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TWO STAR NOTES:

DOING LESS WITH LESS

By Maj. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr.

79th Sustainment Support Command, Commanding General



We are all familiar with the cliché “do more with less.” To our credit and condemnation we have managed to do it for years, but as our resources dwindle we have passed the point where that cliché no longer resonates.

Before taking his current assignment as the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said at the annual Joint Warfighting Conference in Virginia Beach that “we must avoid the trap of doing more with less, which is a recipe for creating a hollow force,” and that “we’re now forced to make decisions that previously we could avoid.”

The reality which Odierno alluded to, and what each of us must accept, is that the Army has reached a new era of resource constraint forcing paradigms to shift and difficult choices to be made. All this said, the sky has not fallen, because we are going to continue moving forward by doing less with less.

When I say do less with less, it is with the realization and recognition by all senior leadership in the Army that hard decisions are going to have to be made, that leaders at all levels are going to have to communicate what they can and can’t do. It is candidly asserting that the rhetoric has become a platitude and we have gone down that road as far as we can go.

This era will be particularly new for anyone that has joined our ranks since 9/11, but will be somewhat reminiscent to those of us who have been serving for 15 or 20 years. We are going back to the days when resources were not plentiful and we

were not always able to accomplish the tasks we wanted to.

It also means that we will not be capable of achieving everything we were previously expected to accomplish. Leaders at every level must have the wisdom to decide what is important, the ingenuity to make it happen, and the fortitude

“My guidance to you is instead of going an inch deep and a mile wide – go deep on what matters.”

to stand up and say what cannot be accomplished. Time, money, equipment, and personnel must all be carefully considered and leveraged against each other.

How we have measured readiness and success cannot remain as is. If there is a golden formula on how to achieve this – I have not seen it, so we must analytically reassess as we move forward. My guidance to you is instead of going an inch deep and a mile wide – go deep on what matters. If you’re trained on your core competencies, then I believe you’re doing well.

Returning to the fundamentals of training as established in FM 7-0, we must train to standard. The mea-

sure of success is not the number of tasks you complete, but which tasks you do complete and the proficiency that was achieved. Conducting annual training with the intention of raising the T-level on all of your tasks is a perfect example of creating Odierno’s foreboded “hollow force.”

As Stephen Covey aptly put it, “the key is not to prioritize what’s on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities.” You must assess what the most critical tasks are to your organization and preserve them. As painful as it may sound, less critical tasks may have to come off the board.

Each organization has its own unique mission, vision and goals. The priorities of a transportation company are never going to be the same as a finance center’s. This being the case, a one size fits all approach will not work. I am not going to say what is most important to you – each unit has to discern their own priorities for themselves.

You must pick what your primary and key competencies are. Some things that are not in your core competency will simply have to be put to the side. Once this is done you need to document where you are on what was sidelined and bring them to par when you can.

The Army Force Generation model has given us aim points and it does not say units must always be at a high state of readiness – it depends on where you are in the cycle. It is perfectly acceptable if a unit is at a low state of readiness at the early part of the cycle. Being at a low

“You must assess what the most critical tasks are to your organization and preserve them. As painful as it may sound, less critical tasks may have to come off the board.”

state of readiness, but making your aim points, is all that is required.

Reinforcing this is how we must resource our units dictated by where they are at in the ARFORGEN cycle. Units that are in reset may have a lofty training plan and want to do overseas training, but will likely be told no because they are in reset.

The Chief of the Army Reserve and Chief of Staff of the Army realize that this is a resource constrained environment. You may not be able

to train on all your METL tasks and bring them to an acceptable level – and that’s okay. This is really an acceptance by the leadership that resources are not going to be sufficient, nor are all units required to be at the highest state of readiness at all times.

Unlike 15 or 20 years ago, we are much better poised to realistically do less with less while preserving our operational reserve at acceptable levels through the use of our

technology. Our use of email, teleconferencing, distance learning and simulations must all be further embraced to replace their costly counterparts wherever feasible.

Things that were once unheard of may become common place. For instance, we could very well be qualifying with live ammunition one year and using a weapons simulator the next. This has not been approved, but I am willing to put it on the table. There are no creative solutions we receive from the field that we are not willing to consider and propose to higher. Everyone needs to search for innovative solutions to compensate for our constrained resources, whether it is replacing traditional training with virtual, or consolidating programs which overlap in function.

In the midst of this new era we must take care of the Army’s most precious resource – our Soldiers. Doing less with less includes learning to live within our means without over-tasking ourselves or our teammates. Even the best of us can only push forward full throttle for so long before we run out of gas, burn out or give up. Remember that there is no short term objective worth sacrificing the future of the force for.

As we navigate through these times, I urge you to keep faith with your Soldiers and their Families, communicate openly and honestly, share your ideas and successes, and continue to do the best you can with what you have. I thank each of you for your service, your sacrifice and your commitment to our great Nation. 

FM 7-0 • February 2011

2-10. A task is a measurable action performed by individuals or organizations. A standard is the accepted proficiency level required to accomplish a task. The standard for training is mastery, not just minimum proficiency. Mastery of a task is being able to perform the task intuitively, regardless of the conditions. Units master tasks by limiting the number of tasks to train to a few essential tasks that support accomplishing the mission. Leaders train their organizations until they achieve the standard, which may mean training longer than planned. Training schedules include time for retraining. If units achieve the standard earlier than planned, leaders challenge the unit by changing the conditions, move on to other tasks, or finish training early. Individuals and units demonstrate their proficiency at the start of training to identify shortcomings needing attention. This helps units avoid wasting time training on a task in which they are already proficient.

2-28. Leaders develop a sense of stewardship in subordinates. Good stewardship is learned during tough training in which individuals learn to respect and trust themselves and their leaders. Effective training also develops appreciation for the importance of well-maintained equipment and other resources. Individuals must preserve resources and make wise decisions regarding their use and upkeep. Resources include people, individual and organizational equipment, installation property, training areas, ranges, facilities, time, the environment, and funds. Leaders and subordinates are responsible for protecting these assets. Subordinates tend to follow the example leaders set. Preserving readiness requires enforcing accountability for resources.

3-31. Time and resources are limited, so not all tasks can be trained to proficiency. Commanders focus training on the collective tasks most essential to mission accomplishment and that facilitate operational adaptability.



TAKING CARE OF SOLDIERS

BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROBERT N. ROBERSON, JR.

HOOAH Soldiers,

As this edition of our Falcon magazine hits the book stands, we'll have celebrated Holidays dear to ALL. Some of us had the privilege of spending time, in our homes, with those close to us. Others, because of deployment or mission requirements celebrated via e-mail, face book, postcards, and or even old fashioned letters. To ALL, know that the commitment and sacrifices you and your Families have endured this past year are not forgotten. THANK YOU.

As always, I ask that we not forget the sacrifices of our Fallen Warriors, Wounded Warriors, Warriors and our Civilian workforce still in the fight, and their Families. So take a moment, just for them, and remember.

I'm privileged to serve as your Command Sergeant Major. In doing so I've had the opportunity in my travels across our footprint and to observe firsthand the dynamics of our organization. Leadership Teams at every level, though challenged by increased demanding requirements, restricted resources, manpower shortages and that other little factor... TIME MANAGEMENT, still find the means to get the mission accomplished.

The BLUF is the brunt of the "means" are our Soldiers, whether AGR or TPU, and our Civilian workforce who have taken on the challenges. So - though we are making mission, a simple question we need to ask ourselves is: are we taking care of our Soldiers and our Civilian workforce?

Field Manual 6-22, writes of balancing mission and welfare as well as what it means to take care of our Force. This is a difficult, but essential task which every leader manage.

Taking care of Soldiers has always been, and will always be a part of our Army culture. No matter the era or circumstances you joined the Army, you were surrounded by Leaders postured to take care of your transition and growth in the Army. The only difference today is we've become those Leaders charged with those responsibilities. We've also recognized our responsibility to our Civilian workforce.

As we commit our Soldiers and Civilian workforce to the multiple tasks ahead, we also commit their Families and civilian employers. So it matters that we do all we can to provide meaningful mentorship, prepare them for promotion opportunities, growth in their areas of responsibility and balance in their personnel lives. It's imperative that we remain transparent in affording these opportunities in a fair and equitable manner.

Commanders, Senior Noncommissioned Officers and Civilian leaders, I challenge each to revisit your ranks. Take the time to walk your Areas of Responsibility and talk to our Soldiers and Civilian workforce. Just as important is to listen and hear what is being said. Most often we learn from these visits and improve our foxholes.

Improving our foxhole ultimately equates to taking care of Soldiers and our Civilian workforce. When we take care of our Soldiers and our Civilian workforce, we gain the trust and support of their Families and civilian employers. Stay engaged and make a difference!

As always, I encourage and look forward to your comments. If you have a topic you would like to discuss, you can e-mail me at: 79th_Soundingboard@usar.army.mil.

My enduring message to ALL, know that our Army, Leaders, Families, employers and communities have invested their trust and confidence in your commitment to being that Citizen Soldier. Whether you're in uniform or not, stand tall when you're out there.

Know too how proud I am to serve along each and every one of you. Stay focused and be safe...HOOAH!!!

CSM
PMA!!!

**PMA stands for Positive Mental Attitude, an acronym I have used to sign off for more than 25 years. It is a personal motto "borrowed" from a solid mentor of yesterday. PMA is an attitude that paves the way forward, no matter the challenge and regardless of gender, religious belief, or ethnicity...HOOAH!!!*



THE BALANCE BETWEEN MISSION AND WELFARE

FM 6-22 • October 2006

7-56. Consideration of the needs of Soldiers and civilians is a basic function of all Army leaders. Having genuine concern for the well-being of followers goes hand-in-hand with motivation, inspiration, and influence. Soldiers and civilians will be more willing to go the extra mile for leaders who they know look out for them. Sending Soldiers or civilians in harm's way to accomplish the mission seems to contradict all the emphasis on taking care of people. How can a leader truly care for comrades and send them on missions that might get them killed? Similarly, when asking junior officers and NCOs to define what leaders do, the most common response is, "Take care of Soldiers."

7-57. Taking care of Soldiers entails creating a disciplined environment where they can learn and grow. It means holding them to high standards when training and preparing them to do their jobs so they can succeed in peace and win in war. Taking care of Soldiers, treating them fairly, refusing to cut corners, sharing hardships, and setting a personal example are crucial.

7-58. Taking care of Soldiers also means demanding that Soldiers do their duty—even at risk to their lives. Preparing Soldiers for the brutal realities of actual combat is a direct leader's most important duty. It does not mean coddling or making training easy or comfortable. Training neglect of that kind can get Soldiers killed. Training must be rigorous and simulate combat as much as possible, while keeping safety in mind. Leaders use risk management to ensure safety standards are appropriate. During wartime operations, unit leaders must also recognize the need to provide Soldiers with reasonable comforts to bolster morale and maintain long-term combat effectiveness. Comfort always takes second seat to the mission.

7-59. Taking care of others means finding out a Soldier's personal state on a particular day or their attitude about a particular task. The three attributes of a leader—character, presence, and intellectual capacity—can be applied as a leader's mental checklist to check on the welfare and readiness of Soldiers and civilians alike. It is up to the leader to provide the encouragement to push through to task completion or, when relief is required, to prevent unacceptable risk or harm and find other means to accomplish the task.

7-60. Many leaders connect at a personal level with their followers so they will be able to anticipate and understand the individual's circumstances and needs. As discussed previously in the chapter, building relationships is one way to gain influence and commitment from followers. Knowing others is the basis that many successful leaders use to treat personnel well. It includes everything from making sure a Soldier has time for an annual dental exam, to finding out about a person's preferred hobbies and pastimes. Leaders should provide an adequate family support and readiness network that assures Soldiers' families will be taken care of, whether the Soldier is working at home station or deployed.

A NEW ESC IS BORN



The 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command was activated September 16 in Wichita, Kan., becoming the newest ESC in the Army Reserve and member of the 79th Sustainment Support Command family.

For the next year, the 451st will recruit, train and establish its headquarters in order to become fully mission capable. In September of 2012, the 451st is scheduled to take command and control of multiple Army Reserve units throughout the Midwest.

HISTORY

Constituted 3 January 1944 in the Army of the United States as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 52d Quartermaster Base Depot

Activated 10 January 1944 at Camp Lee, Virginia

Inactivated 25 June 1946 in Belgium

Redesignated 14 April 1947 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 451st Quartermaster Base Depot, and allotted to the Organized Reserves

Activated 24 April 1947 in Indianapolis, Indiana

Reorganized and re-designated 10 April 1953 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 451st Quartermaster Depot

Reorganized and re-designated 31 January 1968 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 451st Field Depot

Inactivated 10 August 1984 in Indianapolis, Indiana

Converted and redesignated 10 February 2009 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

Activated 16 September 2011 in Wichita, Kansas

SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

The chevron denotes the unit's support role in warfare. The colors emphasize the attributes of the Command - red conveys courage, blue signifies loyalty, and white represents devotion - also indicating the national colors. The stylized arrow symbolizes the "Transportation Cycle of Logistics," alluding to the Command's movement around the world and back to complete the mission. The sword, point up, illustrates readiness to engage in the fight.

MISSION

The 451st ESC embodies the future of the Army Reserve's command and control of sustainment operations. As an operational command post of a Theater Sustainment Command, the 451st will plan, coordinate synchronize, monitor and control operational-level sustainment operations for Army Service Component Commands, Joint Task Forces and Joint Forces Commands.

As a one star command in sustainment operations, the 451st will plan, coordinate, and provide sustainment to forces; plan, prepare and execute theater opening and reception, staging, onward movement and enable integration of forces; provide movement control; and establish and operate sustainment facilities and bases.

VISION

The 451st ESC will lead the Army Reserve as a relevant and ready operational command which is prepared to support and execute operations throughout the world.

The 451st ESC will sustain our forces with excellence through teamwork and dedication. Every member of the 451st is an indispensable full-scale shareholder in the success of the command and fulfillment of its duties. The 451st will operate in an atmosphere of discipline, creativity, humor, and pride; where individual thinking and decision making are not only encouraged, but essential.

The 451st ESC and its members are the Ambassadors of the Army Reserve. As an organization of Citizen-Soldiers, the 451st will be the model of leadership and partnership in the Central Mid-west Region and integrate fully within the communities where we work and live.

Follow the 451st ESC on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/451stESC

ARROWS FORWARD TAKES POINT



The 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command is the core of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan. JSC-A has a growing mission of overseeing sustainment operations and other functions in Afghanistan.

Story and photo by Spc. Andrew Valles

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The U.S. Army Reserve's 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command arrived at Kandahar Airfield July 7, 2011. The 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and its subordinate units are currently providing logistical support for the entire Afghanistan theater of operations.

The unit conducted pre-mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas, where they took part in culminating training events which prepared them for service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Our soldiers are well-trained and ready to provide logistical support to coalition and Afghan forces in counter-insurgency efforts so that the Afghan people can live in a safe and secure environment. We look forward to building relationships with our Afghan and coalition partners to accomplish this mission," said Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, 4th ESC commander.

"I'm looking forward to the 4th ESC's important mission here," said Maj. Gavin Reid, command inspector general for the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. "It will be an honor to help enhance the discipline, efficiency, and operational warfighting capability of all units within the command."

The 4th conducted transition operations with personnel from the Mississippi Army National Guard's 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and assumed responsibility for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan after the Mississippi unit returned home in late July.

The 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command will manage theater sustainment operations, both at the strategic and operational levels, so that the tactical sustainers can do their jobs effectively and supply troops in the Combined/Joint Operations Area, according to Col. Terri Duenas, the support operations officer in charge.

"We have a great group of Soldiers - a great highly motivated group of soldiers and I couldn't feel more confident," said Duenas. "Each one of them brings a great wealth of experience and knowledge to the fight and they are highly committed to serving this unit and nation. I am honored to be a part of this great team." 🇺🇸

Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, commanding general for the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, and Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Williams, command sergeant major for the 4th ESC and JSC-A, uncased the unit's colors during the JSC-A transfer of authority ceremony, July 25, at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The 4th ESC, headquartered in San Antonio, is currently in charge of sustainment operations for U.S. and coalition forces throughout Afghanistan.



LOG WARRIORS SUSTAIN THE FIGHT IN KOREA



Story by Seokwon Han, 19th ESC Public Affairs

For the first time, Soldiers of the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command participated in Ulchi Freedom Guardian - a two week exercise designed to improve the alliance's ability to defend the Republic of Korea by exercising senior leaders' decision-making capabilities and by training commanders and staffs from both nations in planning, command and control operations, intelligence, logistics and personnel procedures.

CAMP HENRY, South Korea - Soldiers from the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, based in Los Angeles, augmented Soldiers from the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise held throughout the Korean peninsula Aug. 16-26.

The 311th ESC commands and controls multiple subordinate units and provides operational and tactical level combat service support to forces across the spectrum of operations. Col. Robert White, 311th ESC chief of staff aid, "It also provides distribution management to forces in coordination with theater sustainment commands."

Reserve Soldiers from the 311th ESC were activated and deployed to Korea to participate in the UFG exercise as part of their two-week annual training.

"Before we deployed, we had to make all the right adjustments to our network system so that we could transition smoothly into the exercise with the 19th ESC," said Sgt. Sae A. Hong, 311th ESC G-6 non-commissioned officer in charge. "Participants went through the operations security and network training for several weeks leading up to the exercise."

This exercise was the first time the 311th ESC worked in conjunction with the 19th ESC, an active duty counterpart stationed in Korea.

"When I first saw Reserve Soldiers from the U.S. coming into the bunker to participate in the exercise I was very surprised," said Pvt. Lee Byung-hyun, 19th ESC G-6. "They are as professional and as passionate as we [active duty soldiers] are."

The 311th ESC oversaw and supervised the noncombatant evacuation operation that the 19th ESC carried out. The 311th ESC provided reception, staging, onward movement and integration support, and supervised the logistical portion of the exercise.

"The 311th ESC has carried out the roles that the 19th ESC would normally carry out when a nationwide crisis occurs," said Lt. Roy Banzon, 19th ESC G-3 deputy. "After the exercise we have identified several things we could do better in future exercises for better integration with other units."

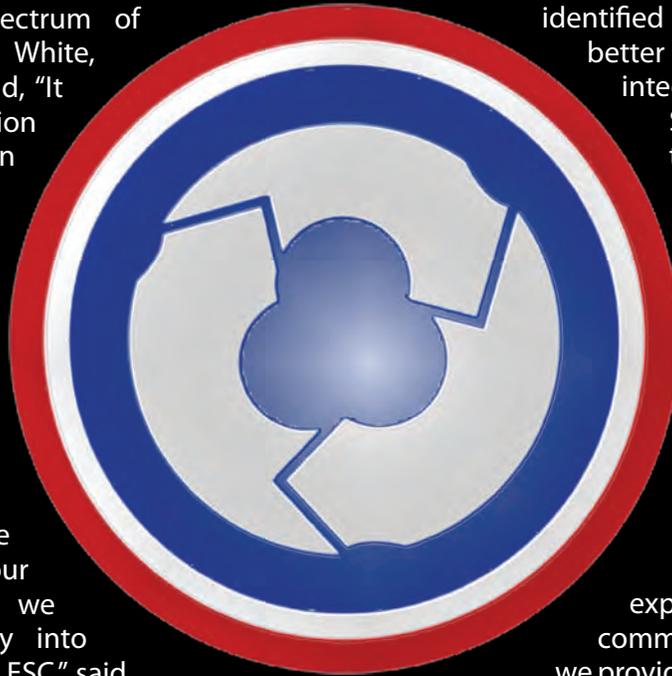
Sustainment commands typically provide combat service support in terms of supply, maintenance, transportation and field services. These commands generally are designed to deploy into a theater of operations and assume control of the logistics while providing oversight and materiel management.

"Because we are an expeditionary sustainment command, the primary support we provide is sustainment," White said.

"We share common objectives with the 19th ESC, and this has made the transition smoother."

Over the weekend when the exercise was paused, the deployed Soldiers enjoyed their free time touring the city of Daegu and experiencing the Korean culture in traditional marketplaces like the Seomoon market.

"I love going to different countries to experience the cultures and the different ways of life," said Master Sgt. Mark Thompson, 311th ESC Distribution Integration Branch non-commissioned officer in charge. "I loved the Daegu cityscape, the nature that Korea offers, and the spicy food that we ate at the market." 🇺🇸



Ulchi Freedom Guardian is an annual Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command exercise. It is designed to improve the alliance's ability to defend the Republic of Korea by exercising senior leaders' decision-making capabilities and by training commanders and staffs from both nations in planning, command and control operations, intelligence, logistics, and personnel procedures. More than 530,000 troops from the Republic of Korea, the United States and the United Nations Command took part both on the peninsula and at U.S. military headquarters in the Pacific and United States. The exercise is named after Ulchi Mundeok, an early Korean military leader who repelled an invasion by China's Sui Dynasty in the 7th century.

Follow the 311th on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/311th-Sustainment-Command-Expeditionary

364TH ESC TAKES HELM OF IRAQ DRAWDOWN OPERATIONS

Story and photos by Army Cpl. Christopher Bigelow



Brig Gen. Jonathan Ives and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Jennings, the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command's commanding general and command sergeant major, uncase the 364th ESC colors symbolizing their command is operational in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait during a flag unfurling ceremony, Oct. 6, 2011

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, from Marysville, Wash., officially began operations in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, with a flag unfurling ceremony Oct. 6.

The 364th ESC colors were unfurled by its commanding general, Brig. Gen. Jonathan G. Ives, of Seattle, and the unit's top enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Jennings, of Las Vegas.

"These soldiers will create the reputation and history of the 364th and I am confident that they have the skills, desire, and the hearts of champions," said Ives. "Nothing will stop them and nothing will prevent them from the accolades which lie ahead both individually and as a command," he added.

The occasion marked a significant moment for the Army Reserve and the 364th ESC. This is the first time that an expeditionary sustainment command will be used for its intended doctrinal purpose, and the unit's first deployment since it was formed in 2009.

"The expectation is for the 364th Soldiers to be successful," Jennings said. "To be successful not only in our mission and how we go about doing our daily

business in the Army, but to be successful in life and in everything that they do."

The 364th ESC's mission in Kuwait is to facilitate the responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq, supporting the President's policy to have all soldiers and materiel out of Iraq by the end of this year.

"The unit will be making sure that they are helping to sustain the sustainment in Afghanistan, the withdrawal in Iraq, and also all the reset of the sustainment footprint here in Kuwait," Ives said.

"This is a very significant and also a historic time for our nation as we close out our battle and development side, and start to move towards governance and opportunities for Iraq," Ives added.

Jennings said the 364th soldiers are operating in a high-stress environment every day.

"They have a lot of things going on," he said. "They're very good at multitasking. I believe they bring that here to the table for the Army."

"Their ability to accomplish a mission in any setting is spectacular," Jennings added. "It's impressive, and I think that our soldiers are going to do a great job as we push forward in this mission." 



Follow the 364th ESC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/364thESC

Staff Sgt. Thurman Thigpen, a support operations integration ammunition sergeant, with the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command from Marysville, Wash., dons the unit's combat patch with the rest of the unit on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Oct. 6, 2011. The combat patch is a badge of honor worn to symbolize a soldier's time spent in a combat zone and the unit they were serving with.



FAMILIES IN THE FIGHT

VOLUNTEER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

PROVIDED BY SHERRY RALLIS, 79TH SSC COMMUNITY OUTREACH ASSISTANT

Every year the AUSA recognizes an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service significantly contributes to improving Soldier well-being and that of the local community. This award was established in 2002 as a joint venture of Rubbermaid Group and the Association of the United States Army.

This year's "Volunteer Family of the Year" is the Mobley Family.

Lt. Col. Byron Mobley leads his family as well as his military and civilian communities with a volunteer mentor-style model of service. His volunteer work is centered around two outstanding, faithful, lifelong relationships. First is his 25-year connection to Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, where he leads as a volunteer mentor programs for youth. He also has several years of experience organizing and planning annual community projects, golf tournament fund raisers, and community awareness ceremonies. Second is Mobley's continued service as a mentor in Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America for more than 20 years, where he personally mentors and trains young people on life skills, planning for college, and goal-setting.

His military volunteer service focuses on Family Readiness Groups. As an individual Soldier, he makes certain his own Family is engaged in FRG efforts. As a commander, he demonstrates outstanding leadership and takes seriously his responsibility to create connections

and strong relationships within his FRG and its function at the unit level, as well as levels up and down the Chain of Command.

This quarter he will complete a 2010-2011 deployment with the 336th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

Through Byron and wife Lavette's outstanding leadership, by their 2010 deployment ceremony the unit boasted 9 FRG key volunteers who stood trained and ready to support the 73 Soldiers' families during deployment, which is 3 times the commander's requirement.

When asked to comment on his personal military perspective, Byron says, "The military centers around the work ethic of our volunteer service members. The jobs in the military may be dangerous and potentially life threatening. So much can be said for the many sacrifices experienced by our dynamic force."

Lavette, is a two-time awardee of the AUSA/Greater Los Angeles Chapter Volunteer of the Year appreciation and recognition for 2010 and 2011. GLAC honored her service as an FRG Leader and Key Volunteer with over 900 hours of service. She is an Army Community Service Certified Instructor and a volunteer teacher of Army Family Team Building classes on personal and professional development to Families and Soldiers. Additionally, Lavette was a 2009 and 2011 delegate to process potential legislative issues for the local and regional

The AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award

The Award: The AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year Award recognizes an exceptional Army family whose dedicated volunteer service significantly contributes to improving Army well-being and the well-being of the local community.

Eligibility: Active Duty, Reserve Component, National Guard, Retiree and Army civilian families are eligible for the award. Previous recipients or runner-up families, current AUSA chapter officers and their families are not eligible.

Judging: Nominations are reviewed by a panel comprised of representatives from all components of the Army. The panel selects the three outstanding finalists who best represent the selection standards. The AUSA National Awards Committee will make the final selection. The recipients are then notified by the Director of Family Programs. The narrative is the only document seen by the judges and is in "blind" format with all names and identifying information removed.

Army Family Action Plan grass-roots legislative process. Lavette serves as a mentor and reaches out to facilitate the start-up of FRGs for new units in her area, currently volunteering with three different unit FRGs while they build their programs.

Lavette's prior civilian community volunteer service includes years developing the YMCA membership drive, girls' basketball support, and Veterans Administration Hospital Long Beach lead planner of employee recognition projects and organization leader for annual fund raiser. For several years she has served on the new member welcome committee for Zoe Christian Fellowship.

When asked about her spouse perspective on military life, Lavette answered, "The military lifestyle is difficult yet rewarding, stressful, and amazing all at the same time. Being married to a service person forces me to be strong and independent, and at times lonely; one who can keep a relationship strong and healthy across thousands of miles on trust and love alone."

Nia, their sixteen-year-old daughter, serves alongside her Mom as a registered volunteer for her Dad's deployed unit's FRG. She is an honor student at Los Alamitos High, and after school hours travels to Lee Elementary School where she volunteers as a teacher assistant for classroom projects, grading papers, and tutoring younger students in Algebra. Nia says, "The military life has taught me how much I really need my parents and their strength and patience and I am proud that my dad protects our Country. We all sacrifice so much and I would do it again!"

Byron Jr., their fifteen-year-old son, has served several years in Boy Scouts and he reflects, "I am honored and proud that my father can serve our Country and protect its many people. I have learned to be strong and independent and how important family is and the important role my father plays in my life."

Nadia, their fourteen-year-old daughter, also volunteers with her Dad's unit FRG, as well as serves as a peer coach in volleyball at the Los Alamitos Youth Center. Nadia proudly explains, "I love all the traveling and adventures we can have because my dad is a soldier. I am honored that our family helps out with so many other families; we all support each other and have good times. When dad comes home from working and sacrificing for all of us we have an even better time. I am proud that my dad serves in the United States Army!"

"The military lifestyle is difficult yet rewarding, stressful, and amazing all at the same time. Being married to a service person forces me to be strong and independent, and at times lonely; one who can keep a relationship strong and healthy across thousands of miles on trust and love alone."

Lavette Mobley

with so many other families; we all support each other and have good times. When dad comes home from working and sacrificing for all of us we have an even better time. I am proud that my dad serves in the United States Army!"

Selection Standards: The selection of the award recipient are based upon the following selection standards:

- *Family must be active volunteers and (one or more member) must have volunteered for a minimum of two years for community, installation or unit programs (not necessarily at the same location) beyond what would be expected due to one's position in a unit or place of employment.
- *Family must have demonstrated outstanding leadership in planning, organizing or directing a major event or program that has resulted in a tangible or intangible benefit to the community or Army families.
- *Family must have a demonstrable pattern of volunteering and achievement which has been recognized by other awards.
- *Family must have exhibited leadership in performing assigned duties that resulted in improved services and/or programs for service members and families or community.
- *Involvement in a variety of volunteer programs is desirable.
- *AUSA Family Programs believes that the entire family supports the efforts of dedicated volunteers, it is not necessary for each family member to provide specific volunteer service for the family to be nominated.

Jr. Soldiers Step Up

Give Confidence in the Future of the Army Reserve

During a Town Hall meeting, Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, the Chief of the Army Reserve stated that although the Army Reserve achieved the congressionally mandated end-strength of 205,000 Soldiers last year, there is a significant gap in capability. Overall, the Army Reserve is short on the order of 10,000 officers in the grades of captain and major, and is challenged to develop and retain senior mid-grade non-commissioned officers.

This "gap" creates many obstacles for units to overcome and creates unique situations for commanders to deal with.

For the 382nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin D. Banta, this meant not having enough officers to fill the position of Battle Captain during a Combat Support Training Exercise conducted at Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., June 6 to 30.

A CSTX is an exercise where various support units conduct collective training designed to assist in the planning, preparing, supervising and executing operations as they would normally be performed while deployed. Each unit participating fulfills a critical function in sustaining the Force such as providing gas, food, water, supplies and various infrastructure needs.

The overall coordination, management and synchronization of these operations are performed in a Tactical Operations Center by a Brigade or Battalion Headquarters - in this case the 382nd CSSB. The overall coordination, management and synchronization inside of a TOC is performed by a Battle Captain.

Given limited options, Banta selected two Specialists, Kevin C. Buretta and Nicholas J. Almelia, to fill the duties and responsibilities normally held by a junior or field grade officer.

Banta couldn't be more gratified by the decision.

"During the course of this exercise these Soldiers have performed outstandingly," said Banta. "It became easy to see exactly what they were capable of by accomplishing so much with minimal direction and we couldn't be more proud."

Banta's observations were shared by the stream of visiting VIPs to include the 79th Sustainment Support Commander, Maj. Gen. William D. Frink Jr.

"They are highly intelligent, confident and eager to take charge. All they ask for is an opportunity to learn and be involved."

Maj. Gen. William D. Frink Jr.,
79th SSC Commander

During Frink's visit to the 382nd CSSB TOC he was briefed by the two specialists on the array of support operations being conducted by the more than 10 units participating in the exercise.

"I am constantly amazed at how rapidly our Soldiers adapt to changing situations and are willing to step into leadership positions well beyond the rank they are wearing," said Frink. "They are highly intelligent, confident and eager to take charge. All they ask for is an

opportunity to learn and be involved."

The two Battle Captains approached their duties as anyone would hope - with determined effort.

"I'm just expected to do the best I can - and that's what I do," said Buretta. "I'll do the best I can no matter what I'm asked to do - whether it is KP duty or Battle Captain - I will give my best. Otherwise, what's the point?"

Almelia, independently echoed his counterpart's mentality.

"I don't like to fail at anything," said Almelia, "so I'll do my best until it's right."

Buretta and Almelia are both Information Support Specialists and have a combined total of only 5 years in service. Given their rank and experience they decided on day one to be a team.

“I don’t like to fail at anything, so I’ll do my best until it’s right.”

Spc. Kevin C. Buretta, 382nd CSSB.

“Originally we were assigned as day and night battle captains, but we recognized it didn’t really make sense – so we decided to work together as a Battle Captain team,” said Almelia.

Buretta said the system has paid off.

“The thing that really helps me is my battle-buddy,” said Buretta. “We cover each others’ back as a team instead of making individual decisions.”

This tactic allowed them to tag-team issues and work out solutions together before taking them to the floor.

They were confident this approach would also help them deal with their biggest hurdle in the TOC – their rank.

“Being a Battle Captain is hard, being a Battle Captain as a specialist is really hard,” said Buretta.

“I sometimes bump heads with section heads – the hardest part is operating on their level without someone thinking I’m being disrespectful to their rank, but I’m just trying to do my job,” continued Buretta.

Almelia said, “Rank is always an issue, but some people really get it. Lt. Col. Banta explained to everyone on our first day that regardless of the rank we carry we had a job to do – and we were all to work together to get the job done.”

Some might view having specialists as Battle Captains as a negative, but Banta adamantly disagrees.

“I see it as a positive,” said Banta. “The gaps would be filled prior to a deployment no matter what. This situation allows us to build a system and give junior Soldiers a chance to learn and grow in a way that would be otherwise impossible.”

“The gap that exists makes it all the more important to make our junior Soldiers the Leaders we need them to be. It’s supremely important to allow these Soldiers the opportunity to test and experiment in order to improve themselves,” Banta continued.

Exercises like these are the perfect place to allow that kind of development said Frink.

“The CSTX provides an outstanding training environment for our Soldiers to gain these experiences and growth opportunities.”

The opportunity given to the two specialists was not lost on them.

“The commander has enabled me by putting me in the box and setting the stage,” said Buretta. “I see it as a great opportunity and truly appreciate it.”

Almelia said, “The knowledge you gain is something you can’t learn in school. Plus, it’s fun – I like having the challenge and it definitely keeps me from getting bored.”

Banta said although Buretta and Almelia personify what can be accomplished by junior Soldiers given the encouragement and opportunity, they are not alone.

“These two specialists aren’t the only ones filling roles beyond their typical scope,” said Banta. “I can easily show you other examples.”

“We are all proud and amazed by the professionalism and adaptability in the management of this operation by our junior Soldiers,” said Banta. “These future Leaders give me confidence in the Army Reserve of tomorrow.”

Everyone has examples of Soldiers stepping up - share yours on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/79SSC

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT?

TEAM,

Solving problems is one of the IG's primary missions. Every Soldier, Civilian and Family Member has the right to report without fear of reprisal when seeking the IG's help. Follow the below advice before reporting something to make effectual change and avoid false presumptions.

Be sure you have a problem, not just a peeve.

Are the cooks turning out lousy chow or was it just one bad meal.

Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem.

Many problems must be addressed to the chain of command for resolution anyway.

If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first.

IG's at higher commands will normally refer the case to the local IG for action.

Be honest and don't provide misleading information.

IG's will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information.

Keep in mind that IG's are not policy makers.

If a policy is flawed, you can submit proposed change on a DA form 2028.

Keep in mind that IG's can only recommend, not order, a resolution.

Only Commanders can order; the role of the IG is to advise the Commander.

Remember, IG's can only resolve a case on the basis of fact.

Your claim that a supervisor has violated the rules doesn't make it fact. A claim must be supported with evidence.

Don't expect instant action on your request... Be patient.

Investigations take time, and IG's tend to have heavy workloads.

Be prepared to take "No" for an answer.

In any case, "Yes" or "No," the IG will explain why.



I.A.M.
STRONGSM
INTERVENE ★ ACT ★ MOTIVATE

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention

I. A.M. STRONG is the Army's campaign to combat sexual assaults by engaging all Soldiers in preventing sexual assaults before they occur.

Grounded by our shared belief in the Army Values, we are a band of brothers and sisters, placing mission first, never accepting defeat, never quitting and never leaving a fallen comrade. Our interdependence and shared respect among comrades frames who we are as a Team and an Army - a Team that finds sexual assault reprehensible and beyond toleration. Those who commit assaults hurt a member of our Team and wound our Army. This criminal act is cowardly and damaging to the very moral fiber that gives our Army its innermost strength.

As Soldiers and proud members of our Team, we are duty-bound to Intervene, Act, and Motivate others to stop sexual assaults and the sexually offensive language and gestures that create an environment friendly to this abuse.

Soldiers in the United States Army stand, bound together by timeless values and sharing a sense of duty and loyalty to their fellow Soldiers that is unlike any other in the world.

When a sexual assault occurs, it is a direct violation of not just our Army core values and Warrior Ethos, it is an assault on the Army way of life - a life in which it is our duty to protect and take care of each other no matter the time, place, or circumstance. As a band of brothers and sisters, it is our personal duty to intervene and prevent sexual assault and harassment.

Sexual assault is a crime. It is blue-on-blue. It betrays the victims, it betrays the team, and it breaks the bond of trust essential to our mission.

The damage resulting from a sexual assault extends far beyond the victim, weakening the very health and morale of our Soldiers, breaking the bond of trust, shattering the confidence Soldiers have in one another, and undermining unit readiness.

Sexual assault can be prevented. As Soldiers, our core values demand that we act. There are no passive bystanders. We must protect our Team Members. When you see or sense the risk of sexual harassment or sexual assault, it is your duty to intervene and protect your fellow Soldier.

Army Leadership is pointing the way and joining with Soldiers across the Army in renewed commitment to freeing our Army of sexual assault and harassment.

We are creating a climate of strong bonds of trust. We are creating a climate of confidence within our team. Cultural change is successful when Soldiers reject the precursors of sexual assault. Precursors to sexual assault are sexual innuendos, sexual harassment and egregious indecent assaults. Proof of cultural change would be when sexual assault is eliminated in the Army.

We are creating a culture where Soldiers live the Warrior Ethos, where Soldiers never leave a fallen comrade, where Soldiers understand a climate where every act, word, and deed tells another Soldier "I've got your back." I AM Strong. I AM Army Strong, and so are you. Intervene, Act, and Motivate.

www.PreventSexualAssault.army.mil

INSIDE THE 79TH SSC'S 2011 BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class C.L. Beal, 79th SSC Public Affairs

Six Army Reserve Soldiers competed for the title 79th SSC 2011 "Best Warrior" at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, Calif., earlier this summer. They were selected from more than 15,000 Warrior-Citizens and represented the 4th, 364th and 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, as well as the 79th SSC Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment.

The competition had been scheduled to take place in April at Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., but was cancelled due to a possible government shutdown.

Training events in the Army Reserve are planned months to years in advance to account and coordinate for family care, absence from civilian workplaces, training support, funds, equipment, facilities, travel, and Soldier availability. Therefore, rescheduling of the competition was nearly impossible and was impeded by numerous obstacles.

In the end, this year's 79th SSC Best Warrior Competition could only happen if it was conducted at JFTB Los Alamitos and completed within two days instead of the original six. Not willing to sacrifice standard for time - this time constraint turned the competition into a nonstop

79th SSC Best Warrior Competitors

As seen from left to right:



Pvt. 1st Class Mark A. Hansen,
889th Transportation Company headquartered in Salt Lake City.

Spc. Casey T. Quinn,
257th Transportation Company headquartered in Las Vegas, Nev.

Staff Sgt. Genaro Medina,
376th Human Resources Company headquartered in Bell, Calif.

Staff Sgt. Leith W. Strachan,
419th Transportation Company headquartered in Salt Lake City

Sgt. Ananda F. Trulley,
164th Quarter Master Group, headquartered in Broken Arrow, Okla.

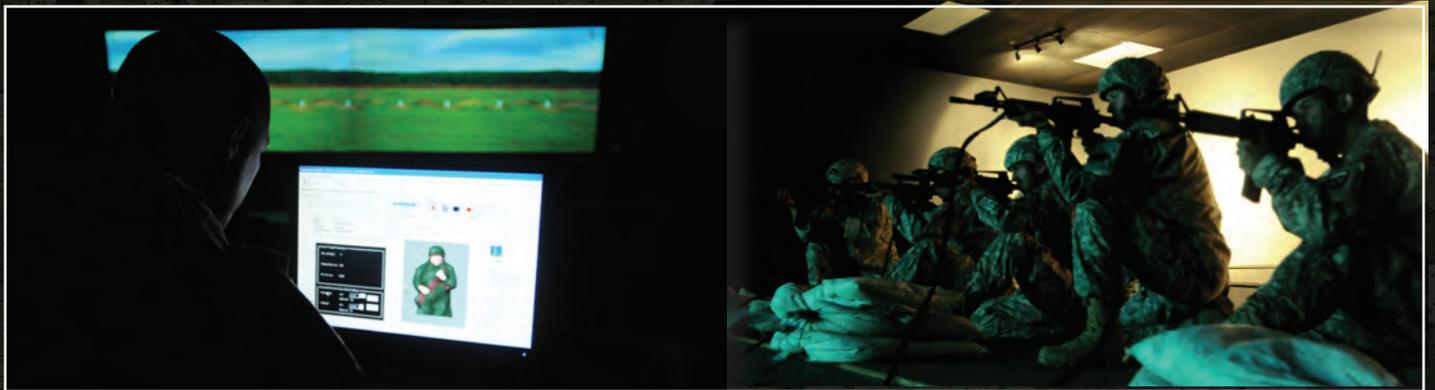
Sgt. Gustavo Negrete,
79th SSC Headquarters, headquartered in Los Alamitos Calif.



All competitors were brought together at an orientation brief where they were given expectations, guidance, and motivation. Among those competing, only two winners could be selected to represent the 79th SSC at the US Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition: one non-commissioned officer and one junior enlisted Soldier. "Make it a fierce competition and hard for us to select the winners," said Col. Norman B. Green, 79th SSC Chief of Staff, to the competitors. "Give it all you got, and go until you drop."



Each Soldier had won similar events held by their commands, earning the right to compete at the 79th SSC competition level. Command Sgt. Maj. Robert N. Roberson, Jr., the Command Sergeant Major of the 79th SSC gave tribute to their achievement during the orientation brief. “You are the best of the best,” said Roberson. “You have outshown and outlasted everyone else to get here – no matter what happens, you are already winners.”



In order to overcome scheduling limitations, some non-traditional alternatives were employed. Without the option of a live firing range, a simulated zero and qualification range was used in its place via the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. The EST 2000 resembles a giant video game, simulating real ranges and using real weapons, but includes a state-of-the-art computer system that precisely tracks the aiming and firing of weapons by the users.



There was, however, no deviation in conduction of the board. The five sergeants major composing the board, presided by Roberson, uniformly tested each competitor’s knowledge and bearing. The pressure of such scrutiny has crippled the tongue of innumerable enlisted soldiers. The 79th SSC Best Warrior board was no exception. “It’s not easy keeping your bearing when five sergeants major are staring you down,” said Quinn. “There were things that I knew, but I just couldn’t get out like I would have liked.”



On day two at 4:30 a.m., competitors began the Army Physical Fitness Test, consisting of sit-ups, push-ups, and a two-mile run. Four of the six competitors achieved a score of more than 300.



After completing the APFT, competitors had 45 minutes to change, gear-up and begin a 10-kilometer road march in full “battle rattle” to include helmet, weapon, and ruck weighing a minimum of 35 pounds. Negrete was the first to finish, completing in one hour and 15 minutes. Virtually running the entire distance, Negrete exceeded the Air Assault standard of 15 minutes per mile by maintaining a 12-minute mile pace.



Upon completion, competitors went immediately to the base gym to begin the Army combatives event, which pitted each member against each other in a double elimination bracket. Winners were decided by submission or points earned during the six-minute matches. The matches were fought with every competitor’s all, but ultimately training overcame when strength and stamina were exhausted. Negrete, with five years of Brazilian Ju Jitsu training, dominated Strachan in the final match, leaving him undefeated.



After the combatives portion, competitors were driven to Camp Pendleton, Calif., a 75-mile drive, in order to conduct the final event – land navigation. Competitors were given two hours to find up to five points, the closest of which was more than 2,000 meters from the starting point line. Exhausted, sore and blistered, every Soldier began the event by running in the direction of their first point. Determined to meet the challenge, each of the Reserve Soldiers kept the pace until the end.

Ultimately, Negrete and Quinn were named the 79th SSC Best Warriors and went on to compete in the USAR Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis., in June.

Quinn, the junior enlisted competition winner later recalled, "I can't really pick out one event from today - today was like one big event. This was one of my hardest days in the Army."

Negrete, the competition's non-commissioned officer winner, said the event proved that "like any Reserve Soldier, I learned that I can do pretty much anything I set out to do."

As Troop Program Unit Soldiers, the 2011 competitors prepared themselves on their own time through their own determination and willingness to succeed. This makes their accomplishments all the more note worthy.

Maj. Gen. William D. Frink, Jr., Commander of the 79th SSC, said, "Their accomplishments are a testimony to the drive, ability and dedication of the Army Reserve Soldier. They embody the best of what we have to offer and explain how we are able to be the operational force we are today." 

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

TAKE THE ADVICE OF PAST COMPETITORS AND
START PREPARING ON THE COMPETITION
BEDROCKS NOW:

COMBATIVES, ROAD MARCH, BOARD
APPEARANCE, ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS
TEST, WRITTEN ESSAY, WEAPONS
QUALIFICATION, LAND NAVIGATION,
WARRIOR TASKS AND BATTLE DRILLS

THE 2012 BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION
IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

ARMY HANDBOOK FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT

The Army accomplishes a wide array of missions in diverse and unusual circumstances around the world. At the same time, the Army is engaged in a massive and accelerated transformation that will infuse new organizations, technologies, and capabilities throughout the Army.

To meet the recurring challenges, Army personnel must supplement institutional and organizational training and education with continuous, planned self-development. Self-development is also important to achieving your personal and professional goals.

Maybe you want to qualify for an advanced level in your career or for a different career track altogether. Maybe you lack skills or knowledge. Or, maybe there is something you have just always wanted to learn or become more knowledgeable about. Whatever the case, you can use the information and exercises in this Self-Development Handbook to set your direction for self-development and help you take action.

Your personal growth benefits both you and the Army. Due to the diversity of the Army's missions and needs, there are many self-development topics to study—from gaining leadership skills to learning a new language. No matter what you choose to focus on, you will make yourself and your current or future organization more adaptable, agile, and resilient by adding depth and variety of expertise.

This handbook draws on lessons from the field, educational and leadership research, and

applicable Army regulations and doctrine to provide you with state-of-the-art guidance on designing and implementing your own program of self-development.

If you are pursuing personal self-development, this handbook offers exercises and information you can use to determine your self-develop-

ment direction and start immediately working toward it. If you already have a direction for your self-development, the handbook will help you achieve progress in that direction.

Wherever you find yourself in the journey for professional growth, this handbook is organized to assist with: recognizing strengths and weaknesses; setting or confirming self-development direction; making the most out of learning opportunities; and measuring progress and continuing to move forward.

You are in charge of your own development, and you can use this handbook in whatever way fits your situation. You can read through it

in order and complete all of the exercises along the way, or go directly to chapters and exercises that interest you most.

Either way, this handbook will help you take action to set and achieve your self-development objectives. Self-development is intrinsically linked to self-awareness; each supporting the other and raising the capabilities of the individual. By being aware of yourself including your traits, feelings, and behaviors, you will become the agile and adaptive individual that the Army values in its leaders. 



The Army Handbook for Self-Development offers exercises and information to determine self-development direction and start your own program of self-development. If you already have a direction for your self-development, the handbook will help you achieve progress in that direction.

Download your copy at: usacac.army.mil/CAC2/CAL/repository/SDev_Handbook20.pdf

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Become a fan at:

www.facebook.com/79SSC

ARE YOU READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

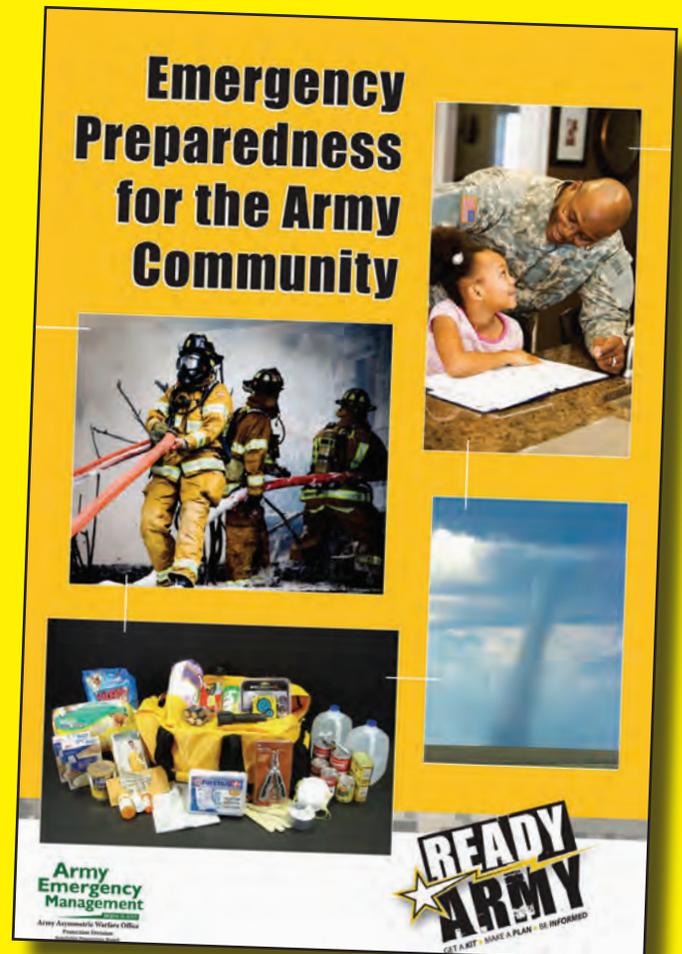
GET A KIT - MAKE A PLAN - BE INFORMED

Ready Army is the Army's proactive campaign to empower Soldiers, their Families, Army civilians and contractors to prepare for all hazards. Through outreach and education, Ready Army calls our Army community to action and aims to create a culture of preparedness that will save lives and strengthen the nation.

There are a range of natural and manmade hazards that could affect you, and emergencies often leave little or no time to react. When emergencies occur, military and civilian organizations respond, but it takes time to mobilize, and they focus on the most critical needs first.

Remember, emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. You should get ready to take appropriate action during an emergency and manage on your own for at least three days afterwards. Ready Army provides the tools and standardized checklists to support you as you prepare.

Preparing for emergencies brings peace of mind and could keep an emergency from becoming a disaster for you and your Family.



Courtesy of ReadyArmy

Handbook: The Emergency Preparedness for the Army Community handbook provides guidance on planning, emergency actions, mass warning notification, reporting and accountability. You'll find targeted information for Army communities both at home and abroad in checklists, resources, and a detachable Family emergency plan template.

Prepared Kids: The Ready Army Kid's Campaign provides preparedness activities designed specifically for children. The Kid's Campaign products are provided in Adobe PDF format and are printer friendly.

Get Prepared at
www.ready.army.mil

See Something, Say Something!



The Department of the Army's Office of the Provost Marshal General, in conjunction with the Deputy Chief of Staff G-3/5/7, approved a new Army anti-terrorism awareness program. The purpose of the program is to focus and encourage Army-wide community awareness and out-reach efforts to address important topics related to protecting our communities from terrorist acts.

The program includes materials and resources focused specifically on "Family Awareness." Products to support family awareness include posters

and pocket cards depicting indicators of potential terrorist activity as well as information on how to report suspicious activity.

Program materials available include informational papers for use by Family Readiness Groups and military family members to reinforce personal safety, security, and prevention of terrorist acts.

Training and education resources include briefings on individual awareness, as well as videos and public service announcements highlighting antiterrorism awareness and security.

If you see an emergency or you feel there is need for an immediate response to prevent an incident, then contact the nearest Law enforcement Agency or dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can also report information by calling the Counterintelligence Hotline at: 1-800-CALL SPY or 1-800-225-5779.

For more information or to download iWATCH products visit:

www.us.army.mil/suite/page/605757

or

www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/iwatchprogram

RECOGNIZE YOUR EMPLOYER FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

The National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve sponsors an awards program designed to recognize employers for employment policies and practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve. All employer recognition and awards originate from nominations by individual Reserve component members. Depending on the degree of support, the level of recognition may rise to the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Courtesy of ESGR



ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. It is the lead DoD organization for this mission under DoD Directive 1250.1.

Patriot Award Certificate of Appreciation. ESGR awards this certificate and a Patriot lapel pin on behalf of the Department of Defense. All members of the National Guard and Reserve forces are eligible to nominate their employers for the Patriot Award certificate. A certificate will be given to all employers that are nominated. This nomination is subsequently used by the local ESGR Committee as the basis for consideration to receive higher level awards.

Above and Beyond Award. is given in limited numbers by state and territory ESGR Committees. It recognizes employers at the state and local level who have gone above the legal requirements for granting leave and providing support to their military employees.

Pro Patria Award. It is presented to those employers who demonstrate exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. Each Committee may give only one annually.

Employer Support Freedom Awards. The Freedom Award is the U.S. Government's highest recognition given to employers for their support of Guard and Reserve service. The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 160 employers have been honored with the award. For questions regarding the Freedom Award, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil.

Eligibility: Employers qualify for recognition when they practice personnel policies that support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve.

Submitting Nominations: The easiest way to nominate your employer is to use the Patriot Award Form at www.esgr.org/site/Programs.aspx. Once submitted, your nomination will arrive at the National ESGR Headquarters within moments.

Every employer nominated will receive a Patriot Award certificate and accompanying lapel pin. Your state or local ESGR Committee can help you arrange the presentation of the award to your employer.

ESGR reviews all award nominations for consideration for higher levels of recognition at the local and national levels. When completing the employer recognition form, take a few moments to explain why your employer deserves to be recognized. Your local ESGR committee will review your explanation when selecting nominees for higher-level employer support awards.

Learn more at www.ESGR.org

Online Training Solutions

Army Training Network is a one-stop-shop for all your training management needs:

- Access FM 7-0, implementation guidance, training solutions and a host of training management help items.
- Find training solutions through a database of unit-submitted training solutions.
- Find training products, such as planning calendars and products submitted by other Soldiers, learn about Outcomes-Based Training or learn how others define good training/trainers.
- Get the latest in training news and articles from recently deployed leaders and their training experiences.
- Access the ATN Blog, the ATN Forum, or Ask-a-Trainer.
- Find DTMS tutorials to help in METL development.



ATN will only be as good as our Army helps it become and needs YOUR help in offering products, ideas, articles and feedback to make this the site Soldiers need. Send your ideas through one of the many options available on ATN.

<https://atn.army.mil>

Do You Know Your Benefits?



MyArmyBenefits is the official website provided by the Army G1 as a comprehensive resource for Soldiers and Family Members to find information about their military benefits. The site includes regularly updated sections that call out new benefit news or highlight top issues. Specific Reserve content and links include: Comprehensive benefit facts; planning Toolkits; Wounded Warrior benefits and programs; Survivor benefits and resources; deployment calculator; and much more.

Retirement Projections (Reserve Component)

Current Number of Good Years* [] []

Projected Points at Time of Retirement

Current Points* [] []

Projected Number of Additional Good Years* [] []

Of Additional Good Years, Years Spent on Mobilization Tours* []

Additional Points (Schools, Extended AT/ADT/ADSW, Correspondence Courses) [] []

Projected Points []

20-Year-Letter Date* [] []

Projected Retirement Date* [] []

Projected Rank on Retirement* []

Projected Date of Rank* []

E7

01 Jul 2010

Plan for retirement by using the MyArmyBenefits Retirement Projection Calculator, reviewing related fact sheets, viewing personalized retirement reports, and performing "what-if" exercises to see how your benefits might change or be influenced.

www.us.army.mil/suite/page/55



PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class C.L. Beal, 79th SSC Public Affairs

YELLOW RIBBON: PHASE 1

The Yellow Ribbon Program, established in 2008, is a Department of Defense-wide effort to support National Guard and Reserve Service Members and Families with tailored information on benefits and services throughout the entire deployment cycle.

In doing so, the Yellow Ribbon program aims to create self-sufficient and resilient Families and Soldiers, supported by caring staff, community agencies, and volunteers who have access to and employ the latest technology and customer service practices.

Many resource representatives will be in attendance during each phase. They cover the broad topics of Child and Youth, Community Services, Military Resources, Counseling, Health Care and Finance. Yellow Ribbon events are commonly broken down into three phases and consist of six progressive, blocks containing both required and suggested topics for each unique set of classes.



Prior to their deployment, the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command planned and conducted a Yellow Ribbon Event 1 in Las Vegas, July 9. A typical event hosts approximately 150 people. This event hosted multiple units including their own bringing the number of participants to more than 800.

Master Sgt. Rebecca L. Lantz, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 364th ESC Yellow Ribbon Program, and her team of four soldiers had planned, coordinated and executed three events prior to this one. Events of this size were very uncommon, but may be seen more frequently due to resource constraint.

Even small Yellow Ribbon events require detailed planning and coordination which must often be learned from experience. "There are no schools to teach you how to do this and we were not event coordinators when we started – but we have learned to become event coordinators," said Lantz.

Lantz is a staunch supporter of Yellow Ribbon Events which she feels have been hugely beneficial. "I think Soldiers get a lot of good information - I've learned a lot just from putting them together," said Lantz.

Regardless of the number of deployments you may have experienced or the information you've already received, the Yellow Ribbon Program offers the newest and most current information to participants, such as current eligibility for certain benefits or available resources. Yellow Ribbon Event 1 also gives many Soldiers and Families the opportunity to see fellow unit members, in some instances for the first time. This allows all to speak with each other and resource representatives about deployment-related topics such as employment, finances, health care, and simply coping with the stressors of deployment.

Master Sgt. Michael T. Ta, the Human Resources Sergeant Major for the 364th, attended the event with his wife Jacqueline and daughter Jessica. Even after two deployments and 23 years of service, Ta emphatically supported the Yellow Ribbon Event. CONT. ON PAGE 24-

PHASE 1: Phase 1 consists of event one, which takes place prior to deployment and concentrates on coping with the difficulties of extended separation and deployment. Pre-deployment is defined as the time from first notification of mobilization until actual deployment of the Soldier or unit. This event is attended by the Soldier and their Family together.

PHASE 2: Phase 2 consists of events two and three, which take place during deployment and concentrate on connections and keeping the Families in contact with their unit and Family Programs' Office staff. Families will attend these events without their Soldier.

PHASE 3: Phase 3 consists of events four, five and six which take place post-deployment and concentrate on assisting Families and Soldiers in their efforts to reunite, reconnect and reintegrate, as well as attending to the Soldiers' physical, behavioral and mental health. Soldiers will bring their Families to events four and five, but attend event six alone.





-YELLOW RIBBON CONT. FROM PAGE 23

"This is my first Yellow Ribbon Event and I think this is really good for Soldiers and Families because they get a lot of information that will help them before they deploy," said Ta. I thought I knew everything in the military, but everybody learns something new at these."

In addition to what they learned, Jacqueline and Jessica said they were able to form bonds with other families going through the same things and benefited from those shared experiences. "I got to hang out with the other military kids," said Jessica, "and now I don't feel quite as alone as I did before."

Events and activities focus on providing education and ensuring the readiness of members of the unit, their families, employers, and affected communities for the rigors of a combat deployment and family separation.

Lori Hightower, whose husband was also deploying with the 364th said, "There were quite a few things I learned that I didn't know – it was defiantly worth it – and I definitely plan on going to the other events."

A vital part of Event 1 is coming prepared. Participants must plan ahead before attending and collect all the relevant documentation they can. Bringing along documents on your insurance, mortgage or rent, health-care, and other financial policies will be beneficial in case you decide to speak with advisors. Having documents on hand can eliminate the need for follow up appointments and will give experts the information they need to provide the most accurate recommendations.

Lisa Bogdanski, a military spouse attending the event said, "It's great for Family Members to hear about a lot of things they might otherwise not know. Even if you think you know it, it's good just to hear it again and be able to spend some extra time with your husband."

1st Lt. Nebra O. Singleton, a finance office management analyst who was cross cross-leveled to the 364th, attended the event with her 16-year-old daughter. This will be Singleton's fifth deployment, but first Yellow Ribbon Event.

"This is my first Yellow Ribbon Event and I think this is really good for Soldiers and Families because they get a lot of information that will help them before they deploy."

*Master Sgt. Michael T. Ta,
364th ESC Human Resources
Sergeant Major*



"I think the Army is doing more to reach out to Soldiers and Families and I felt like they rolled out the red carpet for us," said Singleton. "The briefers were very knowledgeable and a lot of them were previously in the military or had family members in the military – so it really let us connect with them."

Singleton, a single mother, said she learned an array of programs available. "One of the things I really wanted to do was get a tutor to help my daughter in Louisiana while I'm deployed. So I spoke to the counselor and she gave me everything I needed to bring it to fruition."

An array of counseling is immediately available at all events. Military Life Consultants, Chaplains, Vet Center, Drug and Substance Abuse, Education, Finance and Legal counselors are all available for individual counseling. Everyone is afforded an opportunity to meet them and schedule time for independent meetings.

Lt. Col. Brian L. Pruitt, Commander of 380th AG Battalion and an event briefer said these events with personalized counseling are one of a kind and vital for those dealing with deployment.

"This is the only venue the Army Reserve has to provide all of this information to Service Members and their Families," said Pruitt. "It's the only time they can have open and immediate access to these kinds of specialists and counselors to explain things like the emotional cycle of deployment, traumatic brain injury, what happens if a Soldier dies or if they don't complete a tour because they get sick or hurt – these are important and tough questions that get addressed here."

The DoD mandates much of the training, but units can also incorporate additional training as would be most beneficial for their particular situation. Units may not always be able to conduct all of the training they would like to said Pruitt. "There are a lot of constraints like time, money and availability of specialists."

Therefore it is important for Soldiers and their families to research and expand on the resources they are provided at Yellow Ribbon Events. Seeking information and support must continue on an individual level throughout the deployment cycle, as well as throughout your military career. 



Yellow Ribbon Topics:

Family Care Plans

Family Counseling

Single Service Member Concerns

*Department of Veterans Affairs
Benefits and Support*

Military OneSource

TRICARE

Veterans Counseling Centers

Personal Financial Management

Child Custody Arrangements

Legal readiness

*Defense Enrollment Eligibility
Reporting System*

Civilian Employer Information

Child School Services

AR Family Assistance Centers

Army Family Action Plan

American Red Cross

Army Community Services

Army Family Team Building

Dept of V.A

Military Family Network

*Employer Support of the Guard
and Reserve*

Tricare Dental

Family Readiness Group

Army OneSource

Education Counseling

Military Family Life Consultants

Family Communication Tools

Sensitivity Training

Preparatory Activities

*Sexual Assault Awareness and
Prevention*

Marriage Enrichment

Youth Programs and Counseling

Operation Military Kids

..and many more

COMMAND MEDICAL ADVISORY OFFICE ON MEDICAL READINESS

By Lt. Col. Gerald Holleger, 79th SSC Nurse Staff Officer

Medical readiness is an important issue not only to Commanders and First Sergeants, but also to individual Soldiers in preparation for deployment and for maintenance of health.

Your body is an amazing construction of cells, and those cells make up organs. Your organs are very important to sustain life functions or homeostasis. Just like a car must receive preventive maintenance, so must your body. I subscribe to an old expression, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". A long life with good health is what everyone wants, so why don't we attend regular doctor check-ups? There are a million reasons why we don't; I don't have the time, I don't have the money, I am afraid to go to the physician or dentist, and he or she will hurt me. I could go on and on, but there are two very important reasons to have regular check-ups. These are early detection and treatment, in order to prevent or stop disease or medical conditions that would otherwise limit your ability to function and live a long healthy life.

So okay then, what is stopping you from climbing on board and getting your Annual Periodic Health Assessment and dental examination? These are two very important steps you can take to win ownership of your health and provide for the maintenance of your body. Remember, early diagnosis, evaluation and treatment will promote your good health.

Generally, the Army Reserve conducts at least two big activities each year and they are hosted by your unit. We often refer to them as mass events or medical Soldier Readiness Program I (SRP I). During these events, contract medical providers from the Reserve Health Readiness Program (RHRP), presented by Logistics Health Incorporated (LHI), will perform a free PHA and dental exam. These examinations generally require a review of your health history, a physical assessment, oral exam, x-rays, EKG, blood tests, audiogram, vision screening, and immunizations.

All of these procedures are performed by health professionals from hospitals or clinics. They are designed to aid in early detection of medical conditions. So they help you, your Commander, and the Army Reserve

your overall health before deployment. This is a good thing, because the last thing you want is to start your deployment with an illness or injury that could make you too sick to complete the mission, or prevent you from helping yourself or your battle buddy from getting out of harm's way, should that occur.

Annually, the individual Soldier is given a health rating, or Medical Readiness Classification (MRC), based on the completion of health services. There are five MRC categories. If the Soldier has no current PHA or dental examination, he or she is classified as medical ready 4 (MR4), or Indeterminate, but remains in an available status for deployment.

The Soldier who receives the annual PHA and dental exam, and requires extensive medical or dental care to regain health, may be classified as MR3B. Extensive medical or dental treatment can take greater than 30 days to fix. The Soldier is non-deployable.

A Soldier who receives the annual PHA and dental exam, and requires little to moderate medical or dental care to regain health, may be classified as MR3A, and is deployable within 30 days. This Soldier is considered available, and can meet a 30-day window for deployment.

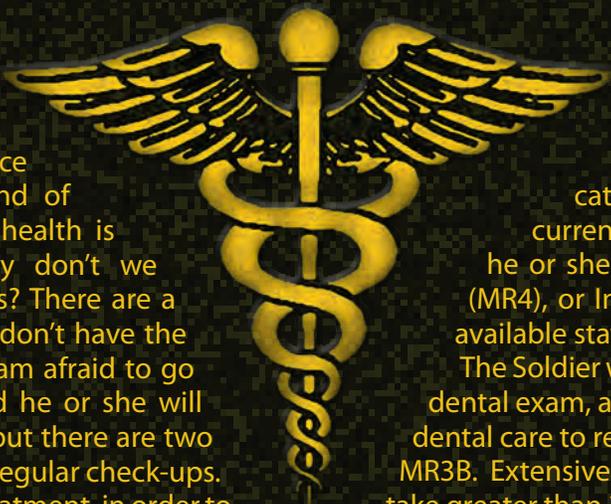
A Soldier with a MR2 following a PHA and dental exam is recognized as Deployable within 72 hours, and may only need immunizations or lab work.

Finally, a Soldier who following a PHA and dental exam receives a MR1 is determined to be ready now for deployment.

The unit and or command may receive an overall MRC percentage based on the sum total of each individual's medical readiness: GREEN for > 80%; AMBER for 76% - 79%; RED for <75%.

Medical Readiness Classification measures deficiencies in an individual Soldier's medical readiness, which, in turn, affects the medical readiness of the unit and command.

Take the important steps to be the victor in your good health and provide the maintenance your body calls for; get your Periodic Health Assessment and dental examination today. Hoooah! 🇺🇸





WARRANT OFFICERS WANTED

Warrant Officers are highly specialized experts and trainers in their career fields. By gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, these leaders provide valuable guidance to commanders and organizations in their specialty. Warrant Officers remain single-specialty Officers with career tracks that progress within their field, unlike their Commissioned Officer counterparts who focus on increased levels of command and staff duty positions.

40 Military Occupational Specialties

Challenging Assignments

Technical Training and Education

Faster Promotion Potential

Extended Career Path

Perform Core Duties Longer

Better Pay and Retirement

Find out more at

www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/

or e-mail the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at

wo-team@usarec.army.mil

POV/POM SAFETY

BY MR. RICKEY PAYNE, 79TH SSC SAFETY DIRECTOR

Almost every day we get in our vehicle or on our motorcycle and drive off with little more thought to it than getting to where you want to go. Driving or riding really has more responsibility to it than that. Read on to get a better handle on what you're doing!

POV/POM SAFETY TOOLBOX - Chapter 11 of Army Regulation 385-10 establishes requirements for traffic safety and loss prevention to reduce the risk of death or injury to Army personnel.

The Privately Owned Vehicle and Privately Owned Motorcycle Risk Management Toolbox located at: <https://safety.army.mil/povtoolbox/Home/tabid/1623/Default.aspx> was developed to assist Leaders, Soldiers and Civilians in the development of driving safety programs and the safe operation of their vehicles. The site features best practice examples, mandatory requirements, and lessons learned from throughout the Army and Department of Defense. Safe driving is far more than taking a course in driver education; it's also a matter of using your head and common sense. Drive Safe, Arrive Safe!

DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED - At the U.S. Department of Transportation, we heard America's call to end the dangerous practice of distracted driving on our nation's roadways. Distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice and we will not rest until we stop it. Visit www.distraction.gov/ for more info.

VIDEO TESTIMONY - To raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving and serve as a resource for those who have lost loved ones in accidents resulting from what is all-too-common behavior; this video shows people who have lost a relative and friend because she was texting while driving. Enough is enough. People need to put down their phones and concentrate on driving. <https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/VIDEOLIBRARY/>

DID YOU KNOW?

Now there's a free mobile app that can put an end to texting while driving. Listen to text messages and emails in real-time completely hands-free. Find it on the internet, download and Stop distracted driving. If you don't have this capability, DO NOT TEXT while driving!!!



BUCKLE UP!

Wearing a seat belt costs you nothing, but not wearing it could cost you a ticket or worse...your life. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center wants all drivers and passengers to buckle up. Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. Research has shown that when lap and shoulder belts are used properly, the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants is reduced by 45 percent, and the risk of moderate to serious injury is reduced by 50 percent.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY NATIONAL STATISTICS

Today, more people are riding motorcycles than ever before. Motorcycle riders represent almost every demographic group in the country. Riders now tend to be more affluent than 30 years ago. The average age of riders has increased, and more women are riding than ever before. The profile of who crashes and who dies has changed too:



- Age: Young people are not the only ones dying in motorcycle crashes. In 2008, more than half the people killed in motorcycle crashes were 40 or older, up from 33% in 1998.
- Sex: While only 9% of riders killed in motorcycle crashes in 2008 were women, almost all passengers (89%) killed in motorcycle crashes were women.
- Helmets: People who do not wear helmets are more likely to be killed in a crash. Forty-one percent of motorcycle operators and 51% of motorcycle passengers who died in 2008 were not wearing a helmet.
- Location: More people are killed in motorcycle crashes on rural roads now than 20 years ago. Roughly half of all crashes take place on rural roads.
- Alcohol: When people drink and ride, they are at much greater risk of crashing and dying. Alcohol was involved in 37% of motorcycle crashes in 2008.
- Motorcycle Type: The majority of people who die in crashes are riding sport motorcycles with mid-size engines designed to maximize speed and agility.

DEATHS INCREASE FOR RIDERS COVERED BY PARTIAL HELMET LAW



Comparing the 30 months after the Florida state legislature repealed its universal helmet law with the 30 months before repeal:

- Deaths of all riders increased by 55%, substantially higher than what was expected from the increased registrations after repeal.
- Among riders under the age of 21, deaths of unhelmeted riders increased by 188%, even though the helmet law still applied to them.
- Motorcycle crash-related hospitalizations rose more than 40%.

GOT SAFETY QUESTIONS?

Visit the US Army Combat Readiness Safety Center for everything safety. At this site you can get current news, training, tools, statistics and more.

<https://Safety.army.mil>

CREDIT PROBLEMS?

BEWARE OF SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

PROVIDED BY THE 79TH SSC STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

You see the advertisements in newspapers, on TV, and on the Internet. You hear them on the radio. You get fliers in the mail. You may even get calls from telemarketers offering credit repair services. They all make the same claims: "Credit problems? No problem!" "We can erase your bad credit—100% guaranteed," "Create a new credit identity—legally," "We can remove bankruptcies, judgments, liens, and bad loans from your credit file forever!"

Everyday, companies nationwide appeal to consumers with poor credit histories. They promise, for a fee, to clean up your credit report so you can get a car loan, a home mortgage, insurance, or even a job. The truth is, they can't deliver. After you pay them hundreds or thousands of dollars in up-front fees, these companies do nothing to improve your credit report; many simply vanish with your money. Do yourself a favor and save some money, too. Don't believe these statements. Only time, a conscious effort, and a personal debt repayment plan will improve your credit report.

The Warning Signs

If you decide to respond to a credit repair offer, beware of companies that:

- want you to pay for credit repair services before any services are provided;
- do not tell you your legal rights and what you can do—yourself—for free;
- recommend that you not contact a credit bureau directly;
- suggest that you try to invent a "new" credit report by applying for an Employer Identification Number to use instead of your Social Security Number; or advise you to dispute all information in your credit report or take any action that seems illegal, such as creating a new credit identity.

If you follow illegal advice and commit fraud, you may be subject to prosecution. You could be charged and prosecuted for mail or wire fraud if you use the mail or telephone to apply for credit and provide false information. It's a federal crime to make false statements on a loan or credit application, to misrepresent your Social Security Number, and to obtain an Employer Identification Number from the Internal Revenue Service under false pretenses.

Under the Credit Repair Organizations Act, credit repair companies cannot require you to pay until they have completed all of their promised services.

The Truth

No one can legally remove accurate and timely negative information from a credit report. But the law does allow you to request a reinvestigation of information in your file that you dispute as inaccurate or incomplete. There is no charge for this. Everything a credit repair clinic can do for you legally for a fee, you can do for yourself at little or no cost. According to the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970:

- You are entitled to a free copy of your credit report every year, and if you've been denied credit, insurance or employment within the last 60 days. If your application for credit, insurance, or employment is denied because of information supplied by a credit bureau, the company you applied to must provide you with that credit bureau's name, address, and telephone number.
- You can dispute mistakes or outdated items for free. Ask the credit reporting agency for a dispute form or submit your dispute in writing, along with any supporting documentation. Do not send them original documents.

Clearly identify each item in your report that you dispute, explain why you dispute it, and request a reinvestigation. If the new investigation reveals an error, you may ask that a corrected version of the report be sent to anyone who received your report within the past six months.

“We can erase your bad credit —100% guaranteed.”

Job applicants can have corrected reports sent to anyone who received a report for employment purposes during the past two years.

When the reinvestigation is complete, the credit bureau must give you the written results and a free copy of your corrected report if the dispute results in a change. If an item is changed or removed, the credit bureau cannot put the disputed information back in your file unless the information provider verifies its accuracy and completeness, and the credit bureau gives you a written notice that includes the name, address, and phone number of the provider.

You also should tell the creditor or other information provider in writing that you dispute an item. Many providers specify an address for disputes. If the provider then reports the item to any credit bureau, it must include a notice of your dispute. In addition, if you are correct—that is, if the information is inaccurate—the information provider may not use it again.

If the reinvestigation does not resolve your dispute, have the credit bureau include your version of the dispute in your file and in future reports. Remember, there is no charge for a reinvestigation.

The Credit Repair Organizations Act

By law, credit repair organizations must give you a copy of the “Consumer Credit File Rights Under State and Federal Law” before you sign a contract. They also must give you a written contract that spells out your rights and obligations. Read these documents before signing the contract. The law contains specific protections for you. For example, a credit repair company cannot:

- Make false claims about their services;
- Charge you until they have completed the promised services; performed any services until they have your signature on a written contract and have completed a three-day waiting period. During this time, you can cancel the contract without paying any fees.
- Your contract must specify the payment terms for services, including total cost; a detailed description of services to be performed; how long it will take to achieve the results; any guarantees they offer; and the company’s name and business address.

Reporting Negative Information

Accurate negative information generally can be reported for seven years, but there are exceptions:

- Bankruptcy information can be reported for 10 years;
- Information reported because of an application for a job with a salary of more than \$75,000 has no time limitation;
- Information reported because of an application for more than \$150,000 worth of credit or life insurance has no time limitation;
- Information concerning a lawsuit or a judgment against you can be reported for seven years or until the statute of limitations runs out, whichever is longer.
- Default information concerning U.S. Government insured or guaranteed student loans can be reported for seven years after certain guarantor actions.

Have You Been Victimized?

Many states have laws strictly regulating credit repair companies. States may be helpful if you’ve lost money to credit repair scams.

If you’ve had a problem with a credit repair company, don’t be embarrassed to report them. While you may fear that contacting the government will only make your problems worse, that’s not true. Laws are in place to protect you. Contact your local consumer affairs office or your state attorney general. Many AGs have toll-free consumer hotlines. Check with your local directory assistance.

Recognition of Heroism has no Expiration

Story by Capt. Ruth Castro, 4th ESC Public Affairs Officer

WWII Veteran Awarded After Nearly 70 Years



The Army proved that it is never too late to reward a Soldier's heroism July 23, 2011 in Tyler, Texas.

Pfc. Leslie B. Pruitt, now age 90, served during World War II in the 90th Infantry Division, but received no awards at the time of his discharge. Saturday, after nearly 70 years, he received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star and Prisoner of War Medal at the Cornerstone Assembly of God Church, Tyler, Texas, in appreciation of his World War II service.

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John T. Furlow, a fellow church member, coordinated the efforts to ensure Pruitt was recognized for his service. In his role as master of ceremony, Furlow took a moment to recognize the veterans present for the event.

"I like to recognize World War II veterans because at the height of the war, there were 16 and a half million veterans, today we have right at 2 million," said Furlow. "We are losing about 735 of them a day. These are our national treasures."

Pruitt was inducted into the U.S. Army on Dec. 28, 1942 at Tyler, Texas and was soon after sent to Camp Perry, Ohio for basic training and assigned to the 20th Armor Division at Camp Campbell, Ky., as a truck driver instructor.

Pruitt received notice he had been diverted to the infantry in 1944 and received advanced infantry training before being shipped overseas to England. Shortly after his arrival in England in June 1944, he was transported across the English Channel to Normandy and was assigned to Company K, 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division.

During the Battle for Hill 122 on July 8, 1944, Pruitt was severely wounded in his left jaw and forearm and was subsequently captured by the enemy. He was initially taken to Mortan, France for first aid and later transported to Rennes, France where he was confined to a prisoner of war hospital until being liberated on Aug. 5, 1944 by American Forces.

A portrait of Leslie Pruitt from 1942 when he first joined the Army was displayed during his award ceremony on July 23, 2011. Pruitt received his long overdue Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star and Prisoner of War Medal in recognition for his service in World War II.

During the Battle for Hill 122 on July 8, 1944, Pruitt was severely wounded in his left jaw and forearm and was subsequently captured by the enemy.

After his liberation, Pruitt was immediately transported to England for extensive medical care. He was redeployed to the United States and never reconnected with the 358th Infantry Regiment or the 90th Infantry Division. On Nov. 4, 1944 it was determined that Pruitt was no longer physically qualified for military service and he was ultimately discharged on Aug. 4, 1945.

The 90th Sustainment Brigade, an Army Reserve unit in North Little Rock, Ark., carries on the lineage and honors for the 90th Infantry Division. Col. Peter Malik, commander of the 90th Sustainment Brigade, presented Pruitt an honorary membership to the 90th Infantry Division Association, a Tough 'Ombre patch and the 90th Sustainment Brigade Coin of Excellence. Pruitt is also authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation, which was awarded to the 90th Infantry Division for its success in the reduction of the Metz Fortress and Moselle River Crossing in November 1944.

During his presentation Malik read a passage from Gen. MacArthur's final speech at the U.S. Military Academy on his acceptance of the Sylvanus Thayer Awarded in 1962.

"I wanted to read this excerpt because it describes the heroic actions of Mr. Pruitt and his selfless service," said Malik. "He answered his call to duty and did not question when he was assigned from an instructor to an infantryman with Company K in 1944 at the Battle of 122."

"He had the courage to push through the enemy lines, knowing that the fighting was intense," Malik continued. "He had his faith, faith in God, his Soldiers and the leadership of his Battalion. He had hope, as a captured American GI. He had hope, praying his men would soon free him and he would return home to his loving and supportive family. Never once did he give up."

Malik emphasized how imperative it is to honor and pay tribute to each and every veteran that crosses our path, from World

Former Pfc. Leslie Pruitt, 90 years old, addresses friends, family and dignitaries during an awards ceremony in his honor on July 23, 2011. Pruitt received his long overdue Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star and Prisoner of War Medal in recognition for his service in World War II.

War II through the War on Terrorism.

"Selfless Americans like Mr. Pruitt deserve this tribute," said Malik. "Thank you Pfc. Pruitt for your honorable service and sacrifice to this great nation."

Pruitt spoke of his appreciation for the officers, family and friends that made the award presentation a reality and traveled great distances to attend the ceremony.

"That's when you realize your friendships count," said Pruitt. "I'd like to say it's a mighty good thing to see everybody here."

It took a bit of research and legwork to get approval for Pruitt to receive his long overdue awards but the end goal was accomplished: heroic service recognized despite the transition of time.

"It's something I won't forget for a long time," says Pruitt. "They said yeah, you deserve it, and I got them!"



