



Peacemaker

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

Winter 2011

**Germany, challenge accepted!
GAFB comes to Ohio**

Q & A with Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs

Swimming with an airborne twist

Fallen Soldier honored in Rhode Island

Contents

Cover Stories

Pg. 10

One-on-one with Maj. Gen. Jacobs

Pg. 12

Paratroopers jump into the pool

Pg. 14

Gone, but not forgotten

Pg. 16

2nd POG accepts the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge challenge

Features

Pg. 8

CAPOC welcomes new CG

Pg. 20

Age ain't nothin' but a number

Pg. 22

A one-in-200,000 chance

On the cover: A Soldier competing in the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency clears the high-jump during the track and field section of the competition in Twinsburg, Ohio, July 30, 2011.
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura



Maj. Gen. Jon J. Miller, Chief of Staff U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Maj. Gen. David N. Blackledge, then Commanding General of USACAPOC(A), speak with a group of Congressional staff members in the foyer of the new U.S. Army Reserve Command Headquarters at Fort Bragg, N.C. on September 28, 2011 while hosting the group for "Army Reserve Day" in order to help the delegation from Washington get a better idea of the training and the challenges which the Army Reserve, the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and the Special Warfare Center & School face on a daily basis.
U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix Fimbres

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Master Sgt. James McCloskey, a paratrooper with HHC, USACAPOC(A) captured this image with a helmet camera while jumping over Ginkel Health drop zone in Holland during the remembrance of Operation Market Garden, Sept. 17, 2011. Operation Market Garden, though unsuccessful, was the largest airborne operation during World War II, and was the Allies' last attempt to end the war before Christmas.
U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. James McCloskey



USACAPOC(A)

GOT NEWS?

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



Peacemaker is produced by the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command(Airborne)

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Printed by
306th PSYOP Company
Strategic Dissemination, Los Alamitos, Ca.

Peacemaker is the official publication of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) to provide command information to service members and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the command's Public Affairs Office, under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of Peacemaker are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). Peacemaker is published quarterly.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael J. Taylor takes a pause during his at times emotional address to the Soldiers of the 350th Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola, Fl. Taylor retired after than 41 years of service, Nov. 6, 2011. Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy E. Gray assumed responsibility as the command's senior enlisted advisor.
U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Gerald O. Ostlund



Commanding General

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs



USACAPOC(A) welcomes Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs back into its ranks as its new commanding general.

Jacobs comes to USACAPOC(A) after serving as commanding general, Contingency Command Post 2, U.S. Army North.

Jacobs' history in CAPOC includes a tour as commander of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, with which he deployed to Iraq in support of the First Armored Division in Baghdad. He also served as commanding general of the 350th Civil Affairs Command.

Jacobs came into the active Army after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1979 as an infantry officer. After seven years of active duty, Jacobs joined the Army Reserve to serve as both an infantry and civil affairs officer.

Jacobs has two deployments

other than those with the 354th. He served in Operation Uphold Democracy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1994 and also Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia in 1996.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal (one Oak Leaf Cluster), and Army Commendation Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters). His badges included the Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

As a civilian, he is the chief legal counsel for the South Carolina Department of Insurance in Columbia.

USACAPOC(A) looks forward to the road ahead with Maj. Gen. Jacobs!

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Dale R. Blosser



Chanukah, Christmas and New Years. They are all right around the corner and for many, this is a joyful time of year. For some, however, the holidays are tough times- separation from family due to a deployment, financial hardships, and other factors can lead to depression, overdrinking, or worse.

I ask that you all look out for each other always, but especially this time of year. Pay attention to your fellow Soldiers, friends and those around you for signs that something isn't quite right. If you notice any warning signs, initiate ACE procedures: **Ask** if they are thinking of committing suicide, **Care** enough to listen attentively, and **Escort** them to appropriate mental health care for proper treatment. If you are deployed, be especially attentive to the effects

that being away from family during traditional celebrations can have on fellow Soldiers.

If you are lucky to be home celebrating, don't overdue the buffet line, bar tab or sleepless nights.

I want to see each and every one of you healthy and motivated in the new year- I need you, your fellow Soldiers need you, and your country needs you.

Finally, please take time to remember the more than 1,100 CAPOC Soldiers who are forward deployed and away from their families doing important work around the world. I salute each and every one of you and look forward to those welcome home ceremonies.

Engineers or Civil Affairs specialists? U.S. Soldiers help increase the Kenyan Army's skillset

Story by Staff Sgt. Marc Lane
Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

EMBAKASI, Kenya – Nineteen Kenyan army engineers from multiple units finished a five-day civil affairs field training exercise at the Amani Peace Operations Training Village in Embakasi, Kenya, Oct. 21.

The Soldiers participated in a series of scenarios designed and implemented by an instruction team made up of seven engineers from the Kenyan army and facilitated by five U.S. Army Soldiers from the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion attached to Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. The exercise covered topics such as key leader engagements, assessing village structures and settling tribal disputes.

“We train hard, so we can fight easy. This training is important, especially now because our army is deploying,” said Lt. Kenneth Rujema, a Kenyan army engineer previously trained in civil affairs. “We need to have good relations between civilians and military so that commanders on the ground can focus on operations.”

The training was focused on Kenyans communicating with one another to navigate various difficult civil affairs scenarios.

“It is important for our Soldiers to know how to interact with civilians and know how to approach permissive, hostile and uncertain environments,” Rujema said.

The week of practical exercise followed two weeks of civil affairs classroom instruction aimed at preparing the Kenyan Soldiers for situations that may occur during deployment missions.

“In the class, it's all theoretical on paper. Out here it's nerves and reaction; that's what counts when you're on a mission,” said U.S. Army Captain Enilda Flores-Cabrera, 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion training team chief and mission commander. “When you get to the practical, you see how people are actually going to react, how people are going to conduct themselves.”

“Civil affairs is important in every climate,” said Flores-Cabrera. “We use negotiation, mediation and assessment to get a better understanding how to approach the issues, how we can solve it and how we can help.”



Kenyan army engineers and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Benton discuss the techniques used to work with local civilians during a civil affairs field training exercise in Embakasi, Kenya, Oct. 21, 2011. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Marc Lane

Local Kenyan civilians were employed as role players to act out the scenarios at the training village. This helped simulate the unpredictability and uncertainty of actual civil affairs missions.

“The actors were very important to the training,” said Flores-Cabrera. “They made each situation as authentic as possible.”

After the weeklong training, Kenyan army engineer Nyambane Ezra said he would be able to employ this training in real-world situations.

“I learned about communication techniques to build relationships and gain the confidence of civilians,” said Ezra. “The tools of communication assist us in undertaking operations.”

After finishing the practical exercise, the Kenyan and American Soldiers traveled to Thika, Kenya, where the students used their knowledge to engage in real civil affairs missions with the local population.

Find more information and news products on the mission of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, visit www.hoa.africom.mil

Focused like a laser beam- CAPOC gets new commander



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs accepts the USACAPOC(A) colors from Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz at the change of command ceremony on Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 23, 2011. The passing of the colors symbolizes the transfer of authority of USACAPOC(A) from Maj. Gen. David N. Blackledge to Jacobs. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells

By Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski USACAPOC(A) PAO Staff

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - As fall arrived, so did a new season of leadership for the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne).

Maj. Gen. David N. Blackledge relinquished command to Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs Oct. 23, 2011.

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, presided over the ceremony as Blackledge passed the unit colors through Stultz to Jacobs symbolizing the change of command.

Stultz described Jacobs as a “well-known entity within the CA community.”

Jacobs came to USACAPOC(A) after completing his assignment as commander of Contingency Command

Post 2, United States Army North (Fifth Army) at Fort Sam Houston—a command and control element responsible for rapid deployment to natural disasters and emergencies in North America.

“He is a proven leader, he is the right man for the job, that is why he was hand selected for this command,” said Stultz.

“It has been a privilege to lead you, to serve with you and fight with you.”

—Maj. Gen. David N. Blackledge
USACAPOC(A) outgoing commander

Jacobs assumed command of nearly 12,000 Soldiers in 67 units across 30 states and Puerto Rico.

“There is no better job for an officer than being a commander,” said Jacobs.

Since 2001, USACAPOC(A) has mobilized and deployed more than 20,000 Soldiers to 14 countries in support of the War on Terror and assisting in humanitarian actions.

Blackledge described the changes he has seen within USACAPOC(A) since assuming command in 2009.

“The unit has grown by more than 1,000 Soldiers, activated, relocated, converted or re-aligned 66 CAPOC units, expanded educational opportunities for our Soldiers including the creation and credentialing of a

“He is a proven leader, he is the right man for the job, that is why he was hand selected for this command.”

—Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz

Chief and Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve

course at the Naval Post Graduate School, filled 178 separate requests for CAPOC support within Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and various other contingency operations throughout the world, and reached 114% of retention goals.”

Upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1979, Jacobs served seven years on active duty before joining the Army Reserve.

Jacobs served in Bosnia, Haiti and also in Baghdad, Iraq as the commander of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade.

Most recently within USACAPOC(A), he served as the commanding general of the 350th Civil Affairs Command, headquartered in Pensacola, Florida. He is decorated with the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Medal, and earned the Ranger Tab.

Jacobs described his intent as a commander to be “focused like a laser beam to provide trained and ready, disciplined and professional units and Soldiers to the Army and combatant commanders.”

Jacobs also mentioned that the command will continue to provide support to Soldiers’ families, quoting Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, saying the “strength of our Soldiers is our Families.”

Following the ceremonial passing of the colors, Stultz described the resistance he felt as he took the colors out of Blackledge’s hands and the significance of the approximate 3,000 USACAPOC(A) Soldiers that are deployed around the world.

“[This] didn’t occur in spite of him, but it occurred because of him due to his leadership, dedication, vision, and guidance. It is because of his leadership that this command is the way it is today.”

Among his many achievements, Blackledge helped reduce the social stigma associated with Soldiers seeking mental health treatment from war-related stress after he was seriously injured in action in both 2004 and again in 2005.

Blackledge added in his speech, following an announcement made by President Obama, that the last of the command’s civil affairs Soldiers and the bulk of the PSYOP forces will redeploy

from Iraq by the end of the year.

“I am so very proud of all of you, you have done a remarkable job to this nation,” said Blackledge. “It has been a privilege to lead you, to serve with you and fight with you.”

Blackledge accepted a position with the United States Army Reserve Command working civil affairs proponent matters until his retirement sometime next summer.

“I wish Maj. Gen. Blackledge the best of luck; he will be a hard act to follow,” said Jacobs.

Find more pictures at
<http://on.fb.me/u4YbRh>



(Left) Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Blosser, senior enlisted non-commissioned officer of USACAPOC(A), hands the command’s colors to Maj. Gen. David N. Blackledge, outgoing commanding general, during the change of command ceremony on Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 23, 2011. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells

Maj. Gen. Jacobs answers your questions

Peacemaker staff sat down with Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs and talked about his command philosophy, priorities and leadership style. Here are the answers all USACAPOC(A) Soldiers should know.

Having commanded the 354th CA Brigade and the 350th CACOM, you are no stranger to CAPOC – is this a homecoming of sorts or more like ground-hog-day?

Jacobs: I started in CAPOC in the 360th CA Brigade in 1993. It's great to be back. There's no greater honor than to command American Soldiers, and I'm humbled by the opportunity to command the best Soldiers in the Army Reserve.

What is the first thing you want to accomplish as CG USACAPOC(A)?

Jacobs: We need to focus the command on what's important, and what's important is very basic: setting and enforcing standards in everything we do. And, as I've said, there's only one standard in the command: the Army standard.

What are your immediate and long-term priorities for the command?

Jacobs: The overriding priority for the command must continue to be providing trained and ready units and Soldiers for mobilization. Longer term, the command faces both challenges and opportunities as both the CA and MISO communities transform: where civil affairs pronency will end up; whether the CA school will move and, if so, where; and how the coming CA changes will affect MISO – all of these remain open questions. We need to make our voice heard as the Army makes these decisions.

One of my key focus areas will be leader development. You develop leaders by ensuring that they receive all the appropriate operational experience and institutional training – NCOES for our NCOs and OES for our officers. Most important, though – and this is too often put in the “too hard” box in the Army Reserve because of our ever-present limitations: geography, time, and money – leaders must get out of their headquarters and Reserve

centers and see their subordinates in action, and they must show them what right looks like. I am counting on our battalion, brigade, and group commanders and command sergeants major to do this. Ultimately, a leader's contributions to the Army are measured by the quality of the leaders that follow in his or her footsteps.

Is there one thing in particular that Soldiers should know about your leadership style?

Jacobs: There are two things, really. First, I will come to see you. Commanders can't gain a good understanding of their commands by sitting behind their desks; we've got to get out and see what's going on first hand. Second, I call it like I see it. If something's not to standard, I'll be the first to tell you. But when I tell you, it's not a “gotcha” moment. It's an opportunity for improvement. I am not about affixing blame; I am all about fixing problems. We all have the same goal: combat readiness. No leader worth his or her salt is ever satisfied with his or her unit, and there has never been a unit that deployed with too much training. There is always something that can be done better.

Every commander wants to leave command knowing he's made a difference. When that time comes, what do you hope the command has achieved because of your leadership?

Jacobs: We have the best Soldiers in the Army Reserve. I know that now, and I say that now. When they pry the CAPOC colors out of my hands, I hope the rest of the Army will know and say that, also.

With the draw down almost complete in Iraq and the expectation that forces will start to draw down in Afghanistan in the coming months, where do you see CAPOC's OPTEMPO in the years ahead?

Jacobs: Per capita, USACAPOC(A) Soldiers are some of the Army Reserve's most heavily deployed forces – and yet these same Soldiers reenlist because they value the missions they're asked to accomplish. The CAR envisions a post-Afghanistan Army Reserve that is an integral player, for example, in theater security cooperation missions – peacetime engagements around the world. CA and MISO have a key role to play in

those operations. I think that, post-Afghanistan, we'll still have a healthy OPTEMPO – and I know that our Soldiers will still want to perform meaningful, real-world missions – but I think we'll be able to make our Soldiers' lives more predictable.

You mentioned in your change of command remarks that every Soldier is a full-time Soldier – can you explain a little more about what that means?

Jacobs: Soldiers are Soldiers 24/7 whether they wear the uniform every day as our AGR force does or whether they wear civilian clothes to work most days. Your responsibilities as a Soldier don't end Sunday evening after battle assembly. Soldiering is a profession, not a 9-to-5 (or a one-weekend-a-month, two-weeks-a-year) job.

It goes back to the Army Values and the Soldier's Creed. You can't turn the Army Values and the Soldiers Creed on and off, and every Soldier – active, Reserve, or Guard – should have internalized them. We live the Army Values and the Soldier's Creed 24/7, whether we're wearing the uniform or working at our civilian jobs. You can't stop living the Army Values and the Soldier's Creed between battle assemblies and still call yourself an American Soldier.

Now, let me translate that into practical terms, especially for our leaders – and everyone from the rank of corporal and up is a leader.

Your responsibility as a leader does not go away between battle assemblies, even if you can't be at the Reserve center to actually do the work yourself.

For the most part, I think our commanders and command sergeants major understand this, but, in my experience, other leaders sometimes don't.

The S-1 and the team sergeant are still the S-1 and the team sergeant during the week; they need to be engaged and communicating with their units' full-time support personnel so that they can make informed decisions within their areas of responsibility, even when they are not wearing the uniform. These leaders set the priorities of work for the AGRs and MILTECHs who are at the Reserve center every day.

The brigade S-1 may be a TPU officer, but he or she cannot be effective by making decisions only



two days a month (and, again in my experience, if the S-1 is not making decisions during the other 28 days a month, he or she has trouble making informed decisions during the two battle assembly days). If the S-1 is not the S-1 every day, if that officer allows the AGR human resources NCO fill that role, then, when the unit is mobilized, the S-1 will be ineffective and the mission will suffer. The S-1 and the team sergeant can't just show up at battle assembly and ask, “So, what are we doing this weekend?”

I understand very well the constraints and pressures of being an Army Reserve Soldier with a civilian job and a Family – I have lived it for 18 years. But, again, Soldiering is a profession, and Soldiers must be committed professionals – all day, every day.

See Maj. Gen. Jacobs' full biography and military background at <http://1.usa.gov/vTNR1x>

Join him on Facebook at [facebook.com/MGJeffJacobs](https://www.facebook.com/MGJeffJacobs)

Soldiers make a splash with water survival training

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

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — It got a little soggy for members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) during its September battle assembly. Soldiers made a splash as they were trained on proper swimming and survival skills during the unit's water survival training at Archer Pool, Sept. 10

"This was my first time doing this sort of training," said Pfc. Shante Edwards. "I was a little nervous at first because I consider myself an okay swimmer. I thought they were going to make me jump into the deep end and drown, but the trainers eased us into the water."

For non-swimmers or beginning swimmers, the trainers took the time to teach techniques in the shallow area of the pool and even HHC Commander Maj. Russell Staley jumped at the opportunity to build confidence in the timid swimmers by getting into the water with them to demonstrate proper technique and encouraging them along the way.

"The training really teaches us to trust our equipment," continued Edwards. "I really enjoyed (the training), it was something different."

The Soldiers' basic water survival training included waterproofing their rucksacks, a full-gear water walk, a confidence check (in which a Soldier tries to sit on the bottom of the pool with full gear, to prove buoyancy), float for five minutes

in full gear as well as swim in full gear with their weapon. They also had to perfect exiting the pool in full gear and tread water/complete a hanging float. Then the Soldiers had to again, swim and float, but this time without their rucksacks.

"The weapon was heavier than I thought it would be," said Edwards. "I figured it would be lighter in the water, but I was definitely tired after the swim test."

"This type of training is really important to everyone because it teaches the basics in water survival," explained Master Sgt. Nick Vidrine, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the training. "I'm amazed to know there are so many people who don't

know how to swim. If you look at the ACRSC (Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center) and see all the PLRs (preliminary loss reports) that involve drownings, it's astonishing. This type of training can better prepare a Soldier if they find themselves in a similar situation."

HHC even added a special training session for its airborne Soldiers, giving them the chance to train on water landings. Soldiers were put in a situation where they were

A Soldier with HHC, USACAPOC(A) follows a radial seam underwater to get out from underneath a canopy after a simulated water parachute landing during water survival training, Sept. 11, 2011.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells

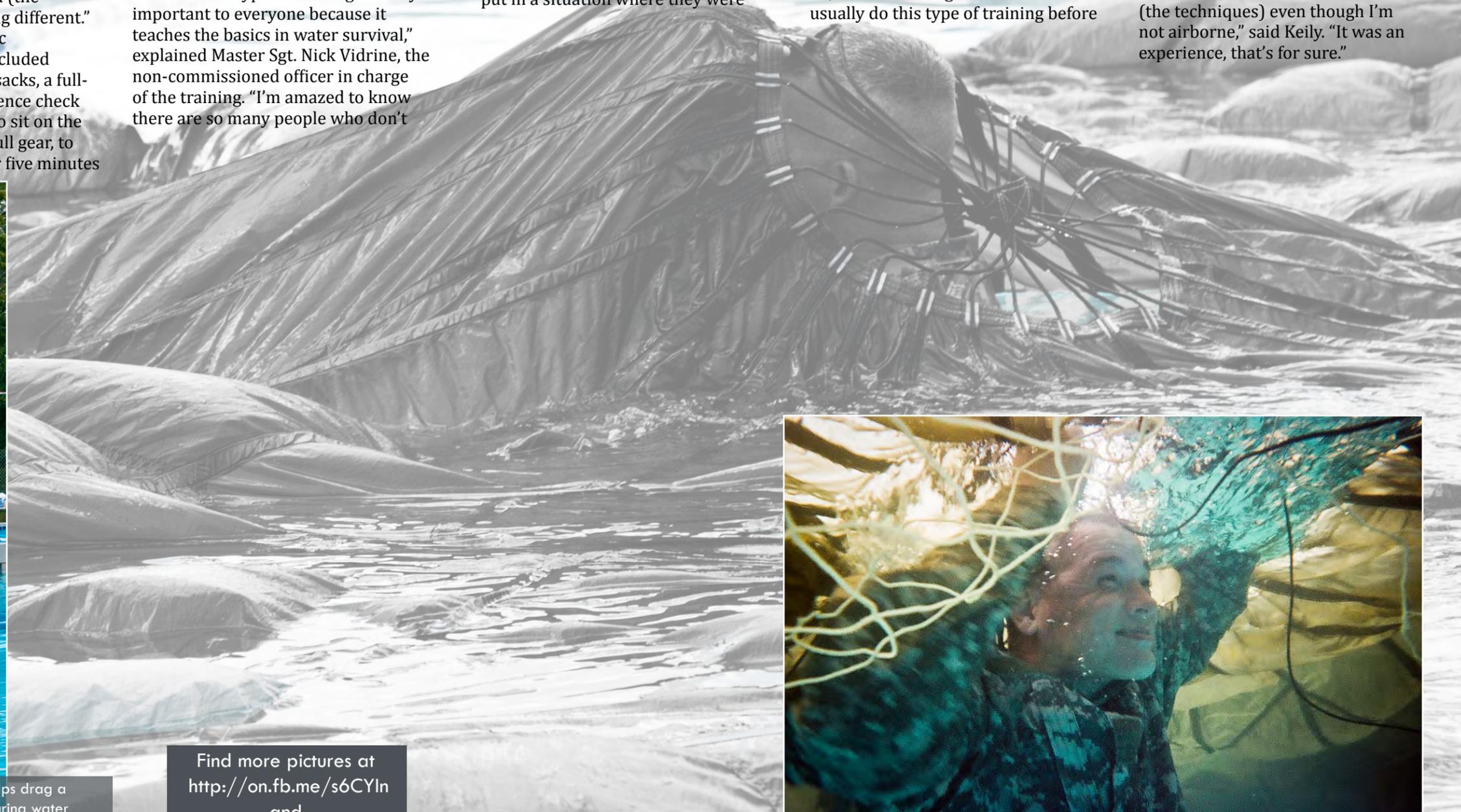
physically underneath the canopy of a parachute and had to follow the radial seams to safety. The Soldiers also had the opportunity to experience the sensation of being dragged underwater while trying to release their riser to free themselves.

"This was a fun thing for us to do," said Master Sgt. Rich Sale. "You'd usually do this type of training before

conducting a water jump. It simulates the differences you will encounter while landing in water than you will on land."

For Pvt. Gary Keily the training was an experience he's never had before. Keily is planning on going to airborne school in the near future.

"It was pretty cool that the trainers took the time to show me (the techniques) even though I'm not airborne," said Keily. "It was an experience, that's for sure."



Cpt. Brian D. Hahn swims underneath a parachute canopy during water survival training in Archer pool at Fort Bragg, N.C., Sept. 11, 2011.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix Fimbres

Find more pictures at
<http://on.fb.me/s6CYIn>
and
<http://on.fb.me/rUtQD8>

HHC, USACAPOC(A) first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Dwight Simon, helps drag a Soldier underwater to simulate a water parachute landing during water survival training, Sept. 11, 2011.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells

Army Reserve Center honors local fallen Soldier

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura
USACPOC(A) PAO

NEWPORT, R.I. - Anniversaries are symbols of significant events and mile markers in one's life. Typically yielding memories and gifts, these celebrations help remind us of the things we have to be joyous about. However, for the family of Michael Paranzino, the anniversary they recognize on November 5th is not a joyous one.

Sgt. Michael Paranzino was a Cavalry Scout from the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment and was killed in action in Afghanistan, November 5, 2010.

In honor of Paranzino, the United States Army Reserve Center on Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island is now called the Sergeant Michael F. Paranzino Army Reserve Center. The renaming was made official during a somber yet admirable memorialization ceremony held November 5, 2011, exactly one year after Paranzino's death.

Soldiers from the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, which resides in the new facility helped push in naming the building after the Newport born, Middleton native. Paranzino and the 1/71st maintained elements of the 443rd in Afghanistan. After numerous memorandums and letters, both Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, helped persuade the U.S. Congress to strongly support the motion to have the new Army Reserve Center posthumously named in honor of Paranzino.

"During the memorialization process, we learned more about what Michael did and what type of person he

was," said Sgt. 1st Class William Kepler, a command security manager for the 443rd. "As we moved forward with the process, we saw it was more fitting that he was the one this building should be named after."

Paranzino died Nov. 5, 2010, in Kandahar, Afghanistan of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. After his first tour in Iraq, the

Afghanistan. "His actions and his unit's support of civil affairs teams of the 443rd helped to begin reconstruction, development, governance and humanitarian assistance programs for the Afghan people."

"Michael could not have been a better leader," said Spc. Brindle Owens, formerly of the 1/71st. "He taught me a lot of what I know. He was a great Soldier and a great human being.



Melane Paranzino, mother of Sgt. Michael Paranzino, observes the plaque honoring her son at the newly named Sergeant Michael Paranzino Army Reserve Center on Naval Station Newport, R.I., Nov. 5, 2011. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

decorated Soldier was on his second deployment, this time in Afghanistan, leading his Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Paranzino served honorably and selflessly during his tour working to establish security by bringing the fight directly to the insurgents," said Maj. Gerard Walsh, commander of Charlie Company 443rd CA based in Forward Operating Base Pasab,

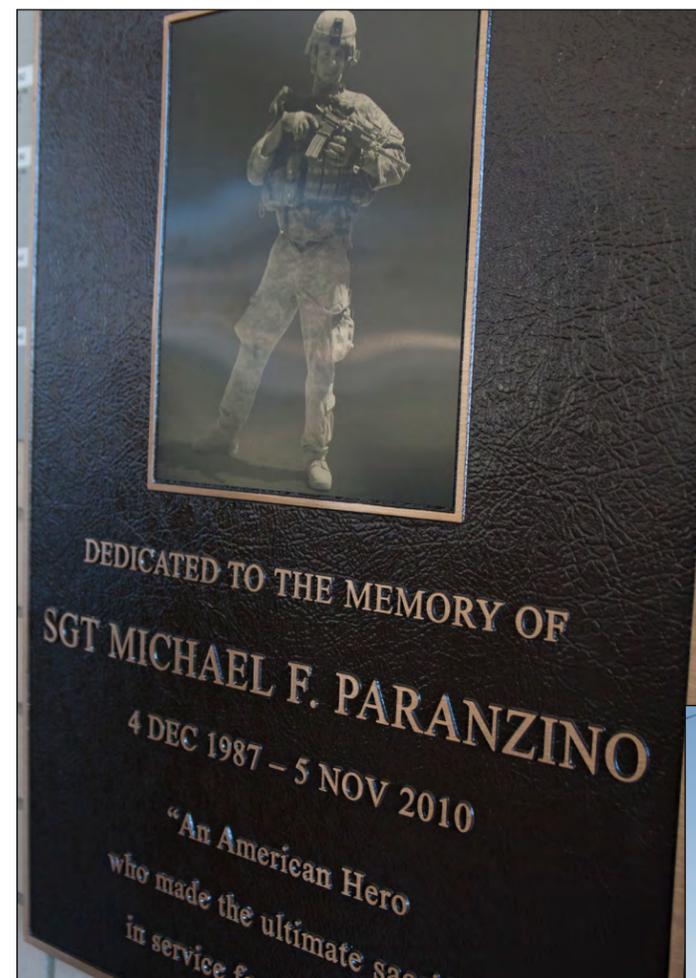
I miss him a lot."

Exactly a year after his death, Soldiers, Sailors, Senators and the Paranzino Family cut the ribbon, officially opening the multi-million dollar facility that houses more than 700 Soldiers from four different commands. Of the 426 facilities on the naval station, the Paranzino Army Reserve Center is the only one named after an Army Soldier.

Maj. Gen. William D.R. Waff, commanding general of the 99th Regional Support Command, challenges Soldiers who call the facility their home to see it as an asset and use the skills they have been given as leverage to train in the building.

"He was a great Soldier and a great human being."

—Spc. Brindle Owens
Former peer of Paranzino



U.S. Army photos by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

"Whenever anyone comes into the center please take time to remember Sgt. Michael Paranzino," he said to the hundreds in attendance.

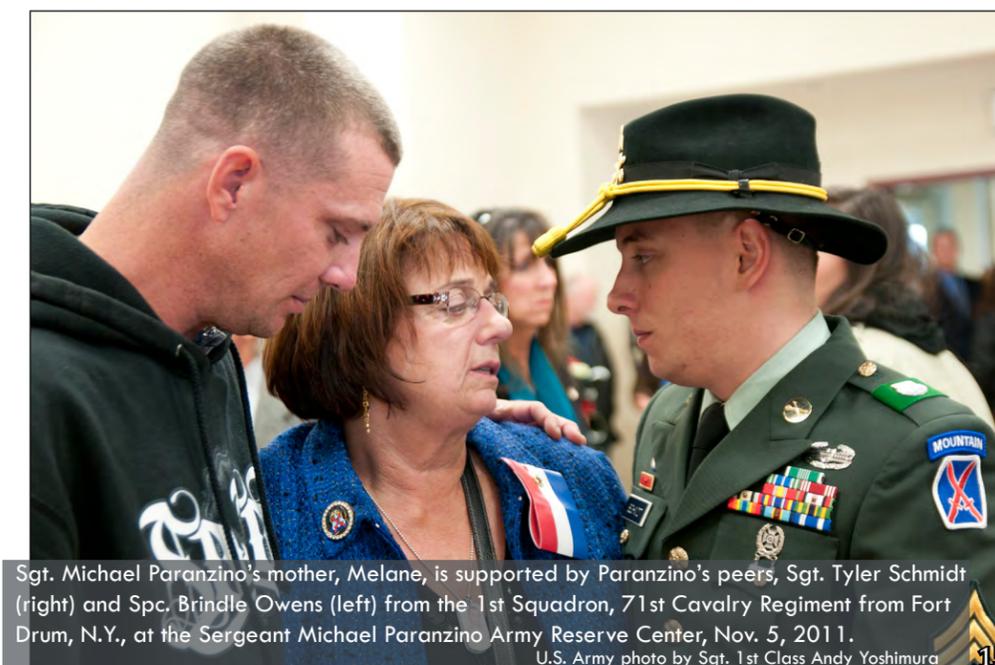
The 60,000-square-foot facility accompanies a 3,000-square-foot vehicle maintenance shop and a 2,500-square-foot storage facility and is the only building built and operated by the Army on the naval base. Locating the Army Reserve Center on the Navy installation allows for more efficient use of nearby training areas, added force protection, and consolidating the four Army Reserve units from outdated facilities in surrounding areas will save millions of dollars.

"This facility will always be a great source of pride for his Family always" said Butch Paranzino, Michael's father. "I look forward to the day when I bring his children and tell them about their father and why this facility has his name on it."

Find more pictures at
<http://on.fb.me/t01dNR>

"To our son who brought a bright light so great to the world. Even after he is gone, the light continues."

—a message from Butch and Melane Paranzino
Parents of Sgt. Michael F. Paranzino



Sgt. Michael Paranzino's mother, Melane, is supported by Paranzino's peers, Sgt. Tyler Schmidt (right) and Spc. Brindle Owens (left) from the 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment from Fort Drum, N.Y., at the Sergeant Michael Paranzino Army Reserve Center, Nov. 5, 2011. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge: not a piece of cake



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Markle, of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion in Kalamazoo, Mi., uses the breaststroke to complete the 200-meter swim portion of the German Armed Forces Military Proficiency test, July 30, 2011.
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura USACAPOC(A) PAO Staff

TWINSBURG, OHIO – Sixty-one Soldiers from across the country, including Puerto Rico, gathered here in the upper Midwest with one goal in mind -- get awarded the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

These Soldiers, stemming from the ranks of private first class to lieutenant colonel, had to sweat and endure the hot, humid and soggy weather of Ohio to pass numerous events over a three-day period last July.

"We don't just give out this badge, you have to earn it," said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Fergeson, of the United States Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) who hosted the event.

Dating back to the 1970's the GAFB was awarded to German soldiers as a way to show others that they had met all the proficiency requirements that were, and still are, needed to be a soldier.

"This is a proficiency badge," said Sgt. Maj. Alexander Goeb, a liaison to the U.S. Army XVIII Airborne Corps who supervised the test. "If you wear the badge, it shows that you are proficient in everything."

Every year, German soldiers are required to take the proficiency test. Failure to meet the requirements means the failure to stay in the German army after two years.

"I like to see Army Reserve Soldiers come from all across the country to compete for the badge," added Goeb.

Soldiers had to be combat lifesaver qualified before participating in the first event.

Participants started off the morning with the 100-meter dash with their Soldier's Army physical fitness uniforms drenched from the rain.

They then split into groups to perform the high jump, long jump, shot put, and the 3,000-meter run. Qualification on these events is determined by the competitors' age and gender.

"You can not just work out for one activity. You have to put some effort to train for all of them."

—Pvt. John Harrison
415th Civil Affairs Battalion

Despite the tough events, Pfc. Blake Britvec, a civil affairs specialist for the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion in Kalamazoo, Mi., qualified for the bronze badge.

Just months earlier, Britvec graduated basic training and advanced individual training.

"I figured I was weaker in a couple of the physical parts of the event," said Britvec. "But, it is really good to learn where I am weak and what I can work on."

The competitors then donned their swimming gear, splashing their way into the 200-meter swimming qualification. Sgt. 1st Class John M. Richards, an information systems operator for the 2nd Psychological Operations Group in Twinsburg, Ohio, finally had an opportunity to compete after a scratched event in 1983, when

he was stationed in Germany.

Twenty-eight years later, Richards realized that being in the pool was not his strong suit.

"Swimming was a challenge because I haven't swam in 12 years," said Richards. "Now that I am 46, I figured this is the last chance to physically do the events."

After a physically exhausting day one, the competitors had to test their marksmanship abilities on the pistol range. The German standard to qualify is hitting three out of five targets with a 9mm pistol at a 25-meter target. Hitting five out of five will earn an opportunity at a gold badge.

"I ran track and field in high school so a lot of the track and field events came easy," said Sgt. Jamar Williams, 2nd POG. "But swimming and the pistol event was challenging."

The Soldiers' mental toughness and stamina was put to the test during the last event -- the ruck-march.

They had an opportunity to either do a six-kilometer march for the bronze badge, a nine-kilometer for the silver badge or a 12-kilometer for the gold badge while carrying a 33-pound rucksack.

"It takes a lot of work just to get the GAFB," said Pvt. John Harrison from the 415th CA Bn. "You can not just work

out for one activity. You have to put some effort to train for them all."

Out of the 61 that competed, badges were awarded to just 40 Soldiers. For the rest, the track and field and swimming events proved too much.

"It is definitely not a cake walk," said Williams. "You are doing so many strenuous activities in such a short time. You will definitely get your physical fitness training and water survival training on day one, marksmanship training and endurance training on the last day for the ruck-march," he said, explaining the benefit of Soldiers getting great training.

Soldiers who did not pass, or wish to get a higher badge, will have a year to train before the next GAFB test comes to Twinsburg.

"Each Soldier should work on the area that they feel they are weak in," said Fergeson. "Being physically fit is a key component for the badge."



Sgt. Jamar Williams, 2nd Psychological Operations Group, located in Twinsburg, Ohio competes in the 3K run portion for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency Test, July 30, 2011. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura



Pfc. John Harrison of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion of Kalamazoo, Mi., qualifies with the M9 (9mm pistol) as one of the requirements for earning the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, in Twinsburg, Ohio, July 30, 2011.
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Find more pictures at
<http://on.fb.me/t01dNR>

Full moon brings out all sorts of Soldiers

Active duty infantry and Reserve civil affairs paratroopers train as one

Story by Spc. Katie Summerhill
USACAPOC(A) PAO Staff

FORT BRAGG,
N.C. – Filling the
midnight sky, 2,500
paratroopers floated
across the full moon over
Sicily Drop Zone on Fort
Bragg, N.C.

Paratroopers of
the 450th Civil Affairs
Battalion based in
Riverdale, Md., along
with the 3rd Brigade
Combat Team, 82nd
Airborne Division out of
Fort Bragg participated
in a Joint Operational
Access Exercise
September 11th and
12th. The JOAX brought

together civil affairs and infantry Soldiers in a combined
effort to complete a night airborne operation with follow-on
missions, which replicate real world scenarios.

The operation gave the paratroopers
the opportunity to practice exiting an aircraft
at night in full combat gear, meeting at a
predetermined rally point once on-ground,
and then organized to a low-visibility, dismounted movement
onto an objective to seize a high-value individual, followed by
a key leader engagement.

The civil affairs team consisted of four Army Reserve
civil affairs specialists, whose mission was to support the
JOAX as advisors to 3rd BCT while they conducted the key
leader engagement. Exercises like these, while complicated to
plan and execute, are integral to preparing different military
elements for deployed situations, explained Capt. Peter C.
Bakke, an information operations officer with 3rd BCT, 82nd
Abn. Div.

“It is important because we work together on

Paratroopers from the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Riverdale, Md., and paratroopers
from 3rd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division float past a September full moon after exiting C-17's,
Sept. 11, 2011 during a joint training exercise. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura



the battlefield,” Bakke said. “If we build good working
relationships by planning and training together, it will be
mutually beneficial.”

Even though the 450th Soldiers are members of the
Army Reserve, and the 82nd Soldiers are Active Duty, which
typically creates a dividing line between troops, the two
groups teamed up to complete the mission of the night. The
ability to team up with the 82nd and perform at their level
was a goal for Maj. David Spess, operations officer for the
450th Civil Affairs Battalion.

“You want whoever you’re going to support to just
absolutely not be able to tell the difference between you and
organic troops other than you have specialized skills that you
bring to the table,” explained Spess.

To ensure this is the case downrange, Spess worked
with USACAPOC(A) and the 82nd to get his Soldiers involved
in the JOAX. Spess considered this training to be critical to
preparing civil affairs Soldiers, especially younger Soldiers
with little experience, for future deployments, as it is done at

“...It’s a lot cooler that what most of my friends can say
they were doing. I jumped out of a plane with the 82nd and
ran around with night vision goggles on.”

—Spc. Adrian Smith
450th Civil Affairs Battalion

a level a battalion just cannot match on their own.

“We can do KLE’s [key leader engagements] by
ourselves,” Spess said. “What we can’t replicate at the
battalion level is a 155mm Howitzer going off. What we can’t
replicate at battalion level is 14 aircraft and hundreds of
paratroopers in the air. We can’t replicate just the complexity
of moving an entire brigade of paratroopers onto the
battlefield.”

For the younger Soldiers of the 450th who
participated in the JOAX, the message of the importance of
this exercise was not lost.

“I feel like I am very privileged to be here because
I got to learn a lot,” said Spc. Adrian Smith, a civil affairs
specialist with the 450th CA BN. “I was able to see a lot of
stuff that specialists and below in my unit haven’t seen or
encountered yet, so I’ll be able to take what I’ve learned here
and show them so we can become better as a battalion.”

Smith also noted that he appreciated the training
with 3rd BCT because it allowed for a margin of error in
operations that must be eliminated prior to deploying

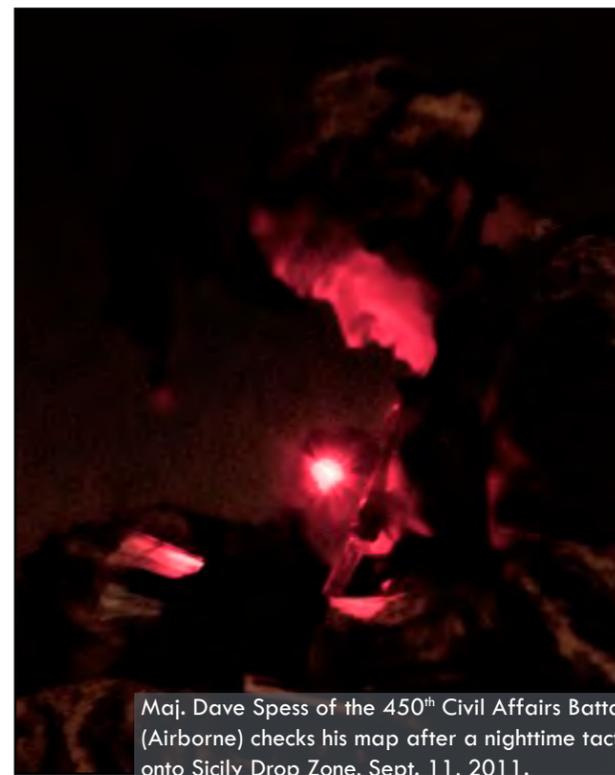
“When we go overseas, it’s not just going to be a
CAT [civil affairs team] by themselves, we’re going to be
working with combined teams,” Smith said. “It’s better to
get acclimated to working with them now, at home safe, and
we can make mistakes, and learn from them, as opposed to
going overseas and not having any idea what to do, making
mistakes and it costing you over there.”

While the training was high-speed and offered a rare
training opportunity to both the 3rd BCT Soldiers and the
450th Soldiers, it also gave one Soldier bragging rights.

“Out in the field, it’s midnight, I’m doing stuff,” said
Smith. “I might have missed the first football game of the
season, but it’s a lot cooler than what most of my friends can
say they were doing. I jumped out of a plane with the 82nd
and ran around with night vision goggles on.”



Spc. Richard Handres, a civil affairs Soldier from Bravo Company, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne)
pulls security in Sicily Drop Zone before moving to its next objective for a key leader engagement,
Sept. 11, 2011 during a joint training exercise. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura



Maj. Dave Spess of the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion
(Airborne) checks his map after a nighttime tactical jump
onto Sicily Drop Zone, Sept. 11, 2011.
U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

This was the first JOAX USACAPOC(A) assets
participated in recently, but hopefully it will not be the
last. The 450th was the first to get this opportunity because
historically they are the wartrace unit to the 82nd Abn. Div.,
for civil affairs mission support, according to Capt. Matt
Brown, the air operations officer with USACAPOC(A). In
seeing the success in this exercise, Brown already has future
training plans.

“We intend to expand and work further with BCTs for
not only civil affairs missions, but psychological operations
missions as well,” explained Brown.

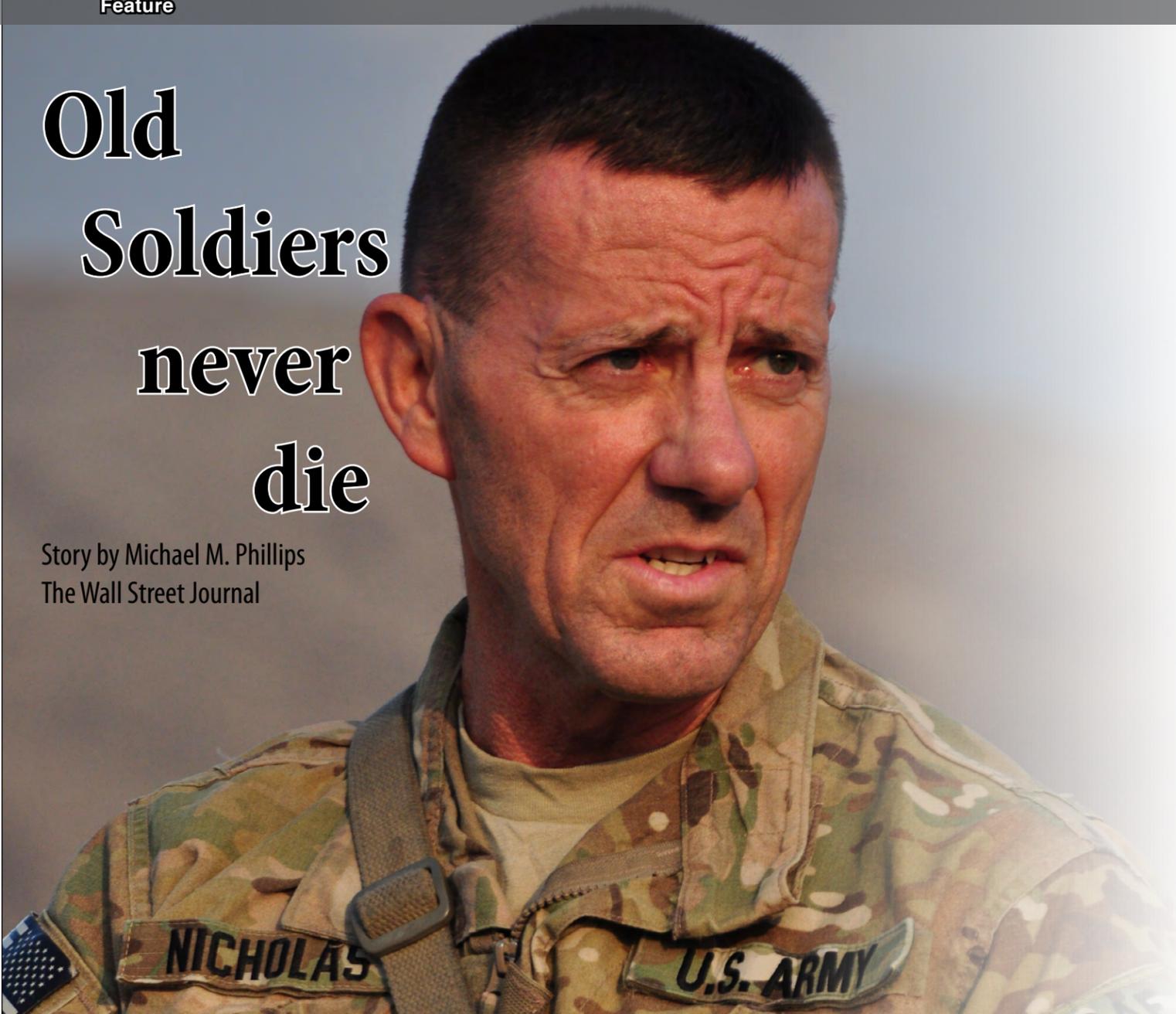
After getting this
chance, Smith agreed that
continuous future training,
similar to this, is important for
himself and his future Soldiers.

“It makes me want
to remember that when I get
to a senior level to extend this
kind of opportunity to young
Soldiers, not just hog it for
myself,” Smith said. “If they get
a chance to go out and learn as
much as they can with these
exercises and training, and
they’ll be in my shoes one day,
we can keep the trend going as
time goes on, so as the Army
goes on, we stay one of
the best.”

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Old Soldiers never die

Story by Michael M. Phillips
The Wall Street Journal



of April, there was fighting all over the city. He remembers scenes from those days: providing security while American officials burned pallets of U.S. currency at the airport; guarding the gate as thousands of panic-stricken Vietnamese tried to enter the embassy grounds; promising to marry a bar girl he didn't know so that she could get a U.S. visa; the killing of two Marine guards at the airport -- the last American casualties of the war.

On the final day, April 30, 1973, Nicholas and his fellow Marines barricaded the door to the embassy lobby, but the crowds burst in anyway. He walked backward up the stairs, ready to use his rifle as a baton to keep the crowd at bay. On the roof the helicopters darted in to pick up the lucky few and carry them to ships.

Nicholas was on the second-to-last helicopter. "I never considered Vietnam to be a lost war," he says. "Politicians lost that war. I will take that thought to my grave."

The Marines let him pick his next posting, and, with blonde women in mind, he chose the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt. There he met his wife, Dagmar.

He left active duty in 1978 to go to college, and in 1986 graduated from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. Even after he opened his own practice, he was still working out frenetically, in the hope of going back into the Marines someday.

He gave it a shot during Desert Storm, but back then the military was shrinking. He tried after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Marines said no, but in 2004 the Army Reserve said yes.

He was 52 years old.

He joined the Army's psychological operations branch because there he had a good chance of going to war. And war he got.

He spent his first Afghanistan tour, in 2005, in such infamous valleys as the Korengal and Pech. He had shuttered his podiatric practice, so after his tour he made a living from house calls until the Army accepted his request to deploy again. This time he spent 11 months north of Baghdad.

Soon after he got home, he put his hand up one more time. In March he arrived in Kunar Province, along the Pakistan border, for a year. Kunar is a place he doesn't want

his son Christopher, who is joining the Army, to end up.

"He doesn't want the other 19-year-olds to go," Mrs. Nicholas says of her husband. But "it makes him 19 again. He finds youth in the military."

Nicholas's ID photo from the Saigon embassy shows a young man with a Superman forelock, fixing the camera with a challenging stare. Today his face is weathered, but his crew cut shows no gray. He runs two miles in just over 12 minutes. And though he carries glasses to read the maps, he has never fallen out on a grueling march.



Above: Nicholas in Afghanistan, 2011.
Below: Nicholas on an operation in Barawalo Kalay, March 2011.
Left: Nicholas at FOB Joyce, Sarkani District, Kunar Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 30 2011.
Pictures courtesy of Staff Sgt. Don Nicholas



Nicholas's rifle is always slung around his neck, whether he's at a desk, eating dinner or on patrol. He wore a salted cobra skin on his helmet until his commander, 40-year-old Lt. Col. Colin Tuley, suggested that he take it off.

On missions, the sergeant is particularly adept at chatting up the locals. In a culture

in which age implies wisdom, he has an edge over a fresh-faced lieutenant. As a psy-ops Soldier, he tries to persuade the Afghan elders that their interests lie with the Kabul government and the coalition forces, not the Taliban.

"I don't mind people calling me old," he says. "The only time I get upset is if they say I'm old and I can't do something."

Next July, Nicholas turns 60, and the Army will tell him that he can't go to war anymore, one of the few things he finds truly frightening. He's trying to get a quick commission as an officer; that would allow him to join the medical corps, which has a higher retirement age.

"If he has to retire," says his wife, "it will be really bad for him."

Editors note: This article and images are used with the permission of the Wall Street Journal.

Staff Sgt. Don Nicholas disproves the old refrain: Old Soldiers do not, in fact, fade away. They re-enlist.

At 59, Nicholas is the oldest of the 6,000 Soldiers in the 25th Infantry Division in eastern Afghanistan, the Army says. And he is probably one of the very few Vietnam vets now back for more in Afghanistan. He's certainly the only one who saw first-hand the ugly end of that war from the roof of the U.S. embassy in Saigon.

Editor's Note: Nicholas is deployed with the 312th Psychological Operations Company from Marlboro, Maryland and normally assigned to HHC, 2nd Psychological Operations Group.

"It's really not a fascination with war itself," Nicholas explains. "It's more trying to keep people from getting killed. I'm taking the spot of some 19-year-old."

Raised in Magnolia, Ohio, Nicholas dropped out of high school and joined the Marines in 1971, expecting—

almost hoping—to go to Vietnam. At the time he was a believer in the domino theory. He remembers telling a local TV reporter at the recruiting station that he didn't want his children "living under communism."

The Marines sent him to the Vietnam War, but not to Vietnam. He was stationed on an aircraft carrier in the Tonkin Gulf, watching planes take off to bomb a shore he couldn't quite see.

"It was kind of disappointing that the war was winding down," he says. "I was a Marine rifleman, and I didn't get to do what I was trained to do."

The U.S. withdrew its combat forces from Vietnam in 1973. The following year Nicholas re-enlisted and maneuvered his way to the Marine detachment at the Saigon embassy.

By early 1975, the situation in South Vietnam was precarious, as enemy troops moved ever closer. At the end



Love what you do,
do what you
love

CW4 Karen Grays will be one of two African-American females to hold the rank of CW5 in the Active-Guard-Reserve program for the Army Reserve. Grays has been the property book officer for the USACAPOC(A) for nearly two years. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura
USACAPOC(A) PAO Staff

Which Army rank is the newest? When was that rank created?
In late 1990, the Department of the Army established the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 as the master-level experts that support brigade, division, corps and major command operations. CW5's oversee the operation and rewrite policies to help a unit function more efficiently. Out of the more than 200,000 Soldiers in the Army Reserve, there are 47 that hold the rank of CW5 in the Active Guard Reserve program.

“In order to do your job, you have to love what you do, because if you don't enjoy what you do, there is no sense in doing it.”

—CW4 Karen Grays
USACAPOC(A) Property Book Officer

Chief Warrant Officer Karen Grays, a property book officer manager for the U.S. Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), will be the Army Reserve's 48th CW5. She is scheduled for promotion in December.

Grays has been with USACAPOC(A) PBO section for almost two years managing the ordering and shipping of equipment for the units stateside and overseas. Grays promised that the units at her new assignment will have all of her attention and plans to hold workshops for



CW4 Karen Grays, property book officer for USACAPOC(A), prepares to ship more than 600 computers. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

How rare is the rank of CW5?

Number of CW5's in U.S. Army Reserve:
Before Grays: 47
After Grays: 48

Number of African-American, female CW5s in the Army:
Before Grays: 1
After Grays: 2

Decrease in CW5 selections this year:
25% (sharpest decrease of all CW ranks)

all the warrant officers so each is proficient with his or her job. She feels that logistics in the Army Reserve is a key for success.

“We do everything we can in the logistics world to equip the Soldiers,” said Grays. “If we fail to equip them, then we failed and if we failed then we failed our Soldiers.”

Grays joined the Army Reserve just out of high school at the age of 18. Her mom at that time was not supportive of her decisions, but Grays says she came around. She will definitely think about her mom who passed away a few years back.

“My mom would have been proud of me to reach the top. It is a blessed accomplishment.” added Grays.

Grays will transfer to the 1st Mission Support Command in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico as the command chief warrant officer for the command. With this being probably one of the last assignments of her Army career, Grays hinted that she would love to sit on the beach when she retires. It is only fitting that she is within arms reach of some of the nicest beaches in the Caribbean Sea.

In the meantime, Grays believes that following the Army standard and performing them with integrity are the keys to success. “In order to do your job you have to love what you do, because if you don't enjoy what you do, there is no sense in doing it.”



CW4 Karen Grays, property book officer for USACAPOC(A), tracks more than 600 computer items and is preparing them for shipment. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Visit
<http://1.usa.gov/uxWTgJ>
for information how to become a warrant officer
or contact retention at
(910) 432-8584

Learning goes beyond the classroom

Story by Spc. Katie Summerhill
USACAPOC(A) PAO Staff

FORT DIX, N.J. -- With the war in Afghanistan becoming a war of wills, gaining the support of the Afghan population is a top priority.

For this delicate job, the U.S. Army has a special group of Soldiers: Civil Affairs and PSYOP Soldiers.

Before any deployment, every Army Reserve unit must complete a gamut of training over the course of 52 days, which for CAPOC units, culminates in one final crucible: A three-day long, fast paced simulation of what they'll be facing in downrange.

In the lead up to their crucible, Soldiers receive cultural, language, weapons and tactical movement training, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Trost, native of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and a team sergeant with Delta Company, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, based out of Knoxville, Tenn.

The unit was completing trained in June prior to a deployment to Afghanistan.

These lessons all came together for the 489th near the end of their pre-mobilization training during their mission readiness exercise geared

specifically towards civil affairs preparation, run by the USACAPOC(A)'s 1st Training Brigade.

"The purpose is to immerse them into scenarios that are most like what they are going to encounter downrange, overseas," said Staff Sgt. Rob Overmeyer, a Chicago native and a team sergeant and civil affairs instructor with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Training Brigade.

The deploying troops spend three days living on Contingency Operating Location Victory, which was modeled after deployed living situations with sparse amenities.

"We have a vested interest in seeing that the Soldiers are getting the best training."

—1st Sgt. Robert Matthews
B-Co., 1 BN, 1st TN BDE

Each morning, they wake up with the sun to prepare for a day of convoys in high heat and humidity.

On these convoys, they must overcome a series of challenges including: improvised explosive device attacks, mortar fire and gunfire from

enemy combatants.

Amidst these challenges, the 489th's civil affairs Soldiers performed a unique mission called a key leader engagement.

Getting to know the local leaders and power brokers is critical to mission success as it allows the civil affairs team the ability to understand what's happening in their area of responsibility.

"It's really all about establishing lines of communication," Overmeyer said, "getting them to see that they can be a part of the world legally, and not have to fight it."

To make the situation more realistic, the instructors have civilians dress up as foreign nationals, simulating civilians on the battlefield. With opposing forces ready to attack with artillery simulators and small-arms fire, the engagements usually end abruptly in training due to a simulated assault.

This forces the Soldiers to practice their tactical responses and movements while "in-sector". They typically sustain injuries and must perform medical care under fire as well.

The Soldiers know that practicing their skills in a "safe" environment is an important step to take before going to Afghanistan.

"You get rusty on it," explained Trost.

While reserve Soldiers face the challenge of staying up-to-date on skill specific training, instructors from 1st Training Brigade are constantly updating the mobilization training to keep it as true-to-life as possible.

"What we try to do is stay in touch with people that we send through the training once they go over and start their mission," said Overmeyer. "We are getting real-life scenarios back from them to keep [the training] pertinent, up-to-date and relevant."

"We can change training for tomorrow," said 1st Sgt. Robert Matthews, a first sergeant with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Training Brigade.

The Soldiers and trainers agree it is the flexibility and adaptation of training that gives first-time deploying Soldiers more confidence to go downrange.

While most mobilization training focuses on general infantry skills, the instructors here try to make their training more personal for the civil affairs and psychological operations Soldiers they train.

"I feel that here, they are focusing more on our actual civil affairs mission," said Spc. Brett Anglin, a civil affairs specialist with Charlie Company, 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, based out of Pasadena, Texas, who is deploying for his first time. "They're really giving us good, all encompassing training."

Veterans like Trost, who deployed to Iraq in 2004 as a civil affairs sergeant, believe quality training like this is invaluable.

"The civil affairs Soldier is not the only unique player on the battlefield. The Taliban is also competing for the same hearts and minds and is employing similar tactics but with opposing interests. They do civil affairs just like we do. So we have to do it much better than they do," said Trost.

These Soldiers believe the only way to do it better is to be prepared: you have to train like you fight.

"The MRX is scenario based and constantly changing. It can't be taught in a classroom, it has to actually be done, and this is the only place they are getting it."

While the training is always evolving, and the Soldiers receiving the



Sgt. 1st Class Carin Catron, team medic for D-Co., 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, applies first aid for a sucking chest wound sustained during a simulated attack during training at Fort Dix, N.J., June 18, 2011.
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Katie Summerhill

training come and go just as rapidly, there is always one constant: the quality of training.

All of the instructors have at least one tour downrange as civil affairs or psychological operations. In many cases, they come from the same units they are training.

"We [the instructors] have a vested interest in seeing that the Soldiers are getting the best training," said Matthews. "These are the same units we will go back to. These are our friends."

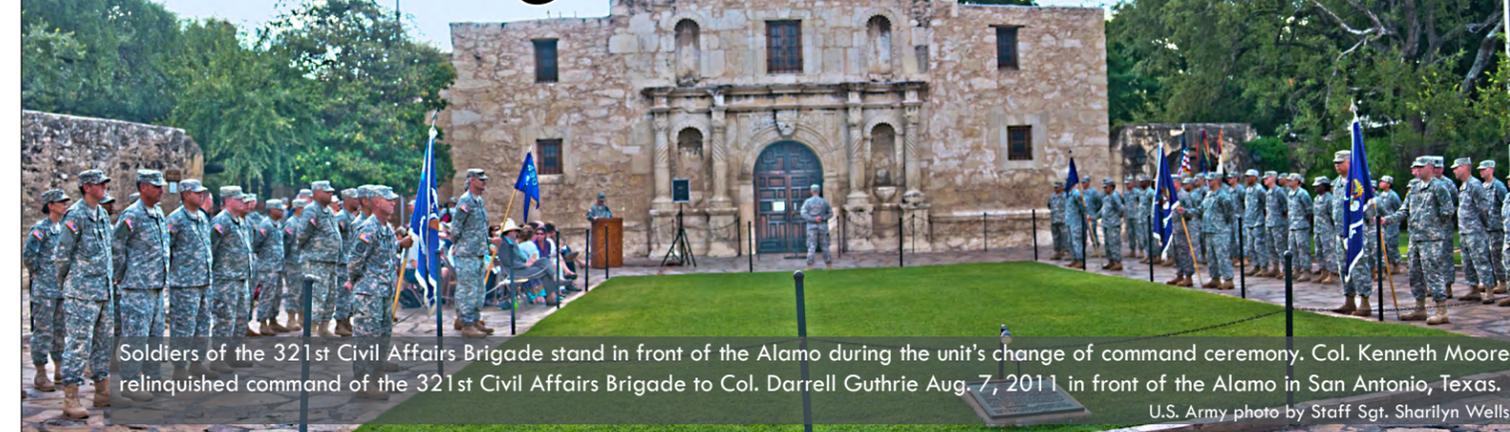
For more pictures, visit
<http://on.fb.me.v3rmvj>
For the full story, visit
<http://bit.ly/sqh61L>

If you are interested in becoming an instructor for 1st Battalion, 1st Training Brigade, contact
DLMOBCell@cie.army.mil



Staff Sgt. Michael Darling, with C-Co., 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, shakes hands with a village local and introduces himself during a training exercise at Fort Dix, N.J., June 17, 2011.
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Katie Summerhill

The Alamo gets a new commander



Soldiers of the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade stand in front of the Alamo during the unit's change of command ceremony. Col. Kenneth Moore relinquished command of the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade to Col. Darrell Guthrie Aug. 7, 2011 in front of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells

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

SAN ANTONIO -- As the sun rose behind the historic Alamo into the big Texas sky, Soldiers from the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade bid farewell to their commander and welcomed a new one.

Family, friends and tourists watched as Col. Darrell J. Guthrie assumed command of the 321st from Col. Kenneth Moore in front of the national landmark, a symbol of Texan and American pride since the famous 1836 Texas Revolution battle.

"I am truly honored and humbled to assume command of the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade. It is especially an honor knowing the unit's lineage, the commanders who have preceded me, and having served as a member of the Brigade and one of its subordinate battalions, the 413th, for 11 of my 17 years of Army Reserve service," Guthrie, a resident of Lubbock, Texas, said.

Guthrie's past assignments include commander of the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion of Phoenix, Ariz.; CJ5, Director of Plans and Policy, Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force, Afghanistan; and commander of A Battery, 3-1 Field Artillery, Bamberg, Germany.

"I want to sincerely thank Colonel Moore for his assistance and friendship since my selection for command," said Guthrie. "You should

be very proud of your time here in the Alamo City and the unit you relinquish command of today. You are turning over a truly superb organization."

The 321st was first constituted into the U.S. Army in 1945 as the 101st Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Military Government Group from California. After inactivation in 1949 in Korea, the unit was redesignated as the 321st Military Government Group in 1955 and allotted to the Army Reserve. It was redesignated two more times until 1959 when it was changed to the 321st Civil Affairs Brigade and relocated in San Antonio in 1963. The Alamo has been prominent in the 321's unit insignia since 1974, making it the first civil affairs unit insignia to feature a national landmark

"To the Soldiers and civilians of the 321st, I recognize that we remain a nation at war, and this brigade remains engaged in the fight with Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa; and with others preparing to replace them," continued Guthrie. "As such, I take very seriously the responsibility for your readiness, training and safety."

"Now, I would be remiss not to point out that I am the second lawyer from Alabama to assume command at the Alamo," added Guthrie, who earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Alabama. "Let's hope that things work out a little better for me

than they did for Colonel William Travis – 175 years ago."

In his civilian occupation, Guthrie is special counsel to the law firm of Mullin, Hoard and Brown, L.L.P.

Moore, who served with the Army Reserve for more than 30 years, gave credit to the Soldiers of the 321st for the success of the brigade while in command. He mentioned deployment achievements, eight new battalion commanders, five Army War College selectees and graduates, 16 newly promoted lieutenant colonels and countless promotions throughout the ranks.

"Col. Darrell Guthrie, I am sincerely delighted that you will command the 321st because you are an incredibly experienced and educated senior leader; a seasoned civil affairs operator; and an officer that lives the Army Values," said Moore.

Col. Moore has assumed a new role as the Senior Reserve Advisor at the JFK Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C.

For more pictures, visit
<http://on.fb.me/u9Wfh>

425th Civil Affairs Battalion hosts conference to prepare PRT's for Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura
USACAPOC(A) PAO Staff

CLAREMONT, Calif. - Class was in session Oct. 2nd for Soldiers of the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion on the campus of Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, Calif.

These civil affairs Soldiers did not receive grades, but attended the first ever Provincial Reconstruction Team Conference and in order to receive up-to-date information on civil affairs activities in Afghanistan from representatives of the U.S. Department of State and independent consultants who have recently returned from the country.

The 425th will use these resources to help support the 12 Provincial Reconstruction Team missions assigned to the unit during their deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

Members of the Department of State talked about the recent history of Afghanistan and shared their perspectives of the PRT mission. They discussed issues and problems that the PRT's faced in Afghanistan in the past and brought up many points that would help the 425th resolve these situations.

The commander of the 425th, Lt. Col. Michelle Haberlach, felt that spending the weekend with interagency partners was crucial.

"It is important understanding the missions in Afghanistan from their view and hopefully developing some models for working together in the future," said Haberlach.

Resident experts, reporters from the Wall Street Journal, and international policy advocates tackled current trends in Afghanistan and discussed gender issues that are important to understand when working on female engagement team missions – a popular program among Coalition forces.



Steven Zyck, a Research Fellow in the University's Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit informs Soldiers the trends and analysis on the current situation in Afghanistan at a conference held at Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, Calif., Oct. 2, 2011. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura



Staff Sgt. Lamont Jones of the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion from Encino, Calif. spent a weekend at Claremont-McKenna College, Oct. 2, 2011 with representatives from the U.S. Department of State and independent consultants and researchers in order to receive up-to-date information on the 425th's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura

Stephenie Foster, a Professional Lecturer at the Women and Politics Institute at American University discussed the importance of female engagements.

"Because 50% of the world are women, it is important to ensure to engage at the beginning of any process and use that guiding principle as we work on institution building," Foster said to the Soldiers.

The conference also included a couple of audio teleconferences where guest speakers were able to educate these Soldiers even though they weren't in the lecture hall.

"This training is very unique because it is so interdisciplinary," said Capt. Brian Batchelder of the 425th. "It is truly very collaborative in nature and reaching out to the experiences and missions from these various organizations makes the training more important."

Conducting the conference in a non-military environment like Claremont-McKenna College helped attract civilian participation and enabled the unit to reach out to the international relations-focused ROTC department.

"Facilitating in this environment is about building relationships so we can both tap into their faculty resources in international relations and foreign language training, and build a future in civil affairs," added Haberlach

"One of the biggest benefits is information exchange. We are able to share information and have local experts we can reach out to when we are downrange and benefit from their expertise," added Haberlach.

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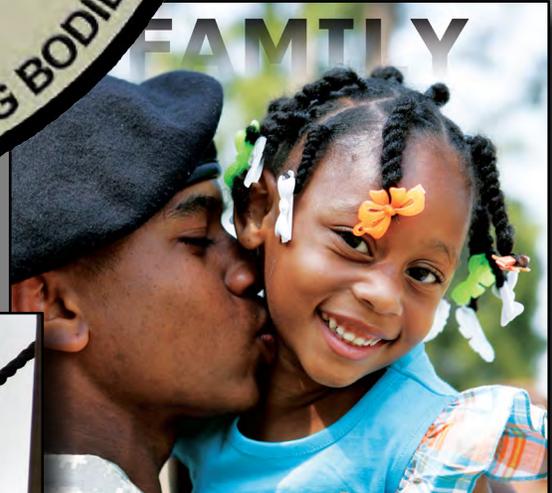
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