



THE

BRIDGE

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2012 Brings New Beginnings



COMMAND NOTES

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall

CG Comments

Happy New Year to all the members of the 416th TEC and their Families! It seems time flies and even accelerates during the beginning of a New Year. I hope everyone had a chance to slow down, catch their breath, and truly enjoyed the Holiday Season with family, friends and loved ones. Of course we will always remember our Soldiers down range and should send them our best wishes and prayers.

This edition of The Bridge has some snapshots of life in the 416th TEC and is a very small sampling of the many missions our Soldiers and Civilians undertake. Perhaps you will be inspired to submit an article or some photos of your own for a future addition.

This is the time of New Beginnings after we've spent time resting and showing our loved ones our appreciation, it is now time to roll up our sleeves and work towards the accomplishments and goals of a New Year!

Essays!



Produced for the 416th Theater Engineer Command

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1st Lt. Terrel N. Tovey, executive officer for the 744th Engineer Company reads a note on the behalf of their commander, Cpt. Scott Sparrow (currently in Afghanistan), to the 744th EN CO who recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan on the steps of the Capitol Oct.12. For more on the 744th EN CO return, see story on page 8. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

FRONT COVER:

The 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC), Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC) conducts formation in front of their location here in Darien, Ill at the dawn of a Battle Assembly (BA) day in November. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

BACK COVER:

DUBUQUE, Iowa - Sgt. Thomas A. Klostermann, of the 389th Engineer Battalion, cuts the cake with his Non-Commissioned Officers saber during the BN's Dining In Ceremony, on Dec. 3. (Photo by Sgt. Cliff Coy)

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CSM NOTES

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry E. Reeve

Happy New Year!! I want to wish each and every Soldier and Family member a prosperous New Year. As leaders this is our job to take care of our Soldiers and Families. In the notes below I put together a useful list of traits and qualities that makes up a good leader:

Honesty

People want to follow an honest leader. If you ever violate this value, your Soldiers will no longer trust or believe in you.

Forward-Looking

The whole point of leadership is figuring out where to go from where you are now. While you may know where you want to go, Soldiers won't see that unless you actively communicate it with them. Remember, these traits aren't just things you need to have, they are things you need to actively display to those around you. Talk to your Soldiers frequently; let them be an active participant in planning our future.

Competency

Soldiers want to follow someone who is competent. This doesn't mean a leader needs to be the foremost expert in every area of the entire organization, but they need to be able to demonstrate capability.

For a leader to demonstrate that they are competent, it isn't enough to just avoid displaying incompetency. Some people will assume you are proficient in your skill-set because of your leadership position, but most will have to see demonstrations before deciding that you truly are competent.

Inspiration

Soldiers want to be inspired. Being inspiring is usually just a matter of communicating clearly and with passion. As a leader you must display a positive attitude daily towards your Soldiers, the mission and operations to sustain the highest morale.

Intelligence

Intelligence means intimate understanding, in life it can be very challenging to develop. The road toward becoming more intellectual is intricate, long and requires vested time. Developing aptitude is a lifestyle preference. Your high school and undergraduate studies were only the beginning; in fact, much of what is taught in school is a fundamental plateau for lifelong educational experiences. To develop understanding you need to commit to continual learning—both formally and informally. With modern advances in distance learning, education is much easier to accomplish; it will take some discipline on your part but there is no reason today our Soldiers should be anything less than intellectually successful.

Lastly, leaders do not command excellence, they build excellence. Excellence is “being all you can be” within the boundaries of doing what is right for your organization. To achieve excellence you must first be a leader of good character; you must carry out everything you are supposed to accomplish; you must care!

Thanks for all you do,

CSM



Chaplain (MAJ) James Freitag, 301st MEB

Going Beyond "Checking the Block"

I spent the first 15 years of my public church ministry in working in the specialized area of youth and education. One of my responsibilities was to train Sunday school teachers to teach children.

I often asked my teachers, "What is your goal—to teach a lesson or to teach children?" There is a clear difference. If your goal is to "teach a lesson," then you concentrate on "getting through the lesson." You accomplish your goal when the lesson is over.

If your goal is to "teach children," then you concentrate on "life change" in your students. You accomplish your goal when the children are changed and grow in their knowledge and demonstration of their faith.

Which is easier? Obviously, it is easier to "teach material" than to foster "life change." Unfortunately, even with all the best intention, it is possible for a teacher to slip into the mindset that they have accomplished his/her mission when they simply "get through the lesson."

"Life change" is the true goal of religious education. It is the better way to go. It is what we truly want to see happen in the lives of young people. It takes extra effort, however, to make it happen.

There is a parallel here that can be applied to your reserve unit. What is your personal goal at Battle Assembly (BA) each month? Is your goal to "get through Drill" or is your goal to make a difference in the lives of the soldiers that surround you and in your unit mission? The first is centered on "checking the block"—getting through all the BA activities listed on the BA schedule. The later seeks to make a "true difference" in soldiers and in the mission of the unit you serve.

I believe it is too easy for us to slip into the mindset that our goal of each BA is simply to get through the schedule. By doing so, we know that we accomplish all the requirements that are placed upon us by our unit and our higher command. We think we have done something significant and we are even tempted in taking pride in that all requirements are complete. We even get paid for it.

But are we a better unit? Are we more equipped as soldiers and as a unit to accomplish our mission? Or, have we simply "checked the block?"

This is a challenge for all of us. For those in leadership, it means seriously taking the responsibility of "equipping" soldiers. It means taking the extra effort needed to see that our soldier are changed (Be), gain knowledge (Know), and are more proficient in their mission (Do).

For junior soldiers, it means being open to grow, to change, to become proficient in skills and knowledge and ability. It can also mean "stepping up to the plate" and demonstrating your leadership and encouraging those above you and below you by your performance.

What will you settle for? "Checking the block" or "making a difference" as a soldier and a member of your unit? I do believe the choice is always yours . . .



Army Chaplain Corps.

416th TEC IG NOTE TO LEADERS

WHO I AM

I am MAJ Stacey Cetin, the new 416th TEC Command IG, and I am honored to be here. I am an Aviator by trade, having served in aviation, both Air National Guard (ARNG) and United States Army Reserve (USAR) for the past 27 years. I spent my last two years as the Battalion Executive Officer for 5-159th General Support Aviation Battalion.

WHAT I DO AND HOW I WILL DO IT

I have one boss – MG Crandall. My task is to serve as the CG's eyes, ears and conscience across the 416th TEC for all matters pertaining to command and leadership. The purpose for this task is to improve the command's readiness and war fighting capability.

We have four functions as outlined in AR 20-1: **Inspect**, **Assist** and **Investigate**; with the **Teach/ Train** function permeating throughout all we do. We best serve the CG when we inspect (hence the term *Inspector General*) and teach/train since these functions are proactive in nature. Assistance and investigations are important IG functions; however they are normally reactive in nature and can typically be linked to a point of failure.

Inspect: We have two roles in regard to inspections: (1) serve as the Command's proponent for inspections and (2) conduct special inspections for the CG as required. IG inspections are conducted in order to determine trends and identify systemic issues - *not drop dimes*. We will focus on the process

for correction, not the violation. We will be heavily involved with the Army Inspection Program (AIP); which includes Initial Command Inspections (ICIs) and Subsequent Command Inspections (SCIs). Inspections may be somewhat hasty at first until I can insert myself into the deliberate planning cycle.

Assist: Helping soldiers resolve issues is an important aspect of what we do, especially when institutional barriers prevent them from being resolved. Our intent is to *work the system*, getting actions back to the proponent for processing when our involvement is no longer required. We are not an advocate and we do we serve as an alternative to the chain of command - *we call balls and strikes* according to standards outlined in policies, regulations and statutes. It is not our role to undermine commanders' discretion when it is not specifically restricted by an established standard. Additionally, the Reserve Support Command (RSC) IGs will be involved to serve the soldier thru the 416th IG. The RRC IG's are and extension in helping us resolve administrative actions, pay problems and promotions that are done at the RRC level.

Investigate: In general terms, IG's only investigate issues that are extremely sensitive in nature. IG products normally cannot be used for punitive action so command products, such as Commander's Inquiries or AR 15-6 investigations, are typically used for significant issues.

Talking to the IG can be a good thing - I am here to serve you and I want to be an enabler to your success, which means I must always demonstrate my relevance to the supported commander. If I fail to do so, I might find myself out of a job; left with nothing but a guidon while my soldiers are assigned elsewhere. I bring the same mentality to this job. Whether it be to seek resolution or serve as a sounding board, use me to address issues in a proactive posture in order to minimize the need for reactive responses.

Maj. Stacey Cetin

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Eagle Award

By Mark Diamond Hq. SDDC Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. --Two personnel were recognized as Eagle Award winners during a command and staff meeting here this week; John Gingrich of Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) Headquarters' G6 Communications directorate, was awarded the civilian Eagle Award, and Spc. Benjamin Spitler, from the 416th Theater Engineer Command's (TEC) G2 Intelligence directorate, who began a year-long-mobilization tour at SDDC in Sept. to gain more experience in the intelligence field, was recognized as the military Eagle Award winner.

Created by Maj. Gen. Kevin Leonard, SDDC commanding general, in April, the Eagle Award recognizes SDDC headquarters employees who "willingly take on change and challenge the status

quo." Every 30 to 45 days, the award is presented to one military member and one Department of the Army civilian employee. Normally, the military winner is selected by the commanding general, while the civilian award recipient is selected by Michael Williams, SDDC deputy to the commander.

As the military award winner, Spitler was recognized for incorporating the U.S. Army Values of respect, duty, loyalty, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage in everything he does. He was also cited for "embracing and rising to the challenge" of serving alongside senior noncommissioned officers, field grade officers, and Department of the Army civilians without wavering or becoming overwhelmed. According to his award write-up, Spitler also excelled by

faithfully executing his Honor Guard duties and for demonstrating a level of professionalism above his rank.

"Whether at Camp Hope, retirement ceremonies, or taking the lead in physical training formations, regardless of venue, the excellence Specialist Spitler has brought to each of these public forums is a testimony to his character and leadership potential," G2 officials noted in the award write-up. "He has developed the habit of being honorable and has made honor a matter of daily living." In addition to the coveted Eagle Award plaque, recipients of the award also received a copy of the book, "Once An Eagle," and a crystal eagle statuette; a traveling trophy of sorts each recipient displays in their work areas until the next winners are announced. ■



Spc. Benjamin Spitler from the 416th TEC G2 Intelligence directorate, was recognized as the military Eagle Award winner. The awards were presented by Maj. Gen. Kevin Leonard, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) commanding general (on the left). (Photo by Mark Diamond, Hq. SDDC Public Affairs)

744th Visits the Fallen on their Way to the Capitol

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez, 416th TEC PAO

WASHINGTON D.C. -- *“One year and one month ago today we visited Ground Zero of the World Trade Center with the intent of focusing our understanding on why we were deploying to Afghanistan. A photo taken that day with Cpl. Raphael Arruda out front, proudly holding the company guide-on, will always be in a place where I can see it and be reminded of the sacrifice he made so that I can enjoy a life of freedom. The other picture that*

will always be in a place where I can see it, is the picture taken today, of this company.”

Those were the words of Cpt. Scott Sparrow, commander of the 744th Engineer (EN) Company (CO) read by 1st Lt. Terrel N. Tovey, company executive officer (XO) on a rainy Wednesday afternoon on the steps of our Nation’s Capitol.

On Oct. 12 only a few days after returning from a tour in Afghanistan, soldiers from the



Members of the 744th Engineer Company stand with their Utah and Idaho Congress and House leaders: (l-r) Rep. Jim Matheson (UT), Sen. Mike Lee (UT), Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT), Rep. Rob Bishop (UT-01), Rep. Michael K. Simpson (ID), Rep. Raul Labrador (ID), Sen. Mike Crapo (ID) take a moment for a photo on the steps of the Capitol on a raining afternoon on Oct. 12. The 744th EN CO recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan and had an opportunity to tour the Capitol.



Soldiers from the 744th Engineer (EN) Company (CO) witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 12. The 744th EN CO recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan and was given the chance to honor past and present comrades as well as their own Fallen Soldier, Cpl. Raphael Arruda.

744th EN CO out of Ogden, Utah were treated to a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) trip to the National Capitol Region (NCR) where they had a chance to meet and greet their states' delegates, congressmen and the Chief of the Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz.

"The MWR trip gives these guys an idea about the government who just sent them overseas and to pay their respect at Arlington (National Cemetery)," said Tovey. "They got a good understanding of how the government that they're fighting for works."

The day started a bit late due to an unforeseen mechanical failure on one of the buses but was soon back on track as the soldiers arrived at Arlington National Cemetery in time for the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier.

The soldiers paid their respect during the emotional ceremonial event, keeping in mind their memories of their Fallen hero-Cpl.

Raphael Arruda, who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Arruda was killed in action (KIA) from an improvised explosive device (IED) attack on one of many route clearance missions the 744th completed during their tour in Afghanistan.

After viewing the Changing of the Guard, the soldiers continued the day's tour by heading over to the National Capital to meet with their state's congressmen. The 744th was welcomed by both Senators and Congressmen from Utah and Idaho. Also there to welcome the 744th home were commanders: Brig. Gen. Michael D. Devine, 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), and Maj. Gen. Glenn J. Lesniak, 88th Regional Support Command (RSC).

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DUTY CALLS;

980TH ENGINEER BATTALION RECEIVES A SPECIAL VISIT

Story and Photos by: Spc. Valerie Willhoite, UPAR, 980th Engineer Battalion

FT. Bliss, Texas— In November, soldiers from the 980TH Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN) received a special visit from Command Sgt. Maj. of the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC), Michael D. Schultz. The Lone Star BN was training at Fort Bliss, Texas in preparation for their deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. This will be the third time the 980TH EN BN has answered the call to duty, once in support of World War II (Belgium) and twice in the southwest Asia area, as an Army Reserve Command (AR) engineer battalion. Their most recent deployment was in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), supporting construction affects in the Taji area. This deployment will be in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in the Kandahar region (Southern Afghanistan).

This deployment started on November 1, as the soldiers of

the 980th began a journey from their home station in Austin, Texas. For nearly half of the BN, it will not be their first deployment. As for the other half, soldiers are anxious to serve and learn from the experience of others. This is

truly an honor few Americans experience, to serve the greatest country in the world on the frontlines. The Battalion departed Austin on November 4, headed for Fort Bliss. They had a short farewell ceremony, during which time one soldier said, "This ceremony is bittersweet, because the purpose was not to say good bye but instead, 'see you later.' It will be a long year, testing the strength of every soldier, mentally and physically. We will be fighting overseas, not just for ourselves but for our families, friends and loved ones back home; they are making the real sacrifices."



Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army Reserves, Michael Schultz, with 980th Engineer Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Fowler during their pre-mobilization process Nov. 9.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Schultz sits down for dinner with nine soldiers, chosen by their chain of command to represent the units of the 980th EN BN, to speak to the future leaders of the Army Reserves on a more personal level during their pre-mobilization process Nov. 9.



The 980th Engineer Battalion held a formation to welcome a very special guest, Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army Reserves, Michael Schultz, to Ft. Bliss during their pre- mobilization process here on 9 Nov.

While the 980th is at mobilization station in Ft. Bliss, they will reunite with its subordinate companies with whom they will be serving with during the deployment to the Kandahar region. For the deployment, the 980th is

composed of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), Forward Support Company (FSC), 721st Engineer Company (EN CO [H]), 668th Engineer Company (EN CO [V]) and 428TH Detachment (Detach.) Survey and Design.

During Schultz’s visit on Nov. 9, he thanked soldiers of the 980th for their service as well as shared some insight for their upcoming deployment. He spoke on various topics from his past deployments, a recent visit to Afghanistan, the upcoming changes in USARC and provided some words of confidence. He



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Schultz speaks to the soldiers of the 980th EN BN. He came to visit the soldiers and to thank them for their service as well as share some insight on their upcoming deployment during their pre-mobilization process here on 9 November.

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Yellow Ribbon Program helps keep Army Strong

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Peter A Ford, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

AUSTIN, Texas — Soldiers and family members of the 420th Engineer (EN) Brigade (BDE) assembled at Camp Mabry Oct. 15 and 16 for a Yellow Ribbon program to help them prepare for future deployments.

For decades, the yellow ribbon has been used as a symbol to show support for the men and women who serve the United States far from home.

The 416th Theater Engineer Command began to tie yellow ribbons for the 420th EN BDE soldiers and family members, as the soldiers prepare to deploy to Afghanistan this year. In recent years the spirit of the yellow ribbon has evolved from being just a ribbon tied around trees to show support for service members and their families into a program that helps keep the Army strong.

“The Yellow Ribbon program has evolved into three stages of support for soldiers and family members,” said Rosie Schmidt, a military and family member consultant in Austin. “The program helps prepare soldiers and family members for the challenges that they may face during pre-deployment phase of the program, support them during the deployment and helps to reintegrate them upon their return,” added Schmidt.

During the pre-deployment phase of the Yellow Ribbon program, soldiers and family members are provided with an array of support groups and agencies that are dedicated to supporting the soldiers and family members who are willing to endure hardship and sacrifices for this nation. The support of this program helps soldiers perform better during their tour of duty.

“This is the first deployment for my wife and it helps her to get a better understanding of how to handle different issues that may occur while I am gone,” said Sgt. Stephen Lira, a convoy operation specialist, in San Antonio, who is assigned to the 980th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN). “This gives me the ability to focus more on the mission because I know my wife has the support of the various programs provided to her from this Yellow Ribbon program,” Lira said.

The Yellow Ribbon program offers Child Youth Services and military family life counseling; it also inform soldiers and family members the benefits and services available to them from the stressors of the three phases of a deployment.

“This program gives me a better understanding of what goes on in the military lifestyle,” said Blanca Segovia, the wife of Spc. Jesus Segovia, of Austin, who is a water treatment specialist assigned to the 980th EN BN. “This is my first deployment and I am learning the different ways to

communicate with him and I am provided with different services to help deal with the stress with this deployment if needed,” Blanca said.

Much like its origins, the yellow ribbon is used to tie a bond between the local communities, the military and their family members. It is through this support system that U.S. Soldiers are able to remain Army Strong. ■

Rosie Schmidt, a military and family consultant of Austin, Texas, explains the three stages of deployment during the Yellow Ribbon Program here, Oct. 16. According to Schmidt, the Yellow Ribbon volunteers will be available for the soldiers and families before during and after deployment.



Spc. Jonathan Gilbert of Houston, who is a petroleum specialist of the 420th Engineer Brigade, takes notes as his mother Mary Bar-Gilbert answers questions about military finance during the Yellow Ribbon Program here, Oct. 16.



Sgt. Stephen Lira, a convoy operations specialist, assigned to the 980th Engineer Battalion, looks on as wife Heather Young-Lira discusses resources with Tammy DeBenedetto, the Family Program Manager for the 416th Theater Engineer Command, at a Yellow Ribbon event here on Oct. 16.

Happy New Year from Family Programs!

By Ms. Tamra De Benedetto, 416th TEC Family Programs Director

This truly is “The Time of New Beginnings!” I want to update you on a few new opportunities that might be of interest to you as well as offer a challenge!

Tutor.com is an organization that offers FREE tutoring 24/7 for soldiers and their dependents. Tutoring is offered for K – College! Logging on is easy and you actually work directly with a live tutor. This is great for soldiers going to school, as well as children, youth and spouses! In addition to core subjects, they also offering assistance for GED, second languages and reviewing writing assignments! Make no mistake, they will not do the work for you, but rather assist you through the process. At the end of the “tutoring session”, you have the opportunity to “grade” your tutor once you have completed that session. This ensures their accountability to us.

The Army Reserve Family Program (ARFP) Website has an option for you to register for and participate in tele-conferences that focus on sustainment during deployment as well as homecoming and reintegration. You can also go on-line and request a deployment kit be mailed directly to your home. To find out more about this and other opportunities, visit the ARFP website at www.arfp.org

If there are ever times when you need assistance the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) Outreach number is available to you 24/7 and is a toll free number. There is always a friendly voice on the other end of the phone that can connect you to local resources no matter where you live. The number for them is 866-345-8248. This is great number to have on the fridge, add to your cell phone and keep in a common place. They are not just available for “huge emergencies” only; they are also there to help with the basic day to day necessities as well.



I have taken time to share with you some resources that are available for you and people who are assisting us. I have a challenge for you this season. How can “I” help those around me? As we move into the New Year, think of giving of yourself by volunteering with an FRG (Family Readiness Group). These groups are growing and are a vital part of sustainment for our families while our soldiers are away. Encourage your family and friends to participate as well. You can simply involve yourself as a group member or you might be interested in taking on a leadership role. This is a wonderful way to support fellow soldiers and their families during these times. You never know, you have such an amazing opportunity to touch lives through an FRG and make a difference!

Won’t you consider making a new year’s resolution to participate in an FRG?

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please feel free to contact your local Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA). You may also contact the Family Programs (FP) Staff at the 416th TEC as we are always here to support and assist you.

Wishing each of you a prosperous New Year!

Ms. De Benedetto



Soldiers Brave Icy Conditions During DAGR Training

(Photo by Maj. Kenneth Bryant)

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Christina Steiner, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT MCCOY, Wis. - Twenty-four soldiers from across the country, to include some from the 420th Engineer Brigade, headquartered in Bryan, Texas, participated in three-day Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver – or DAGR – training at Fort McCoy, Wis., in early November.

The training included a roughly two-hour scavenger-hunt exercise in freezing and snowing conditions on the last day, Nov. 10.

The DAGR has largely replaced the former Precision Lightweight GPS Receiver, or PLGR, since being initially fielded in November 2004. DAGR advantages include: weighing less than a pound, longer

battery life, increased accuracy, tamper resistant, and an internal compass.

The Fort McCoy course used the “train the trainer” concept. Soldiers who attended training are expected to teach their unit members how to operate DAGRs. Training included: powering on, setting waypoints, routes, navigating, troubleshooting and reprogramming.

Army contractors Jorge Marengo-Aquino and Jarrodet Payne taught the DAGR course. Both are former uniformed soldiers and have been teaching DAGR for six and seven years, respectively. Their job takes them all over the world to support the active-

component, Reserve and National Guard Army.

Less than half the class had no experience with DAGRs. Some had previously used PLGRs. The students were a mix of Army Reserve and Active Guard-Reserve Soldiers, enlisted and officers across diverse career backgrounds, including signal, military police, quartermaster, medical, and engineer.

In September the Army fielded 250,000 DAGRs and the final goal is to bring 460,000 DAGRs in the next few years. DAGRs have proven effective in Iraq and Afghanistan and will be used beyond the year 2020. ■



Soldiers from around the country receive training on the Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receivers (DAGR) at Fort McCoy, Wis., Nov. 10. Twenty-four Army Reserve Soldiers from a variety of careers attended.



Maj. Kenneth Bryant (left), commander, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD), Bryan, Texas; and Staff Sgt. Mark Jandl (center), 903rd Preventive Medicine Detachment (Sanitation), Beloit, Wisc.; navigate during Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver (DAGR) training at Fort McCoy, Wis., Nov. 10.

Jorge Aquino, Defense Advanced Global Positioning System Receiver (DAGR) instructor, reviews equipment features with soldier students at Fort McCoy, Wis., Nov. 10.



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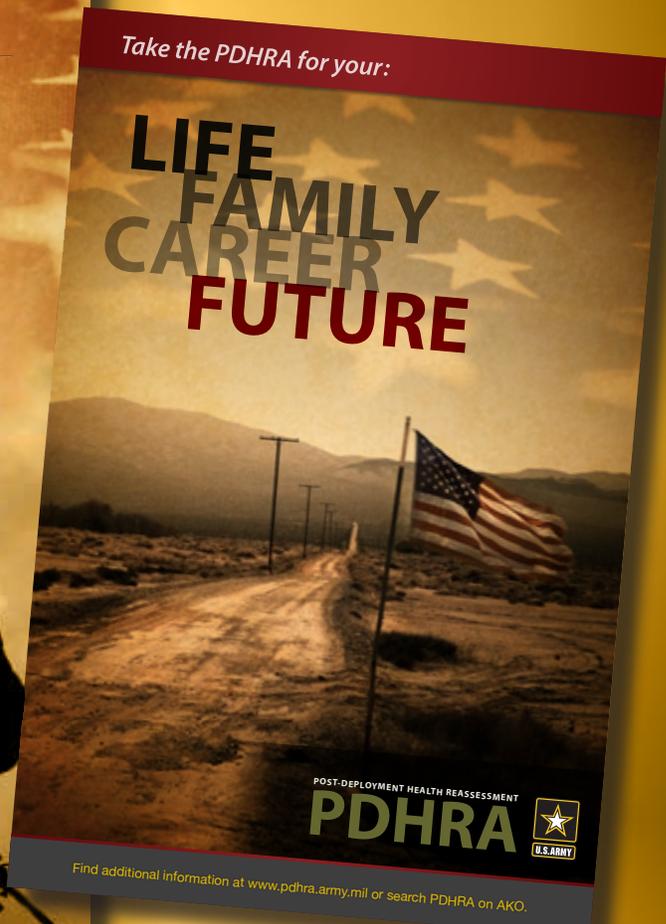
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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Do you enjoy taking photos, writing articles? If so, we're looking for you! Be a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR) for your unit and help us get your unit's story out.

What's a UPAR? An UPAR is an additional duty taken on by someone who enjoys capturing photos and writing stories/articles. A UPAR helps to expand their unit's visibility throughout their communities and within the Army Reserve community. The job of each UPAR is to represent their command/unit in public affairs, whether it be taking photos at every command event or managing their unit's websites and social media networks. As a UPAR, you would have to be familiar with your unit, be dependable, organized and communicate well.

If this sounds like something you'll be interested in taking on, please contact SFC Hernandez at Marisol.hernandezaguilar@usar.army.mil or 800.315.6327 Ext. 122 for more information.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

FREE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR COLLEGE

The screenshot shows the homepage of managingcollegecost.com. The header includes a logo and navigation links: About, Videos, Resources, Blog, Events, Contact. A red button prompts users to 'SIGN UP FOR A FREE ACCOUNT'. The main content area features a large video of a man in a suit, with 'Featured Updates' on the right side listing 'Economics Classroom Live Classroom Seminar' and 'Website Welcome Video'. A search bar and 'View our top videos' button are also visible. The footer contains a 'WELCOME TO MANAGINGCOLLEGE.COST.COM' section and a 'COUNSELOR'S CORNER' section for high school counselors and college admissions professionals.

For your college bound students, start early in their high school years to help them concentrate, not only on what colleges they will attend, but how to help you pay for it. While you may have the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill to pass along to one of your children, you will need to manage the cost for the others, and a great FREE resource (that is not a military affiliate) is managingcollegecost.com. Check it out and start moving towards handy solutions for today's rising college costs.

- With so many websites out in cyberspace to choose from, every quarter we will help our Soldiers by selecting a Editor's Choice that will serve as a useful resource for our military community.

Firefighters Shift into Gear

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Samantha M. Simmons, 50th Military History Detachment



Soldiers practice safely extinguishing aircraft wheel brake fires. Thirty firefighters within various detachments under the 416th Engineer Command attended training at the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute.

College Station, Texas – Three Army firefighters with the 463rd Engineer (EN) Detachment (Det.) get cut off by a vehicle Sunday and utter ‘what an idiot’ under their breathe just moments before it collides into another vehicle, ricocheting the victims’ truck into oncoming traffic.

“We froze for a split second, looked at each other, and then jumped out of the car at the same time,” said Pfc. Jose Angel, a Corpus Cristi, Texas, native and firefighter with 449th EN. Det.

Instantly, Spc. Juan Colon raced to the scene to stop oncoming traffic and began directing it around the wreckage, while Spc. Pete Perez checked on the passengers and inspected the fluids spilling from the vehicles. Angel aided Perez in identifying potentially hazardous material until he noticed the victim stumbling from his vehicle and collapsing.

U.S. Army firefighter, Celso Perez with the 593rd Engineer Detachment, 372nd Engineer Brigade, puts his skills from the classroom to the test Sept. 23 during a truck relay pumping exercise. Perez was tasked to hook the rear mobile water supply truck up to a constant water source after hooking the front fire truck up to suppress fire. Twenty-seven soldiers within various detachments under the 416th Engineer Command attended this specialized training at the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute.

“It was all happening so fast,” Angel said.

Angel tended to the 19-year-old asthmatic who was having difficulty breathing. He calmed the victim and stabilized his neck. The patient wasn’t responding to the soldiers and started to pass out, muttering something in Spanish. The soldiers then started speaking to him in Spanish, and he began responding. They were able to keep him talking until the paramedics arrived.

Due to the soldiers’ hasty decision-making, the emergency response team had little left to do. The victims were already stabilized, so they took over traffic control and wrote up their reports.

“You never know how you’re going to react, but when it came time...it was just instinct,” said Angel.

These soldiers graduated from the Emergency Service Training Institute within the Texas Engineering Extension Services (TEEX) Thursday, along with 27 other soldiers.

They are all trained firefighters who attended the school to obtain certifications in three major areas: Driver/Operator Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Driver/Operator skills in the pumper truck, and Driver/Operator in the mobile water supply truck.



U.S. Army firefighters undergo an exercise during training at the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute. Twenty-seven soldiers within various detachments under the 416th Engineer Command graduated from the school Sep. 29.



The national certifications comprise technical classroom work, written exams, field training with their equipment, and hands-on skill tests.

“They get a lot of confidence when they do the hands-on portion,” said Frank Diaz, the Department of Defense (DoD) training manager for TEEEX and retired Air Force firefighter. “You can see their faces brighten up when they get to actually apply all that theory from the classroom.”

Algebra, physics and theory perforated the classroom, challenging the firefighters. Most of the firefighters are new soldiers, and many were unaware that this type of math and critical thinking goes into spraying water on their target or “determining the accurate calculation method of adequate fire stream,” said Spc. Joshua Kirsch, a firefighter who has already been taking on the role as the driver/operator of his truck in 736th EN. Det., 372nd Engineer (EN) Brigade (BDE) and native of Granite City, Ill.

“I didn’t really need to use calculations as a firefighter but do as the driver/operator,” said Kirsch.

Firefighters are skilled in a lot more than running into fires and saving lives. As the water is pumping through the trucks, the driver/operator needs to account for how much pressure their hose can hold in order to reach their target.

“With a little bit of math, you can determine the amount of pressure you need to shoot your target,” said Pvt. Tyler Garland, a native of Russell, Kan., and a

firefighter in the 355th EN. Det., 244th EN Battalion (BN), 420th EN. BDE.

The Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) course familiarizes the soldiers with the basics of safely navigating within airports, identifying different aircrafts, marking an accident on the airfield, and approaching an aircraft to perform rescue missions, said Garland.

As the soldiers make their way out of the classroom to the controlled burn site, the field exercise contains a 72-foot simulated C-130 aircraft the instructors set ablaze. The firefighter teams perform fire suppression and rescue drills both inside and out of the prop. The fuselage prop displays bi-level wings, a tail section, a cockpit, first-class and coach seating areas.

“We’ve been drilling ARFF at our unit, but this was a realistic refresher course,” said Kirsch.

The driver/operator pumper and mobile water supply courses go hand in hand. Training consists of learning truck operations like actually driving the vehicles both on and off-road, running the pumps to suppress fire, hooking up to a hydrant or a constant water supply, and maintaining adequate water pressure to the attack stream or fire stream, Kirsch said.

“Some of these guys have never touched these trucks before,” said Diaz. “Many of them just graduated technical school at the academy and they’re being asked to move along pretty quick.”

Although most of them are just now being introduced to this information, they are expected to pass their tests and complete the course at an accelerated pace.



Soldiers practice safely extinguishing aircraft wheel break fires. Thirty firefighters within various detachments under the 416th Engineer Command attended training at the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute.

“They’re doing things that would normally take two or three times as long to do in your civilian career field,” said Diaz.

Approximately 90 percent of the instructors at TEEEX are retired servicemembers, and many are still active Guard or Reserve. They know what it’s like to go through information quickly and can simplify the large scale of information to teach soldiers proficiently.

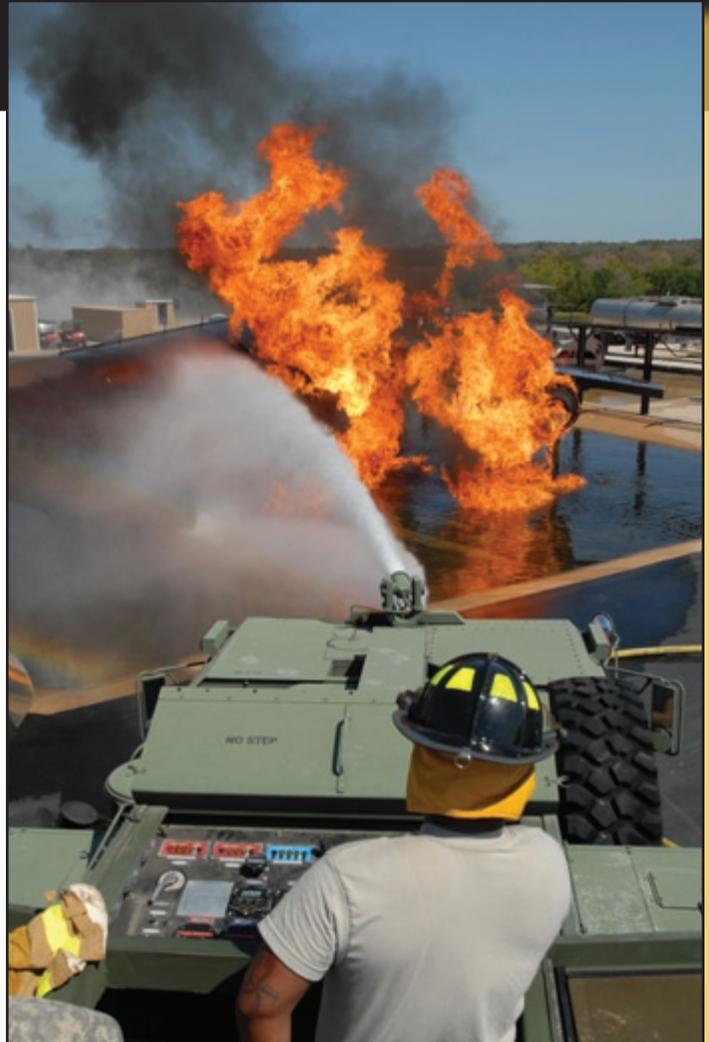
“My instructors know the issues of fighting fire with those big fire trucks in Afghanistan when you have no help from local personnel,” said Diaz.

Soldiers get first/hand experience on what it’s like to fight fire in uniform to better prepare them for potential deployments.

“One of the instructors was a prior Marine and then retired in the Air Force...he knew what we had to deal with and had an overall knowledge of everything,” said Kirsch, who is preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan scheduled for next Spring in which he will be the only fire protection unit on a forward operating base.

On a deployment, one of the main focuses of a firefighter is the landing strip on an airfield. The combination of knowing exactly how to operate the trucks, what the massive Army trucks are capable of, and the realistic training and knowledge gained in the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting course is very beneficial training for soldiers.

“I’m stoked because I’ve been volunteering since I joined,” said Kirsch.



U.S. Army firefighters with various detachments in the 416th Engineer Command, suppress fire from their fire trucks at a C-130 prop Sep. 26 during an exercise at the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute. The soldiers were given an opportunity to perform “pump and rolls” operations as well, in which they approached the aircraft while spraying the fire.

In the future, Diaz hopes the Soldiers will come back to delve into Disaster City and attain the additional skills needed to respond to emergency scenarios within the confines of a city, which requires the use of numerous specialized tools provided on site and discovering makeshift methods to use in the absence of tools. ■

U.S. Army firefighters undergo an exercise during training at the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute. Twenty-seven soldiers within various detachments under the 416th Engineer Command graduated from the school Sep. 29.



Civil Support: Your Unit and Defense Support to Civil Authorities

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



The last time I wrote to you about Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), we covered Immediate Response Authority (IRA). "Immediate Response Authority is authorized... in response to a request for assistance from a civil authority, under imminently serious conditions, and if time does not permit approval from higher authority... Department of Defense [DOD] officials may provide an immediate response by temporarily employing the resources under their control... to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage within the United States..." Civil Support operations is very limited under this authority, but other authorities exist that determine how the Army Reserves can conduct DSCA. Some of these authorities include Title 31, The Economy Act; Title 42, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act); and Title 18, the Posse Comitatus Act.

The Economy Act permits federal agencies to provide resources and services to other federal agencies on a reimbursable basis. The Economy Act is also the basis for the general rule that

DOD work will not compete with commercial businesses. The Economy Act is used as the legal authority to provide support between federal agencies for routine and emergency incidents, and the act does not require a Presidential declaration. Funding, always a critical component, provides reimbursement to the Department of Defense (DOD) for the TOTAL cost of support, including pay and allowances, to military forces in a Title 10 status that have provided support to other federal agencies such as the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, or Department of Homeland Security.

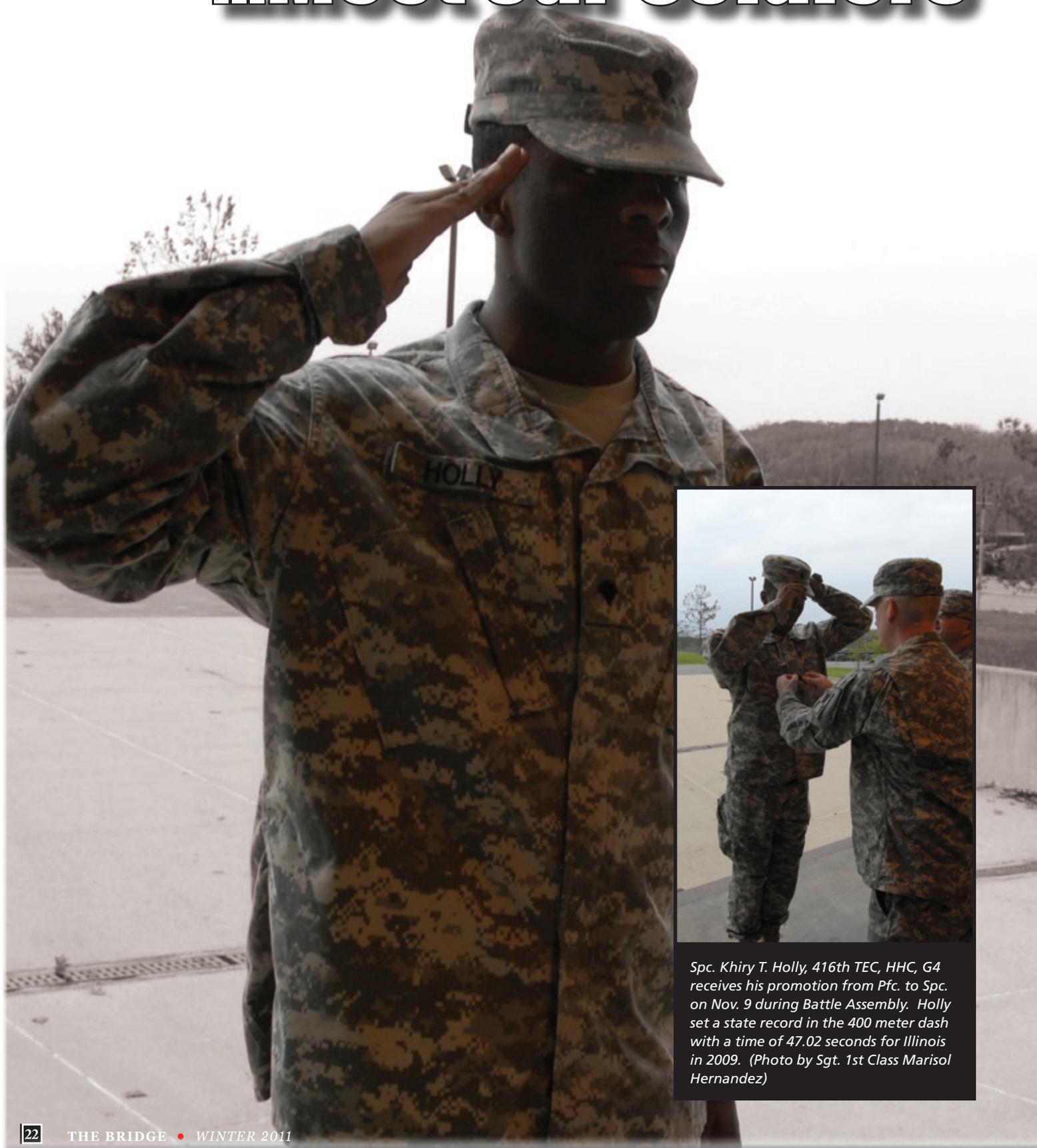
The Stafford Act authorizes the President to issue major disaster or emergency declarations in response to catastrophes that overwhelm state and local governments. This Act is what we usually hear about through news media when a Presidential Disaster Declaration has taken place. The Stafford Act provides the authority for federal funding when approved by the President at the request of a state governor. Funding reimburses only incremental costs to military forces in a Title 10 status that have provided support at the

federal, state, or local level. The Stafford Act may also be used with a "pre-declaration essential DOD support" provision, whereby a state governor may request essential DOD support from the President for up to ten days.

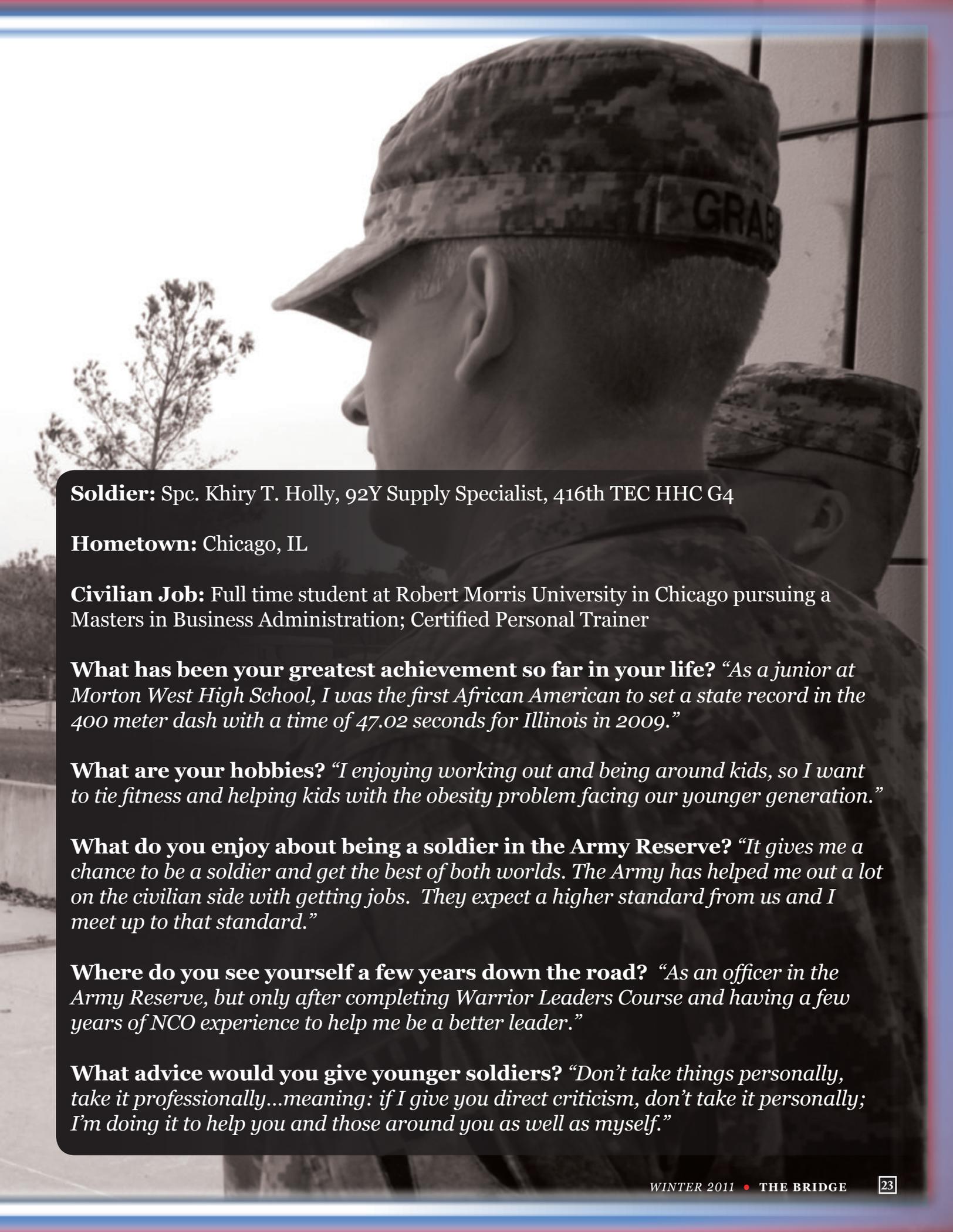
The Posse Comitatus Act is a major restriction on the use of the U.S. Army in Civil Support. The Posse Comitatus Act (PCA) prohibits federal, state, and local authorities from using Title 10 forces for direct civil law enforcement activities unless a Constitutional or Act of Congress exception applies. PCA, however, does not prohibit federal forces from assisting state and local organizations with humanitarian disaster relief. Because PCA is often misunderstood, it is important that commanders of organizations in a Title 10 role, operating in a DSCA environment, be familiar with the act and be able to explain it to civil authorities.

For additional information on how these laws can affect your unit if you are deployed in a Civil Support role, a useful reference is GTA 90-01-020: The DSCA Handbook for a Tactical Level Commander, and Staff Toolkit. ■

WHO ARE WE? ...Meet our Soldiers



Spc. Khiry T. Holly, 416th TEC, HHC, G4 receives his promotion from Pfc. to Spc. on Nov. 9 during Battle Assembly. Holly set a state record in the 400 meter dash with a time of 47.02 seconds for Illinois in 2009. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Soldier: Spc. Khiry T. Holly, 92Y Supply Specialist, 416th TEC HHC G4

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Civilian Job: Full time student at Robert Morris University in Chicago pursuing a Masters in Business Administration; Certified Personal Trainer

What has been your greatest achievement so far in your life? *“As a junior at Morton West High School, I was the first African American to set a state record in the 400 meter dash with a time of 47.02 seconds for Illinois in 2009.”*

What are your hobbies? *“I enjoying working out and being around kids, so I want to tie fitness and helping kids with the obesity problem facing our younger generation.”*

What do you enjoy about being a soldier in the Army Reserve? *“It gives me a chance to be a soldier and get the best of both worlds. The Army has helped me out a lot on the civilian side with getting jobs. They expect a higher standard from us and I meet up to that standard.”*

Where do you see yourself a few years down the road? *“As an officer in the Army Reserve, but only after completing Warrior Leaders Course and having a few years of NCO experience to help me be a better leader.”*

What advice would you give younger soldiers? *“Don’t take things personally, take it professionally...meaning: if I give you direct criticism, don’t take it personally; I’m doing it to help you and those around you as well as myself.”*

Have Dish, Will Travel

Story and Photos by CW2 Joseph R. Hayes, Network Management Technician, 558th Signal Company

There is an old saying, "No battle plan survives contact with the enemy." Soldiers of the 558th Signal Company learned this lesson the hard way during Annual Training (AT) at Ft. McCoy, Wis. this summer.

Many in the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) would be surprised to learn there's a Signal Company within its ranks. The 558th Signal Company (CO), from Maineville, Ohio, is the organic Signal unit of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) at Ft. Lewis, Wash. This unit of about 60 soldiers is one of only three signal companies in the entire Army Reserve that follow the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) model.

The primary mission of the 558th Signal CO is to provide secure and non-secure voice and data services to the brigade and its subordinate battalions.

The company does this using Warfighter Information Network - Tactical (WIN-T) satellite communications equipment. The brigade-level assets include a Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT), a vehicle-mounted communications shelter called a Joint Network Node (JNN), and the associated user cases containing network switches and routers. The battalion-level assets include an STT and a Command Post Node (CPN) of associated user cases. The signal company used these satellite systems to back-haul communications services from the regional hub at Ft. Gordon, Ga. to provide connectivity to the Army's Global Information Grid (GIG).

Because of the small footprint, maneuverability, and capability to provide services anywhere, the company was tasked with a very unique mission during War Exercise (WAREX) 2011 at Ft. McCoy. The brainchild of Lt. Col. Barry Birdwell of the Medical Readiness and Training Command (MRTC), the 558th Signal

Company was to use its CPNs to provide services to the 1st and 933rd Forward Surgical Teams (FST). These small units forward-deploy to treat and stabilize casualties during the "golden hour," when immediate care can make the critical difference in a soldier's survival. The mission of the 558th was to provide connectivity for the Medical Communications for Combat Care (MC4) computers, which allow medical units to gain quick, accurate access to patient histories and forward casualty resuscitation information. The system also provides units with automated tools facilitating patient tracking, medical reporting, and medical logistical support. Commanders use the MC4 system to access medical surveillance information, resulting in enhanced medical situational awareness.

Since the 558th was considered an enabler unit and not part of the training audience, it was briefed into the FST



Communications equipment of the 558th Signal Company embedded with the 345th Combat Surgical Hospital at COL Liberty, Ft McCoy, Wis.



Spc. Michael Andre, Satellite Communications Systems Operator-Maintainer (MOS 255) with the 558th Signal Company, works to restore an outage with a Satellite Transportable Terminal.

training plan so the Network Operations (NETOPS) team could create a network design and pre-stage the equipment. Initially, the company deployed its JNN to Contingency Operating Location (COL) Liberty to support the 933rd FST and a CPN to COL Freedom to support the 1st FST. A second CPN was brought as a spare, although we didn't have the personnel to support it. We expected a weeklong internal communications exercise (COMEX) to test our equipment and the MC4 laptops. However, it was quickly apparent the WAREX training divisions were not going to follow the plan as originally briefed to us.

Almost as soon as we arrived, both FSTs were given Fragmentary Orders (FRAGO) to jump to Forward Operating Base (FOB) EPW2 at the southernmost end of Ft. McCoy. Not expecting to support a third location, let alone two co-located FSTs, we reacted quickly. A site survey revealed we could not support both FSTs with one CPN. After shuffling our personnel and equipment, we moved both CPNs to FOB EPW2, leaving NETOPS and the JNN at COL Liberty, embedded with the 345th Combat Support Hospital (CSH).

Once we were back in operation with skeleton crews, we coordinated with MRTC to be briefed into the updated training plan. Expecting to be at the FOB for three days, we were caught off guard once again when the training divisions

issued FRAGOs for the FSTs to re-deploy back to the COL Liberty and Freedom after only 24 hours.

At this point, we threw away the training plan and the company leadership, made the decision to embed each CPN within an FST, rather than try to support a specific site. This way, no matter where they went, the same soldiers and equipment would support the FST for the entire exercise. In hindsight, this turned out to be the perfect plan. Over the course of the three-week exercise, our two CPNs moved a total of thirteen times. This was the first time in the history of these exercises that a FST had its own embedded and mobile signal capability in the field. Living and working with the

FSTs, these Signal soldiers quickly became part of the team, from acting as patients to loading mock casualties in Chinook helicopters.

The mission of the 558th, to provide best in class services, is the same whether it has two users or two hundred users. Since this was the first time the unit supported external customers, the operation was well suited for the "walk" phase of our training. In addition, this unique opportunity gave the company the challenge of being on the move, operating at the halt, and working in austere locations. Commenting on the 558th, Lt. Col. Birdwell said, "The 558th Signal Company's first-class communications enabled first-class medical care!"

The knowledge and experience gained from this exercise was well received by the soldiers and helped prepare the 558th Signal CO for its wartime mission. ■

Communications equipment of the 558th Signal Company embedded with the 933rd Forward Surgical Team at Forward Operating Base (FOB) EPW2, Ft McCoy, Wis.



Learning to Speak Again

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Samantha M. Simmons, 50th Military History Detachment

College Station, Texas – “Since 9/11, it’s been my dream to become a firefighter in the Army,” said Spc. Juan Colon, a native of Fajardo, Puerto Rico and an Army firefighter with 463rd Engineer (EN) Detachment (Det.), 244th Engineer Battalion (BN).

Colon said he was in middle school when the tragic news spread to his hometown. After his friend raced out of their classroom crying because his father worked in those twin towers, Colon sensed the Army was in his future.

When Colon made his way to a recruiting station, he knew it would be a long road ahead as he spoke very little English but walked in proud thinking, “I’m building my future.”

His first challenge was to take the Armed Services Vocational

Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test in English. Although he finally passed the dreaded ASVAB, he had failed the additional English portion given to recruits who join the U.S. military from non-English speaking countries. He was then sent to the Defense Language Institute (DLI) to become proficient in the English language.

The structure of the school was set up very similar to basic training with drill sergeants, long days, physical training, drill and ceremony, limited phone usage, no days off, and lots of “smokes” to ensure the students stay focused and strong, both physically and mentally, said Colon. By “smokes” he did not mean cigarettes, rather intense physical activity (that makes you sweat fast and hard—and in

the right climate mixture you can see steam rising from the trainees clothing, hence “smokes”).

“The very first day, the drill sergeant starts ‘jellin’ at me, and I just drop and start pushing. [The drill sergeant] laughed and said ‘get up, I don’t tell you to push’ but I didn’t understand him,” said Colon, who still struggles with the pronunciation of ‘y’ at the beginning of a word.

The school was very difficult for Colon because he could not point to things he wanted or speak any Spanish, not even during personal time. If caught doing so, the punishment was extra duty or restrictions.

“I ate chicken and rice for four months straight because that’s all I knew how to say,” Colon chuckles, cringing at the thought of chicken and rice again.

After seven months, he passed the course and found the real challenge was when he got to the firefighter academy. He was still struggling with the language barrier, but now he was expected to learn firefighter skills at an accelerated pace. He breezed through the physical expectations yet struggled in the classroom.

“For me it was all new, I mean circulatory system, blood pressure...what is that?” he laughed.

He tried to remember something his drill sergeant said to him, “You need to always learn,

always try to find the way.” And he did.

Colon has now been in the military for two and a half years, and his military experience helped him attain a position with the Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer

Fire Department in the San Antonio area.

Within both organizations, he had to earn the respect of his comrades and peers because most of them could not understand his thick Puerto Rican accent. Once his battle buddies and co-workers saw him in action, they no longer doubted his abilities, said Colon. With the help of his military and volunteer work, Colon hopes to someday find a civilian job as a full-time firefighter.

“This is what I want, this is who I am. I’m a U.S. Army firefighter and I’m so proud,” said Colon. ■

“This is what I want, this is who I am. I’m a U.S. Army firefighter and I’m so proud”

College Station, Texas – U.S. Army firefighter with the 463rd Engineer Detachment, Spc. Juan Colon, attended the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute for several weeks last September and graduated alongside 26 of his comrades. Learning English has helped the Fajardo, Puerto Rico native accomplish his lifelong dreams of becoming an American firefighter.

A Night to Remember

The 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), held a Dining-In Ceremony on Dec. 3 in Dubuque, Iowa with Col. Robert E. Chevas, Commander of the 372nd Engineer Brigade as the guest speaker. During the night, the Battalion presented their own with various awards to include the Brigade's Commanding General's Award, On-Time Award and an Army Achievement Medal. Here are a few snapshots of their special night. The dining in is a formal military ceremony for members of the unit, company, battalion, etc. to foster esprit de corps. (All photos by Sgt. Cliff Coy, 364th PAOC) ■

Staff Sgt. William Medina, of the 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), receives an Army Achievement Medal from Lt. Col. Matthew V. Baker, during the BN's Dining-In Ceremony.



Lt. Col. Matthew V. Baker, Commander of the 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), reminisces with his soldiers during his speech at the BN's Dining-In Ceremony.



Cpt. Brian R. Hampton, of the 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), plays the role of the President of the BN's Dining-In.



Spc. Jesse E. Masson III, of the 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), receives the On-Time Award from Sgt. 1st Class Erik D. Ammon.



Spc. Aisha A. Maas, of the 389th Engineer Battalion, sounds the Mess Bugle during the BN's Dining-In Ceremony.



Pvt. Ricky A. Burnett, of the 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), receives the Brigade Commanding General's Award from Sgt. 1st Class Erik D. Ammon, during the BN's Dining In Ceremony.



Lt. Col. Matthew V. Baker, Commander of the 389th Engineer (EN) Battalion (BN), presents a plaque to Col. Robert E. Chevas, Commander of the 372nd Engineer Brigade during the BN's Dining-In Ceremony.



Col. Robert E. Chevas, Commander of the 372nd Engineer Brigade, speaks and honors soldiers during the 389th Engineer Battalion's Dining-In Ceremony.



416th TEC HQ's Spc. Thomas O'Malley (on left) and Sgt. Jorge Batres, present the colors at the Argonne National Laboratory during their Veterans Recognition Day on Nov. 8 in Darien, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Spc. Jessica Hoepfner, 416th TEC G6, and Sgt. Justin Shouse, 416th TEC G1 present the colors at the Argonne National Laboratory during their Veterans Recognition Day on Nov. 8 in Darien, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Sgt. Justin Shouse, 416th TEC G1, exchanges a thank you with another veteran during the Argonne National Laboratory Veterans Recognition Day on Nov. 8 in Darien, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)

VETERAN'S DAY



Sgt. 1st Class Raphael L. Wilson, 416th TEC Chaplain Assistant, engages his audience into helping him with an Army cadence during the Veterans Day program held at Gombert Elementary in Naperville, Ill. on Nov. 9. Wilson was asked to be a guest speaker by his niece, Kayla Lewis. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Sgt. 1st Class Raphael L. Wilson, 416th TEC Chaplain Assistant, stands next to his niece, Kayla Lewis, and her class at Gombert Elementary School in Naperville, Ill. on Nov. 9. Wilson was a guest speaker for the school's Veterans Day Program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



(From Left to Right) Spc. Gerardo Rojas, Sgt. Bryan Theisen and Staff Sgt. Jason Wilson in front of Soldier Field right before the National Football League's (NFL) Veterans Day game. The Chicago Bears took on the Detroit Lions on Nov. 13. (Courtesy Photo)



Staff Sgt. Jason Wilson during the National Football League's (NFL) Veterans Day game on Nov. 13. The Chicago Bears took on the Detroit Lions at Soldier Field. Wilson along with Spc. Gerardo Rojas and Sgt. Bryan Theisen represented the 605th EN CO during the Veterans Day festivities throughout the game. (Courtesy Photo)

As Tovey read Sparrow's speech on that rainy afternoon, he reminded his troops of their accomplishments during their deployment that included 390 combat mission clearances, which equated to 22,000 kilometers of roadway and dismantling 55 IEDs.

"In 39 firefights, 115 soldiers earned the Combat Action Badge (CAB) and 5 medics received the Combat Medic Badge (CMB). Eleven soldiers were recommended for valorous awards and 29 Chaos Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart," Tovey read.

The afternoon concluded with a tour of the Capitol courtesy of the office of Utah's Senator Orrin Hatch. The detailed tour of Capitol included a visit to the Senate and House Galleries to listen to a live session being held. Cpl. Aaron Pratt, Sgt. Byron Lissy and Tovey

joined Stultz for a live congressional testimony on Capitol Hill, where Stultz praised their work and sacrifice to this country.

Although a day in Washington D.C. merely scratched the surface for what it has to offer, the soldiers received a small taste of how the government operates. Over 90 percent of the company had never visited D.C. before this trip, and many stated this gave them the aspiration to return with their families and loved ones for a future visit.

Tovey finished Sparrow's speech that day (Sparrow stayed in Afghanistan with rear detachment). *"Today, glorious should be your triumph. Today, for you, is the day you can receive the deserved love and thanks of 'man and woman' Thomas Paine spoke of. Welcome home Men. Welcome back from the breach."* ■



1st Lt. Terrel N. Tovey, executive officer for the 744th Engineer Company reads a note on the behalf of their commander (currently in Afghanistan) to the 744th EN CO who recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan on the steps of the Capitol Oct.12.



Senator (Utah), Orrin Hatch, takes a photo with the 744th Engineer Company and welcomed them back from recently returning from a tour in Afghanistan at the Capitol on Oct. 12.



Rob Bishop, House Representative, Utah, welcomes back soldiers from the 744th Engineer Company, who recently completed a tour in Afghanistan, on the steps of the Capitol on Oct. 12.

...continued from page 11

stressed how this deployment is an opportunity for each soldier to grow as leaders, learn their craft, and use their time for improving self-development. He emphasized the importance of completing our mission and coming home to loved ones. Schultz spoke of the improvements taking place in the Kandahar region along with the resources that would be available to the soldiers while deployed; MWR, education center, black top roads, hard shell buildings, a boardwalk and a state of the art gymnasium which provides a few comforts

to ensure soldiers can complete the mission with some ease.

Later that evening, Schultz had dinner with nine soldiers from the 980th EN BN. These soldiers were chosen by their chain of command and included three from each of the companies represented. This occasion gave the soldiers a rare

opportunity to meet with such a prominent figure in the Army Reserve. It also enabled Schultz a relaxed atmosphere to speak with our future leaders on a more personal basis, something these soldiers truly enjoyed.

The soldiers of the 980th are well prepared for this deployment and will continue



The Aid and Litter team practices casualty recovery during the base defense training of the pre-mobilization process on Nov. 14.



Staff Sgt. Chad Grieser is assigned as the gunner in this convoy simulator training during 980th EN BN's pre-mobilization process on Nov. 15.

their valuable training at Ft. Bliss. They have put their civilian careers and lives on hold, because, duty calls. They have left their families and loved ones at home, but they are not forgotten and never alone. They will be conquering this mission with the love of their families behind them and the safety of their comrades beside them...under true leaders like Command Sgt. Maj.

ESSAYONS. ■



Spc. Clark Flynn and Staff Sgt. Angelo Vacchiani provide buddy first aid to Cpl. Andrew Velasquez, while the rest of the soldiers provide 360 security during a convoy lane training exercise of the pre-mobilization process on Nov. 30.

Sgt. 1st Class Vincent O'Brien takes aim and opens fire on the enemy targets during the base defense training of the pre-mobilization process on Nov. 14.



Safety Managers Everywhere are Asking Us to "Take 5" this Holiday Season

By Maj. Bruce Ladman, 416th TEC Safety Officer

The Army's 2011 Fall/Winter Safety Campaign, designed to educate soldiers, civilians and family members on the importance of preparing for cold weather activities through awareness, education and information, is now in effect. This year's campaign, which runs through March 31, 2012, reminds us all to "Take 5" and make the right decisions for safety. Taking just a little time to think things through - five minutes, five seconds or even shorter - can make a tremendous difference in preventing accidental death and injury.

I urge all soldiers and family members to be aware of some key points this holiday season. It's going to be snowy and icy this winter. Remember to accelerate and decelerate slowly and apply your brakes slowly to maintain traction and avoid skidding. Even if you can drive well in the snow and ice, keep in mind that not everyone else can. Be aware of other drivers around you.

There will be lots of celebrations this season and we all want to have fun with friends and family. If you choose to drink alcohol, make sure you have a designated driver or another safe way of getting back



home. According to the NHTSA, the most recent traffic safety reports show there were almost 11,000 alcohol-related driving fatalities. Of those, 67 percent were impaired drivers, 16 percent were their passengers, and the rest were other drivers and pedestrians. Also, be aware that fatigue, stress and taking medicines can impair your and others driving ability.

This is also a good time of year to check your smoke detectors. Many of us are exposed to increased fire hazards due to holiday decorations, Christmas trees, fireplaces and heaters. Make sure you replace the batteries in your smoke detectors so you are prepared in case of a fire.

I wish everyone a safe and festive holiday season; however, I want all soldiers and family members to take a couple of minutes, think about your plans and how you can make safe choices and come back safe and sound after the holidays are over. For more information on staying safe and healthy, visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at <https://safety.army.mil/>.

Happy Holidays!

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Tutor.com for Military Families Fact Sheet

Overview : The Department of Defense MWR Library Program and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program provides online tutoring and homework help from Tutor.com at no charge to all military families, including all National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty families. This program allows K-12 and adult students to connect to a live tutor online at anytime for help with homework, studying, test prep, college coursework and more.

Around the Clock Help: Access to the program is free and unlimited 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All students worldwide can use the program, regardless of where they attend school. Eligible military members can get details and create an account at www.tutor.com/military.

All Subjects, All Grade Levels

Academic Help for K-12, College and Adult Learners

Math: Elementary, Mid-Level, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, AP* level

Science: Elementary, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, AP level

Social Studies: U.S. History, World History, AP level

English: Essay Writing, Grammar, Literature, AP level

College Help

Military members in college can get help with introductory courses in Math, Science, Social Studies and English. Tutors can help with college coursework, studying for exams, writing research papers and more.

Additional Subjects

Tutors can also help students with GED preparation and studying for the citizenship exam. Bilingual tutors help Spanish speakers in math, science and social studies.

Professional Tutors: Every Tutor.com tutor is a carefully screened expert. Our team of over 2,000 tutors includes certified teachers, college professors, graduate students, select undergraduates from accredited universities and other professionals. Tutor.com tutors are primarily based in the U.S. and Canada with some bilingual specialists located internationally.

Safe & Secure: Our commitment to safety starts with our rigorous application process, an extensive background check, and a probationary period before an applicant becomes a certified Tutor.com tutor. Students and tutors always work anonymously and no personal information is shared during sessions. Ongoing session review and mentoring ensure that our tutors maintain the highest standards of quality and safety at all times.

Eligibility : Authorized patrons include United States (U.S.) active duty military service members, U.S. military reservists and U.S. National Guard personnel, including Wounded Warriors and Survivors, DoD civilians in a deployed status, and their dependents.

For more information:

Kara Froman: 678.516.3667 or kfroman@tutor.com



Students go to www.tutor.com/military and click on their service to get a tutor.

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This program is funded by the Department of Defense MWR Library Program and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

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App Store

Students work one-to-one with a tutor in a secure, online classroom, which features an interactive whiteboard, file sharing and instant messaging.

awesome!

David C (Tutor)
Let's just check our answer by plugging those values back into the original equations

You
ok

David C (Tutor)
That equation checks out.
Can you try the other one?

You
ok, sure
yep, that one looks good too
thanks for your help!

Font Insert

You David C (Tutor)

$$-2x + 4y = -8$$
$$-2(2) + 4(-1) = -8$$
$$-4 + -4 = -8$$
$$\boxed{-8 = -8}$$

$$3x + y = 5$$
$$3(2) + -1 = 5$$
$$6 - 1 = 5$$
$$\boxed{5 = 5}$$

Item 3 of 3

AROUND THE ARMY



Sgt. David Thomas (L) and Pfc. Brian A. Stehlin, 416th TEC, HHC describe the M4 weapons system to a group of civilians during the Tri-State Open House annual event on Oct. 22 in Willowbrook, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Sgt. David Thomas, 416th TEC, HHC demonstrates to a group of children safe operation of a 50 caliber machine gun during the Tri-State Open House annual event on Oct. 22 in Willowbrook, Ill. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)



Staff Sgt. Gregory Hladik, Sgt. Steven Jacobs, Spc. Aislinn Brannen, and Spc. Barry Burt of the 398th Engineer Detachment cool down the exterior of a house as it burns to the ground during a training mission in Creston, Iowa on Sep. 11. (Photo courtesy of Kelli McElwee)

Soldiers from 245th Engineer (EN) Detachment (Det.), 294th EN Det., 398th EN Det., 414th EN Det., 487th EN Det., and the 516th EN Det. (Firefighters) receive a briefing on a firefighting training mission in Creston, Iowa on Sep. 11. (Photo courtesy of Kelli McElwee)





The 294th Engineer (EN) Detachment (Det.), 398th EN Det. and 414th EN Det. held a ceremony just before 9 a.m. on Sep. 11, 2011 in memory of their Fallen Brothers and Sisters Firefighters in Creston, Iowa. (Photo courtesy of Kelli McElwee)

Spc. Latasha Taylor, 416th TEC, G1, represents the Army Reserve during Pat Quinn's, Governor of Ill., Christmas Tree Lightening ceremony in the James R. Thompson Center downtown Chicago on Dec. 1. During the ceremony the Governor Quinn recognized all branches of service and honored Fallen Servicemembers from the state and their families who were present. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Marisol Hernandez)





Photo of the Quarter