 449th Engineer Company, and Spc. Aurelio Hernandez,

718th Engineer Company, were the winners in the noncommissioned officer and enlisted categories, respectively.

Hernandez said that his motivation for winning the 412th

BWC, was an opportunity at attending Air Assault School. Hernandez is a Chemical Weapons Specialist, and air assault qualification is not a requirement in his Military Occupational Specialty.

The chance to attend Airborne, Air assault, or Engineer Sapper School is one of the rewards of

winning the contest, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher, the 411th Engineer Brigade's senior enlisted leader.

"If you want it, [then] win it," Hernandez said, quoting his first sergeant who suggested that he compete.

Flubacher, the event's coordinator, said he selected the tasks based on survivability.

"Weapons systems, Army Warrior Tasks and medical tasks are all good things needed to stay alive," Flubacher said.

"It's evolved and will continue to evolve, but I will never change the toughness of the competition," Taylor said.

"We want a knock down drag out competition where everyone walks away feeling good about what they accomplished," said Sgt. Maj. Paul Yingst, the

412th TEC's operations sergeant major.

Hernandez and Baginski advanced to the United States Army Reserve Command competition at Ft. McCoy Wisc., where Hernandez won the Combatives contest in the heavyweight category.

Additional photos available on the 412th TEC's Facebook page.



Sgt. Grant Baginski, 449th Engineer Company, (forefront) and other participants of the 412th Theater Engineer Command "Best Warrior Competition," begin the 10-kilometer ruck march at Camp Smith N.Y.



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What Have You Done to Save a Life Today?

A Fun and Sober Summer

*Bob Van Elsberg Strategic Communication Directorate U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center
Fort Rucker, Ala.*

Ah, yes ... it's time to fire up the barbecue, kick back, open a few brews and enjoy the sunnier days of spring and summer. But while you're enjoying yourself, you might want to give some thought to the "mellowing" effects of your favorite adult beverage. While these beverages can go great with ribs, steaks and burgers, they don't mix so well when with gasoline, concrete and asphalt. Unless you are hosting the party, you'll probably have to go home afterward, and that's where the rub comes in. Whether behind the wheel or on your motorcycle, you'll need sharp wits — not dull, "buzzed" brain cells — to avoid dumb decisions. To keep the good times going this year, consider the following tips from Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Planning a Party with Polish. There's a reason it's called throwing a party—a host has to be ready to catch some curve balls and juggle the unexpected when it comes to staging an event that's fun, entertaining and safe for everyone. Responsible hosts know part of showing guests a great time is making sure they get home safely. Dealing with safe driving is an important host duty, so we've compiled some quick tips to help you throw a memorably successful party without tossing caution to the wind.

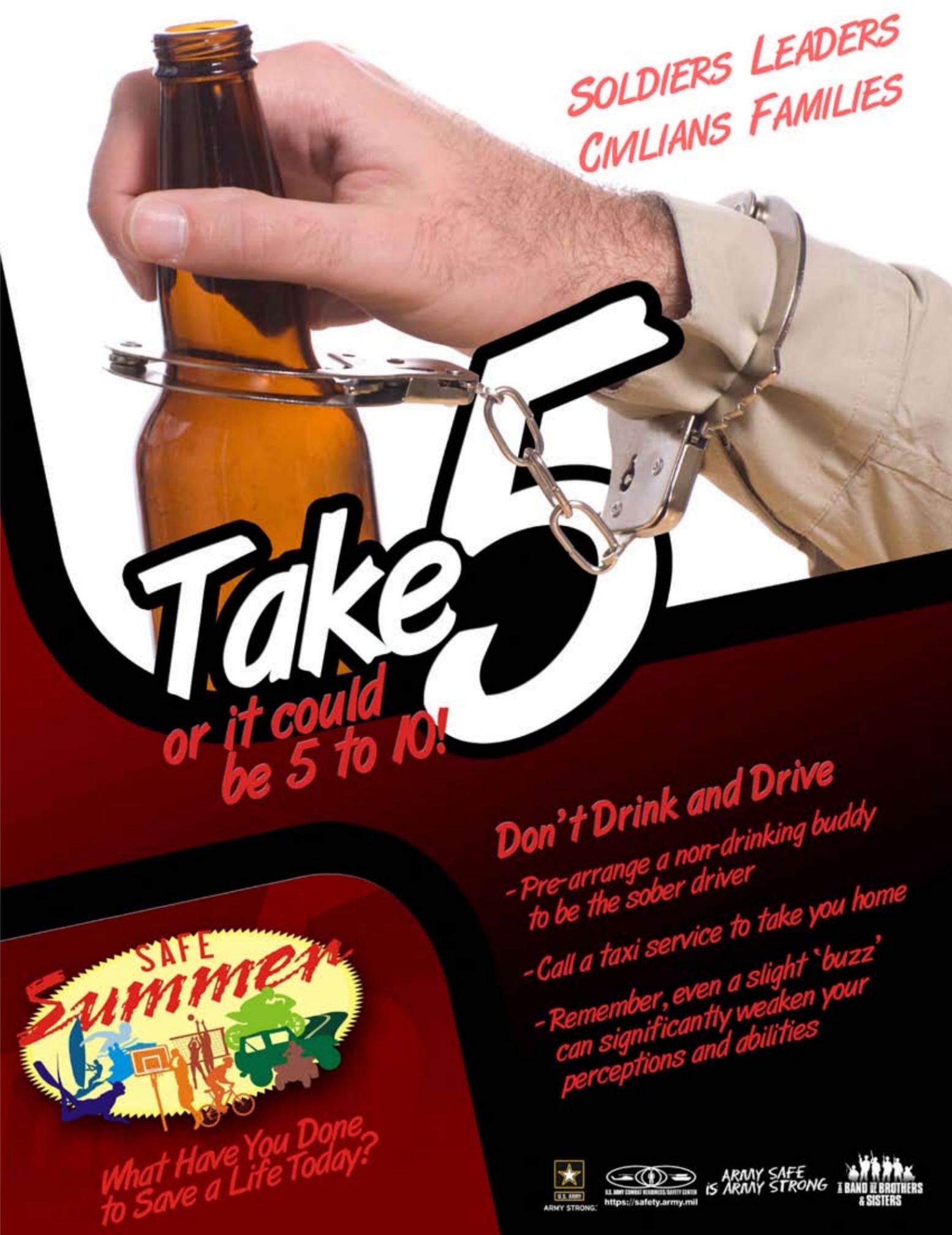
- Plan activities like party games, door prize drawings or amateur fortune-telling. Planned activities engage people, make for less active consumption of alcohol and ensure your friends remember the great event long after the last piece of confetti has settled.
- As guests RSVP, confirm that at least one person in each group is prepared to be the non-drinking designated driver.
- Provide plenty of food to keep your guests from

drinking on an empty stomach.

- Avoid too many salty snacks, which tend to make people thirsty and drink more.
- Offer non-alcoholic beverages or mocktails for designated drivers and others who prefer not to drink alcohol.
- If preparing an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base, like fruit juice. Alcohol is absorbed into the blood stream faster with a carbonated base.
- Be prepared by having the number of a taxi service on hand for those who need a ride. Also, be ready with some clean linens so you can turn your sofa into a hotel for guests who need to sleep it off.

During Your Party

- Never serve alcohol to someone under the legal drinking age, and never ask children to serve alcohol at parties.
- Don't let guests mix their own drinks. Choosing a reliable "bartender" will help you keep track of the size and number of drinks guests consume.
- If a guest appears to be drinking a bit much, offer to freshen his or her drink with a virgin version.
- Do not push drinks! Drinking at a party is not mandatory for having a good time.
- Have fun — but not too much fun. To be a good host, you should stay within your limits to make sure your guests stay within theirs.
- Close the bar 90 minutes before the party ends and serve a great dessert treat with coffee. Remember, only time sobers someone who has been drinking.
- If, despite your efforts, some of your guests have had too much to drink, drive them home, arrange for a ride with another guest who is sober, call a taxi or invite them to stay over.



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