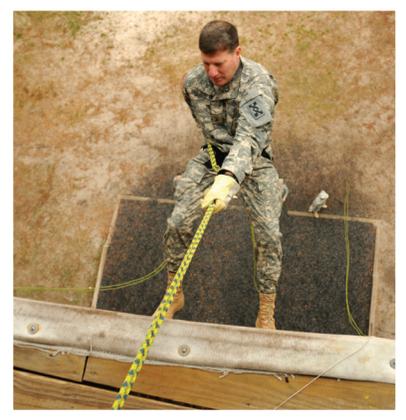
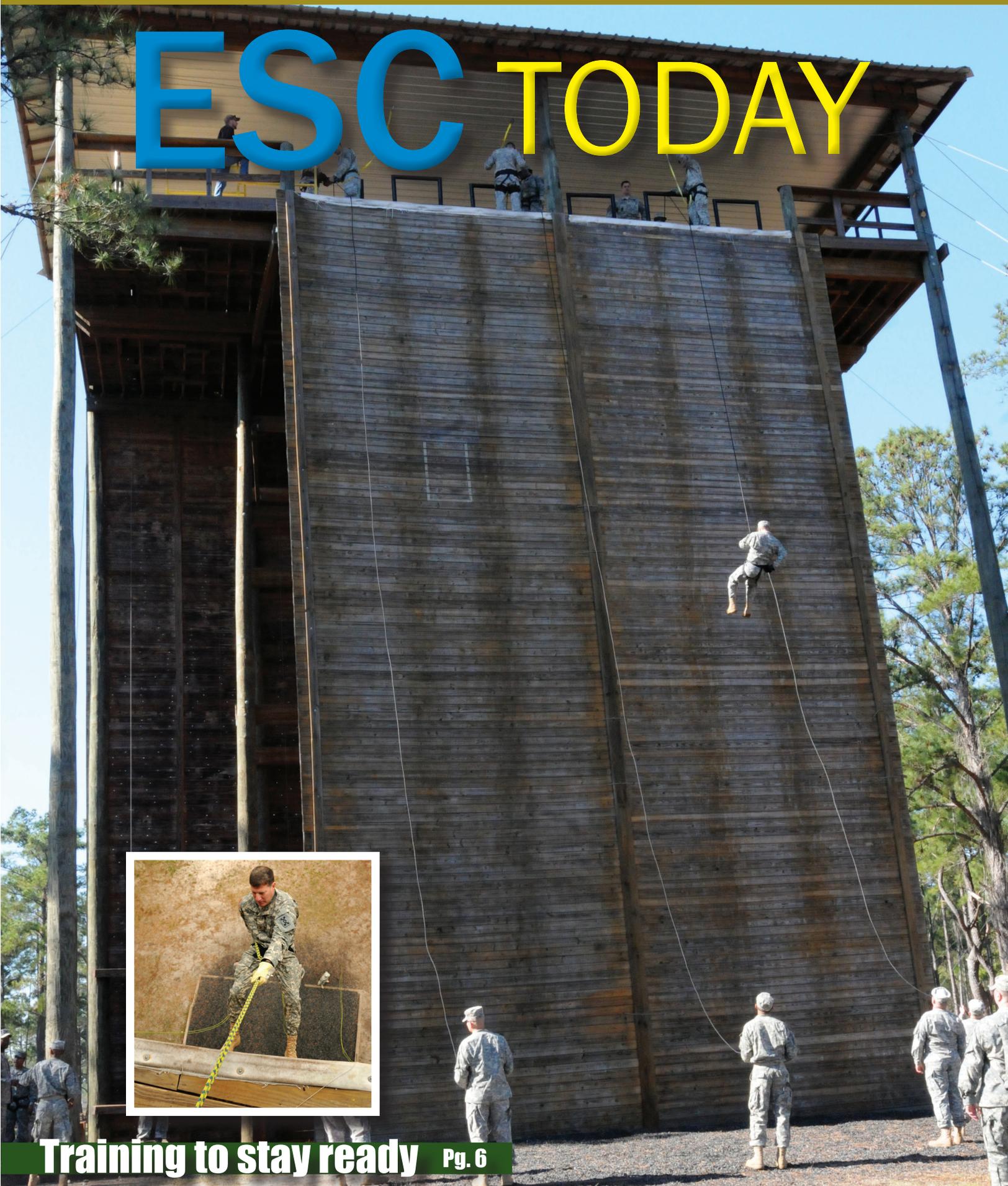


# ESC TODAY

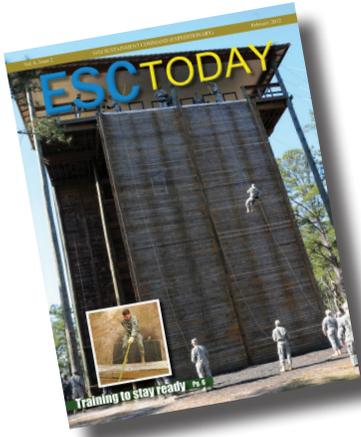


# February 2012

VOL. 6, ISSUE 2



ESC TODAY



## << On the Front Cover

A Soldier rappels down a 64-foot tower during a four-day battle assembly held by the 641st Regional Support Group from Jan. 5 to 8 at Camp Blanding, Fla. (INSET) Brig. Gen. Mark W. Palzer, commanding general, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) prepares to rappel the tower Jan. 7.

**6** Photos by Maj. John Adams and Sgt. Ellisebet Freeburg  
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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# The Command Post

Greetings to all Soldiers, civilians and families of the 143d ESC! We find ourselves at an inflection point after ten years of war, and I'd like to share some strategic guidance points released from the Department of Defense focused on 21st Century Global Defense. Before I begin it's important to point out that our Soldiers continue to deploy and redeploy in support of the nation and caution you not to become complacent during the current draw-down period.

The global security environment has grown more complex; at the same time as we end our military mission in Iraq, transition our mission in Afghanistan, continue to pursue al Qaeda and its leadership, and our nation faces serious deficit and debt problems. Across the DoD the orders are clear: maintain the world's finest military that supports and sustains U.S. global leadership. We are charged with ensuring America's success in complex, politically sensitive, and extremely unstable operating environments around the world. We will become a leaner force that does more with less, while we ensure we do not hollow out the force. A smaller, ready military is preferable to a larger force that is ill-prepared because resources are not made available for training, maintenance, and modernization relative to force structure. Ultimately, we will preserve the quality of the all-volunteer force and ensure our troops are treated fairly by aligning size and composi-

tion of forces to be capable of a range of missions and activities. We will be fully prepared to deter and defeat aggression. Even if we are committed to a large-scale operation in one theater, we will be able to deny an opportunistic adversary the ability to achieve its objectives in another theater. Having ended our military commitment in Iraq, having commenced a drawdown in Afghanistan, and as we look to future threats, we will no longer size our force for sustained, large-scale stability operations. We will field a smaller force while focusing modernization to address emerging threats.

The "how" or "where the rubber meets the road" concerning the aforementioned strategy begins with you. You will receive further guidance and orders that will shape our Army Reserve to meet national objectives. This is a time to show your true professionalism as we shape and train the force. The Army Reserve will retain its best. Readiness levels will increase as equipment dependability improves significantly. We will not only know our subordinates' job but also that of our superiors in order to ensure depth of force and reliable leaders. The National Defense Strategy has changed; be prepared to change with it.

In closing, I want to share one last thought. The 2012 calendar year began with many tragedies across the Command. We must curb this trend immediately. The Command's Serious Incident



**Brig. Gen. Mark W. Palzer**  
*Commanding General*  
*143d Sustainment Command*  
*(Expeditionary)*

Reports (SIRs) rose to more than five in the last month alone. Everything from loss of life to serious arrests made the list. I want all leaders to aggressively engage our Soldiers, civilians, and their families to educate and combat against these trends. You've heard me say it before: our most precious asset is the Soldier. The time is now, the place is your unit, the method is getting to know your Soldiers and their families, and the result will be a strong Army Reserve.

Sustaining Victory!  
Army Strong!

## 642nd RSG reaches Safety Milestone

■ BY MAJ. JOHN ADAMS

*Public Affairs Officer*

*143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)*

ORLANDO, Fla.- The United Safety Council honored awardees at the 59th Annual Safety Awards Banquet, Rosen Shingle Creek Resort Jan. 13 here in Orlando, Fla. The 642nd Regional Support Group, currently deployed and headquartered in Kuwait, won the prestigious DoD 2011 award for safety excellence. Unable to attend in person, Col. Edith M. Greene, commander, 642nd RSG, graciously accepted the award via a video produced in Kuwait.

[Click Here to Watch Video](#)

Mr. Claude Whitney, 143d ESC command safety and occupational health manager, along with Col. Gregory Maida, support operations officer, and Sgt. Maj. Monte Waller, support operations sergeant major, personally accepted the award on behalf of the 642nd RSG from Glen Victor, program announcer.

The 642nd RSG successfully lead the deployment, re-deployment and R&R leave movements of more than 230,000 Soldiers, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, from the region, all without one safety incident.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Col. Edith Greene, commander, 642nd RSG, currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, presents a Soldier with an Army Commendation Medal at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Col. Greene and her unit are the recipients of the Military Safety Award presented by the United Safety Council Jan. 13 here in Orlando, Fla.

# The Bottom Line

In December, Defense Secretary Leon E. Pa-  
netta stated, "I will not tolerate any instance  
where one service member inflicts any form of  
physical or psychological abuse that degrades,  
insults, dehumanizes or injures another service  
member."

This statement was made in the wake of dis-  
turb- ing allegations of hazing within the Army  
ranks. Hazing and bullying are thoroughly  
detrimental to unit cohesion and to the warrior  
values.

We are a diverse force, and it is our di-  
versity that makes us great. Soldiers  
are made from citizens from all back-  
grounds and walks of life, bound togeth-  
er by sense of duty and love of country.  
Together, we train as warriors, combining our  
experiences and learning from one another.

Noncommissioned officers, you are respon-

sible to ensure your troops never deliberately  
humiliate or degrade a fellow servicemember.  
Never abuse your power. Never let anyone  
mistreat your Soldiers. The men and women  
within the scope of your influence trust you.  
Never betray that trust. Be an example, and  
stand for right. Hazing destroys force readi-  
ness.

Prohibited by the UCMJ and Army Regula-  
tion 600-20, hazing has no place in the Army  
and certainly will not be tolerated within the  
143d ESC.

I leave you with the reminder of our Army  
values, ingrained in all of us:

**loyalty, duty, respect, selfless  
service, honor, integrity, and  
personal courage.**

These seven tenets form the foundation upon  
which we stand as Soldiers, and hazing has no



**Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Uhlig**  
*Command Sergeant Major  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)*

place among them.  
Army Strong!

## LINKS TO HELP

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil//substanceabuse>

[www.acsap.army.mil](http://www.acsap.army.mil)

[www.health.org](http://www.health.org)

[www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

<http://thatguy.com/>

<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

## The ASAP Corner

The intent of the ASAP Corner will be to provide basic information on the Army's drug and alcohol policies and signs and symptoms of substance abuse.

To stress that the abuse of alcohol or use of illicit drugs by both military and civilian personnel is inconsistent with Army values, standards of performance, discipline, and the readiness necessary to accomplish the Army's mission. To stress to soldiers that the decisions that they make not only effect themselves, but also their mission readiness, their team and the US Army.



**Mr. Gilbert Rivera**  
*Alcohol and Drug Coordinator  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)*

## DID YOU KNOW?

DHL Express, Uno Chicago Grill and Pizzas 4 Patriots have joined forces to deliver 10,000 deep-dish pizzas to Soldiers in Afghanistan so they may get a taste of home during the Super Bowl. The chilled American delicacies will arrive in various forward operating bases throughout the theater. Since 2008 the team has shipped more than 70,000 pizzas to troops deployed abroad. Remember, for great news, information, and benefits pertaining to servicemembers and veterans, visit the 143d ESC's official Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/143dESC>.

# Reflecting on Those Who Led by Noble Actions

[Click here to watch Chaplain Ray's Words of Motivation for the month](#)

February is Black History Month. Therefore it seems appropriate for me to share a story about two figures whom I greatly admire, Booker T. Washington and Theodore Roosevelt. The following stories about Dr. Washington and President Roosevelt are a testament to their selflessness as well as their servant attitude.

A truly humble man is hard to find, yet God delights to honor such selfless people. Booker T.



President Theodore Roosevelt

Washington, the renowned black educator, was an outstanding example of this truth. Shortly after he took over the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, he was walking in an exclusive section of town when he was stopped by a wealthy white woman. Not knowing the famous Dr. Washington by sight, she asked if he would like to earn a few dollars by chopping wood for her. Because he had no pressing business at the moment, Professor Washington smiled, rolled up his sleeves, and proceeded to do the humble chore she had requested. When he was finished, he carried the logs into the house and stacked them by the fireplace.

A little girl recognized him and later re-

vealed his identity to the lady. The next morning the embarrassed woman went to see Dr. Washington in his office at the Institute and apologized profusely. "It's perfectly all right, Madam," he replied. "Occasionally I enjoy a little manual labor. Besides, it is always a delight to do something for a friend." She shook his hand warmly and assured him that his meek and gracious attitude had endeared him and his work to her heart. Not long afterward, she showed her admiration by persuading some of her wealthy friends to join her in donating thousands of dollars to the Tuskegee Institute.

I'm sure that it was this type of story about Dr. Washington's character that caught the attention of the youngest president in the history of our nation, Teddy Roosevelt. Mr. Roosevelt was only 42-years-old when he became president. Within a month of assuming the presidency, Mr. Roosevelt invited Dr. Washington to dine at the White House. An African-American had never been invited to dine at "The Executive Mansion" (the name of the White House at that time in our history). And although some historians say that there was a bit of "advantageous politics" involved in the decision, President Roosevelt surely knew that his invitation to an African-American would generate a great deal of animosity across various parts of the nation. Regardless, President Roosevelt did something bold...something he knew to be right...something that was a step in the right direction for our nation, a nation that 100 years later elected an African-American Commander-in-Chief. Many are not aware that President Roosevelt, while serving as the Governor of New York, ended the desegregation of the public school system, understanding full well the unfair, and socially unhealthy, effects of separating children by race during their most formative years.

Dr. Washington and President Roosevelt are great examples for us to follow. Each of them through their actions in life, actions that were both bold and humble, showed us that leaders who follow their heart, as well as a moral compass that is set on "true" north, can affect



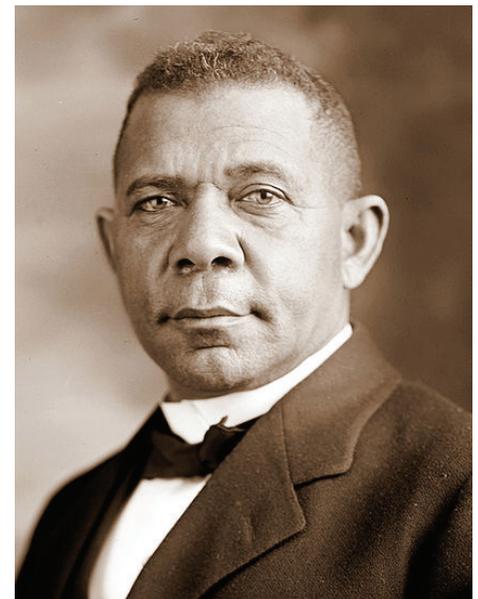
**Lt. Col. Brian Ray**  
*Command Chaplain*  
*143d Sustainment Command*  
*(Expeditionary)*

mankind for years to come. This month I encourage you do something charitable as well as something bold that helps a Soldier, helps a friend, and helps a family member. There is a little bit of Dr. Washington's and President Roosevelt's bold generosity in each of us. Let that kind of generosity shine brightly this month as together we live the Army Values!

Sustaining Victory!

Army Strong!

"Pro Deo et Patria.....For God and Country!"



Dr. Booker T. Washington

# 641st RSG expands every facet of exciting training

■ BY SGT. ELISEBET FREEBURG  
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

CAMP BLANDING, Fla. – Led by the 641st Regional Support Group, more than 1,000 Reserve Soldiers from several states participated in four days of training Jan. 5 to 8 here at Camp Blanding, Fla.

The multitude of training events included weapons familiarization and qualification, the egress trainer, a confidence course, land navigation, and an improvised explosive device “petting zoo.”

Col. Eddie Davis, the commander of the 641st RSG, initiated the training after attending the commander’s conference for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in August 2011. His goal for the Soldiers under his command is to reach excellence in readiness and to do this through exciting training.

“I want them to get as much training as they possibly can, so they’ll go home tired,” said Davis. “On Monday morning, they can go to work and say, ‘Look what I did this weekend.’ How many people can say that? To me that’s success.”

According to Maj. Helen King, the 641st operations officer from Tomah, Wis., the 641st RSG has never planned and executed a training event of this scale.

King and other Soldiers from the

641st RSG headquarters planned and worked together for about six months to make this valuable training a reality.

“We tried to make sure we had exciting training and things to keep them busy,” said King.

Sgt. Cory Weinstein, an 824th Transportation Company watercraft operator from Spring Hill, Fla., was one such Soldier who kept busy and enjoyed the training.

Not only was his unit responsible for the distribution and delivery of water to the weapons ranges, but Weinstein also directed the .50-caliber machine gun orientation because of his experience with the weapon as a gunner in Iraq 2005.

“I love it [the training],” said Weinstein. “I love getting out and ‘playing’ Army. We don’t do it enough. People get too comfortable. You have to familiarize yourself with tasks so they aren’t forgotten.”

During the weapons familiarization portion, Soldiers were hands-on with a .50-caliber machine gun and an M249 machine gun. They also had the opportunity to hone their marksman skills by firing the M16 rifle and the 9mm pistol.

The confidence course included nearly ten obstacles for the reservists to overcome. Besides climbing over and under the various log

structures, wires, hurdles, and ropes, many Soldiers faced their fears at a 64-foot rappel tower.

Because the egress trainer simulates a vehicle roll-over, troops practiced their response to the situation and how to exit the simulator as quickly and safely as possible.

Troops used maps and compasses to navigate terrain during land navigation training and familiarized themselves with different types of IEDs at the IED “petting zoo.”

Thursday, the first day of

training, Soldiers from the 421st Quartermaster Company practiced their parachuting skills by jumping from a helicopter. A junior promotion board was also held during the weekend, and candidates for the 641st RSG Best Warrior battled it out through various warrior tasks.

About 25 units trained during the four-day battle assembly, including the 623 Transportation Company, the 421st QM Co., the 332nd Transportation Company Battalion, and the 824th Transportation Co. ☒



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Brig. Gen. Mark W. Palzer (center left), commanding general, 143d ESC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Uhlig (center right), command sergeant major, 143d ESC, receive an operational inbrief from Col. Eddie Davis, commander, 641st RSG, and staff Jan. 7 at Camp Blanding, Fla.



Photo by Sgt. Elisebet Freeburg | 143d ESC

Spc. Joseph Geiniman, a chaplain assistant from Spring Hill, Fla., and Spc. Dennis Moloney, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Kissimmee, Fla., familiarize themselves with a .50-caliber machine gun Jan. 7 at Camp Blanding, Fla. Both Soldiers are from the 641st RSG.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Army has some of America’s most gifted musicians hosting free concerts throughout the world. The service’s 65-member Concert Band, 29-member Soldiers’ Chorus, 19-member Jazz Ambassadors and six-member Volunteers tour across the globe playing and singing classic and contemporary songs to audiences from all walks of life. Throughout the decades every group has performed in internationally acclaimed shows, concerts and festivals; and it’s not uncommon to see one of them play alongside the nation’s leading orchestras. Find out when one of these ensembles will perform in your local community by visiting <http://www.armyfieldband.com/index.htm>. <http://www.facebook.com/143dESC>.

# Follow mY ARCYSS hosts youth summit in Puerto Rico

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■ BY SPC. JOHN CARKEET IV  
AND SGT. 1ST CLASS TIMOTHY LAWN  
*143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – Two Army generals and a city mayor stood at the front of the conference hall, each waiting his turn to take the podium. Moments later the room’s PA system amplified their commanding voices, cutting off their audience’s fervent chatter. Heads turned and cameras flashed as the trio welcomed their guests.

It is uncommon that the commanders of the 1st Mission Support Command and Puerto Rican State Guard and the mayor of San Juan gather in one room. Their combined presence often involves yellow ribbon ceremonies, welcome home celebrations and on rare instances a funeral or natural disaster. However, their visit to the Conrad Plaza Resort Jan. 26 stemmed from far different but no less important reason. Those present that evening were not the usual service members, political figures and media moguls typical in these high-profile presentations. Instead, the commemoration honored the world’s future leaders: America’s youth.

More than 50 teens living throughout Puerto Rico converged on San Juan Jan. 26-30 to participate in the island’s first Youth, Leadership, Education and Development summit. Sponsored by the Army Reserve Child Youth and School Services, the summit teaches youth to enrich their leadership traits and empowers them to contribute positively toward their communities.

YLEAD is a product of the Army Reserve Teen Panel, said Beverly Arah, youth services program manager for the ARCYSS. The best and brightest kids whose parents serve in the Army Reserve met with leaders in Washington and voiced the need for programs tailored to the youth of geographically dispersed Soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Fernando Fernandez, commander of the 1st Mission Support Command headquartered in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, expressed

his excitement that YLEAD had finally arrived in the “port of riches.”

“Our vision for the 1st MSC is to not only create professional Soldiers but also better citizens for the island of Puerto Rico,” said Fernandez. “YLEAD is a terrific tool to develop young leaders who can support their families and communities.”



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

YLEAD teens hook arms with Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets as they conduct a team building exercise at the Conrad Plaza Resort Jan. 27. The summit’s workshops promoted youth leadership values such as camaraderie, confidence and cooperation.

Preparations for the summit began months before Arah and Fernandez shook hands in San Juan. Marta Feliciano, an ARCYSS youth services specialist based in Orlando, Fla., laid the foundation for the dozens of workshops, field trips and social activities that would unfold during the three-day conference.

“Every YLEAD summit must convey specific themes and messages,” Feliciano explained. “We had to make sure that our cultural, educational and recreational outings followed these guidelines while keeping the kids’ interests in mind.”

While Feliciano established schedules and budgets, Janeska Barrientos, an ARCYSS community outreach specialist based in Fort Buchanan, fostered local support both within and outside military channels.

“We got the word out by attending briefings, PTA conferences and Yellow Ribbon events,” said Barrientos, a former marketing coordina-

tor for an advertising firm. “I also received support from local businesses, government agencies and [Fort Buchanan’s] public affairs office.”

Despite the summit’s postponement from December to January, Feliciano and her team met their recruitment goal.

“Only 14 teens registered before Christmas,” said Barrientos. “Three weeks later we had 14 on our waiting list.”

Hailing from 27 cities around the island, most of the teens who arrived at the Conrad Plaza Resort Jan. 26 had never met one another. Many sat or stood in silence, their eyes darting about the room in search of a familiar face.

See YLEAD, pg. 8



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

The youth visited La Casa Cuna de San Juan, the city’s only municipal nursery and shelter dedicated to rescuing and nurturing children from abusive families. Here the teens sorted and folded clothing Jan. 27 donated by the citizens of San Juan.

YLED, cont. >>

As parents completed paperwork, the staff encouraged their guests to mingle with games and crafts.

“Our curriculum is designed with certain activities to help the kids to get to know each other,” said Feliciano. “Even so this group was special because they bonded so quickly. By lunch [on the first day] many of them were talking and laughing as if they had known one another for years.”

“There’s an unspoken and perhaps even unconscious bond among military children,” added Camara Rajabari, a youth services specialist and YLED team leader. “They go out of the way to include one another in their circle of friends.”

Less than 24 hours after their arrival the teens had received a formal welcome from civic and military leaders, engaged one another in physical fitness challenges, and participated in interactive workshops. These workshops covered a variety of topics from family communication and career development to healthy lifestyles and environmental conservation. Special guests such as the Boy Scouts of America and the American Military Academy’s drill team led several seminars.

Regardless the subject matter and who presented it, one theme remained constant: leadership.

“On the first night the kids wrote essays about leadership,” Rajabari recalled. “Some shared intimate stories about how their families demonstrated leadership qualities as they coped with the hardships of deployment.”

“That’s why YLED is essential to the Army Reserve,” said Arah. “Not only does it help develop [the teens’] leadership skills, but they



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV I 143d ESC

YLED (Youth Leadership Education and Development) teens admire a fountain residing in a garden once owned by Juan Ponce de Leon II during the late 16th century. The youth visited several historic sites and monuments during the three-day summit that treated group to a variety of cultural, educational and recreational outings.

see firsthand that our military community loves and supports them.”

YLED did not restrict its activities to hotel conference rooms. The youth boarded buses and in minutes disembarked at the front gates of La Casa Cuna de San Juan, a former Navy installation later renovated into a children’s shelter. There, the teens sorted and folded thousands of articles of clothing donated by the local community. They also saw the fruits of their labors when La Casa Cuna’s staff led them on an exclusive tour of their facilities.

“It was touching to see so many babies and toddlers saved from abuse and neglect,” said Luis Munoz, a senior at University Gardens High School in San Juan. “To me a leader is someone who takes what’s available to him and makes or does something great. I believe we were all leaders that day by giving back to this nursery.”

Thanks to a complimentary police escort provided by San Juan’s mayor Jorge Santini, the group maximized their time at numerous tourist destinations situated throughout the island’s

capital. The teens embarked on guided tours of several museums managed by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, where they learned about the island’s ancient Indian and colonial Spanish tools, art, history and religion. Later they shopped at a natural foods market and ate lunch along the rolling hills overlooking an old, stonewall fort that once defended the city from sea-faring invaders.

The succession of field trips ended at the San Juan Wildlife Museum, a new, multi-million dollar facility that depicts the world’s animals and their natural habitats with exquisite detail.

During the summit’s final evening the staff treated the teens to festive music and dance performances by Tamboricua, a salsa group sponsored by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture. Several teens even had a chance to show off their singing, dancing and stand-up comedy skills during the summit’s talent show.

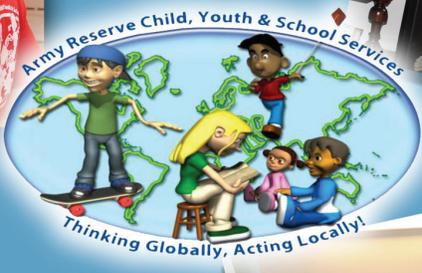
As the children bade farewell to their newfound friends, youth and staff alike reminisced about their expectations for the island’s inaugural YLED summit.

“[YLED] has taught me so much about leadership and the military,” said Pablo A. Puig, a freshman at Cimater High School in Caguas, Puerto Rico. “It has further inspired me to attend West Point and become an Army officer.”

“This was the Army Reserve’s way of saying, ‘thank you,’ to the sons and daughters of its Soldiers,” said Arah. “We look forward to returning to San Juan next year and see how our brave little Soldiers on the home front have grown.”

## DID YOU KNOW?

“Horsepower Heroes” and “How to Succeed in WLC” are the premiere stories for a pair of ongoing series in the “ESC Today.” Every month our staff will highlight a specific vehicle used by the 143d ESC or one of its down trace units. We will also give valuable insight on how to prepare and excel in one of the dozens of schools offered by the Army. Consequently, we rely on you to keep our facts fresh and accurate. If you operate or maintain a vehicle in your unit or have recently returned from an Army-related school, email Maj. John Adams at [john.adams16@usar.army.mil](mailto:john.adams16@usar.army.mil). We will provide instructions as to what we need and how to best obtain it. As a token of our gratitude, your name, unit and photos will appear in our upcoming issue! Remember, for great news, information, and benefits pertaining to servicemembers and veterans, visit the 143d ESC’s official Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/143DESC>.



**YLEAD**  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Jan 2012

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn | 143d ESC, Sgt. Jose Babilonia | 1st MSC, and Spc. John Carkeet | 143d ESC  
Art by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn | 143d ESC

The United States Army Vessel Kennesaw Mountain, a Landing Craft Utility, approaches the beach as part of the licensing process for prospective operators Jan. 20. The vessel is crewed by the 824th Transportation Company, a 143d ESC unit from Moorehead City, N.C. The unit just started a yearlong deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by Cpl. Jeffrey Daniel | 1st TSC



## The Army's best-kept secret floats

■ BY CPL. JEFFREY DANIEL

*1st Sustainment Command (Theater)*

KUWAIT NAVAL BASE, Kuwait - The 824th Transportation Company, a Reserve unit from Morehead City, N.C., just arrived in Kuwait to start their yearlong deployment. The home away from home has a unique feature, it floats.

The unit's floating home for the next year is onboard the Landing Craft Utility 2002 - U.S. Army Vessel Kennesaw Mountain, a 174-foot landing craft utility 2000-series vessel. The crew totals only 17 soldiers, and their mission is to carry material throughout the Persian Gulf. The crew members consist of seven on the deckside, seven engineers, two cooks and a medic.

Since the crew just arrived, they had to do an extensive check of the vessel's safety equipment and mechanical equipment, and even complete one mission with the vessel's previous crew. In between missions, the crew polishes their

vessel operation skills and makes sure their operating licensing requirements are met. This enables the crew to be in a constant state of readiness ensuring they are prepared for any mission.

Early in the morning on Jan. 20, the crew loaded up the food order that just arrived and prepared to depart for a day of training and licensing exercises. Just after 9 a.m., Sgt. Robert L. Wallace from Beaufort, N.C., and the vessel's boatswain blew the horn to alert anyone within earshot that they were pulling away from the pier at the Kuwait Naval Base. A full-time North Carolina state trooper, Wallace joined the unit in July 2006. He maneuvered the controls on the vessel's bridge to pull the vessel off the pier, turn it around and depart the harbor unassisted. Even though he was under the watchful eye of the skipper and first mate, he handled the vessel like a pro. He, like many of the other soldiers on the vessel, all have a common story. They had

no idea that the Army had a fleet of watercraft until they went to the Military Entrance Processing Center.

"We are the Army's best-kept secret," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kenneth "Neil" Styron, Jr., the vessel's chief engineer from Davis, N.C. He spent six years as enlisted before becoming a Warrant Officer. He said most people, even soldiers, do not realize that the Army has watercraft. His big grin shows his appreciation for finding this unique opportunity to continue serve the people of the United States as a Reserve soldier.

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald E. Buffkin, the vessel's first mate is from Wilmington, N.C. He served with the Navy in the mid-'70s and was out for 18 years before he knew about the Army Reserve unit near his home that operated watercraft. He has been with the unit since 1996. Buffkin said he is reluctant to be promoted to the next rank, as master sergeants have to come off the LCUs and become

part of the land-based crew.

"We have a saying," said Buffkin. "If it ain't got water under it, we don't want anything to do with it."

*See Secret, pg. 11*

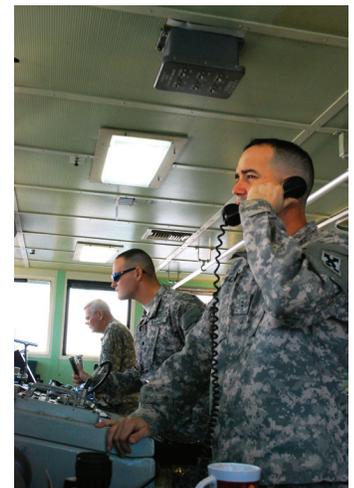


Photo by Cpl. Jeffrey Daniel | 1st TSC

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tom Heald, right, speaks to the Engine Room while, Sgt. Robert L. Wallace, center, adjusts the engine controls, and Sgt. 1st Class Ronald E. Buffkin, left, watches the radar Jan. 20. These Soldiers make up the skipper, boatwain, and the first mate respectfully of the United States Army Vessel Kennesaw Mountain, a Landing Craft Utility.

The youngest soldier on board the vessel with the least experience is 18-year-old Pfc. Tyler M. Morrow, a vessel engineer from Jacksonville, N.C.

"I volunteered for this deployment while I was still in AIT," said Morrow. "With all the training, I have only been home for maybe three weeks since I shipped off to basic training."

He recited the all too familiar story about how he did not know what job he wanted to do in the Army. His recruiter sent him to MEPS, where the position of watercraft engineer was offered. When he told his recruiter what MOS he took, the recruiter had to look up the job to see if that was an actual job.

These are just a few examples of how the Army watercraft section is not so much unpopular but an unknown specialty of the Army.

"The Army has more boats than the Navy," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tom Heald, vessel master of Kennesaw Mountain, who hails from Morehead City, N.C. "Most people don't realize the size of our fleet," continued Heald.

Besides the common theme of having a job that is mostly unknown, the crew also loves what they do. Most of the crew has lived around coastal Carolina area for years. Many have had family in the marine industry.

"A lot of people on here enjoy their jobs and love to talk about it,"

said Styron.

Buffkin added to that sentiment by saying, "Most people in this field, you can't run them off."

As Heald watched Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A. Close, 1st TSC Mobility Maritime non-commissioned officer from Coolville, Ohio, perform an anchor maneuver, part of Close's licensing process, Heald said, "It doesn't matter if we are licensing or delivering something, we are out here doing what we love."

Both Close and Wallace were working on their licensing packets on this trip. They were both advancing their skills to take them to the next level of Army watercraft operation.

"The boat field is run by license type instead of rank," said Spc. Devan C. Foley, one of the vessel's deck hands

Foley, who is also a landing craft mechanized 8000-series vessel operator, commonly referred to in the Army as a mike boat, assists with all deck operations including emergency drills, cargo loading and unloading and battle stations.

"The mike boat is run by all NCOs," Foley explained.

Referring to the point of the size of the vessel dictates the size of the crew. The Army largest watercrafts are the logistic support vessels and have a crew of 32 versus a crew of three to operate the mike boat.

On this day of training and licensing, Foley will be on deck with



Photo by Cpl. Jeffrey Daniel | 1st TSC

Soldiers from the 824th Transportation Company, from Moorehead City, N.C., point in the direction of "Oscar" Jan. 20 off the coast of Kuwait. Oscar is a dummy used for man overboard drills. The Soldiers are assigned to the United States Army Vessel Kennesaw Mountain, a Landing Craft Utility. The unit just started a yearlong deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

three others to perform their tasks as proficiently as possible.

Styron said that about ninety percent of the crew has worked together prior to this deployment. "Unlike most Reserve units, during AT, we do real-life missions, and they usually last about 28 days," said Stryron. He recounted the missions that the unit has had, from Haiti to moving cargo to and from the Caribbean to using one of the vessels in the recovery operation to raise the USS Monitor.

After the crew takes Kennesaw Mountain beyond the Kuwait Naval Base's high-water barrier, they open up the engine to allow the engineers to check some work that was recently completed on the vessel. Then, over the loudspeaker, a voice bellows, "Man overboard, man overboard, blue coveralls, port side." The young, but efficient crew races into action. Out of nowhere, the deck is full of crew members all pointing in the same direction.

"Everyone points in the direction of the person in the water so we don't lose sight of them," said Foley as he was getting his recovery gear ready to pluck the

lifeless figure out of the water.

The medic was standing-by to administer any life saving skills that the unsuspecting swimmer might need. As the vessel turned around, the deck listed as the vessel raced back to where the floating figure bobbed up and down in the waves. As the vessel approached, the deck crew moved into their recovery positions to pull the figure out of the water.

Today, the first pass was a success. As the lifeless figure is pulled onto the grey steel deck, there was a quick laugh as everyone joked with the medic about what to do next to "Oscar," the mannequin. Yes, they just saved Oscar's life. Even though this was a drill, anyone of the 17 crew members knows that it could be them someday and take the drill very seriously. On the bridge, Wallace and Close take turns at maneuvering the vessel as the man overboard drill is repeated over and over until the skipper and first mate are satisfied.

Next Wallace and Close starts the duty performance test. Buffkin elaborates that the licensing process is very extensive.

See Secret, pg. 12

## DID YOU KNOW?

Sittercity, America's largest online solution for connecting families with local caregivers, offers free memberships to military families from all branches including Reserve and Guard components. Families may activate their account at [www.sittercity.com/dod](http://www.sittercity.com/dod) and take advantage of the plethora of professional babysitters, nannies, tutors, housekeepers, pet sitters and elder care providers standing ready to serve those who serve.



Photo by Cpl. Jeffrey Daniel | 1st TSC

Sgt. Robert L. Wallace, 824th TC, from Beaufort, N.C., looks out from the bridge as he takes the vessel Kennesaw Mountain from Kuwait Naval Base out to open water for drills and licensing operations Jan. 20.

### Secret, cont. >>

There are 22 tasks that must be evaluated. Heald places an “X” on the electronic charting system and tells the expected licensees to drop the anchor on the “X.” First up was Close, as he is maneuvering into position, the added stress of having a battery of questions being asked by Buffkin and Heald while Close is trying to communicate with the deck crew appears to weigh on him. He calls out for wind direction and he checks the water depth to determine how to approach the target without damaging the boat.

But Close performs as if he has been born to do this. As the deck crew spots the tension of the

anchor chain and reports back up to Close, he smiles and says is nearly famous, “All right.”

Finding a good way for the entire crew to break for lunch has been formulated into Heald’s master plan for the day’s operation. While at anchor, he can afford to have only one soldier on the bridge to perform anchor watch, their version of fire watch. The vessel has two Army cooks on board. Wallace explains that they can place an order for just about anything.

“We don’t have access to a PX or MWR, so we stay well stocked,” said Wallace.

Heald added, “We do what we can to give the cooks a break and have the crew eat in the chow hall while in port, if possible.”

The cooks provide three hot meals a day. Today’s lunch menu: fried chicken, mixed vegetables, rice with gravy and a cinnamon streusel cake for dessert.

Close remarked, “After eating food this good, it’s hard to go back to eating at the chow hall

every day.”

Close, being with 1st TSC, deployment home is Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Close and Wallace pass their anchor test. Next they will simulate a beach landing. Heald explains that the LCU is like a barge, its depth in the water or draft, is very shallow and therefore the vessel is capable of landing on a beach to onload or offload cargo. Today, however, they will pull up to a large concrete ramp. Wallace goes first, Close stands on the front of the vessel assisting the deck crew. Close uses a radio to call up distance reports. As the large vessel nears the shore, the front ramp is lowered slightly to help the bridge see where they are going. As inexperienced as Morrow is, he is very well versed in how the ballast tank system work. How they can raise the nose to aid in a beach landing. So as the vessel approaches, the nose rides high and just as the vessel stops, the huge ramp is lowered and falls

within a foot of the waters’ edge. The crew raises the ramp, throws the huge vessels into reverse and turns around. Now its Closes turn, he is just as successful.

The last duty performance test for this trip will be bumper drills. Repeatedly pulling along a dock to show proficiency in using all of the tools in the vessel’s maneuvering arsenal. The arsenal includes two propellers or screws, two rudders and a bow thruster which can steer the nose 360 degrees. Both Close and Wallace pass this test - time to head back for the day.

The 17 soldier crew of Kennesaw Mountain take great pride in their job. They know that their mission will be completed with outstanding professionalism and pride. From the youngest to the oldest, each one has found their way into a little known Army profession. But they do not mind repeating each of their unique stories on how they discovered the Army’s best kept secret. ☒

## WHY I SERVE:

*Name:* Brian E. Agard  
*Rank:* Specialist  
*Unit:* 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)  
*Job Title:* Paralegal Specialist  
*Hometown:* Long Island, N.Y.

I started college soon after graduating from high school, but it lacked the challenge I sought in life. One day I decided to follow in my Father’s footsteps. In 24 years he had moved up the enlisted ranks, became an officer, and retired as a company commander. By emulating his career path, I could gain

more personal and financial independence.

The day I swore in was one of the happiest moments in my life. Many of my friends questioned my decision, pointing out the dangers of joining the military in a middle of a war. I understood their concern, but I believed then as I do now that you cannot live your life in fear.

As a paralegal specialist I’ve come across many memorable cases that reminded me not to waste the opportunities the Army gives to those Soldiers who follow the service’s values. I feel fortunate that I met many mentors who helped me stay on the right track.

As much as I love the paralegal profession, I have a stronger desire to finish my degree and become an officer in the judge advocate

general or finance field. In the meantime I’m preparing to go to Warrior Leadership Course and take the first step to becoming a non-commissioned officer.

The military has been nothing but good to me. I know of no other profession that is as fulfilling and stable as serving our country. The Army has improved my work ethic by giving me responsibilities that forced me to grow up faster than my civilian friends. Now more than ever I feel that the Army Reserve will take me where I want to go in life.



# Around the ESC



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

A teen attracts a pigeon to perch on her hand Jan. 28 at La Parque Las Palomas in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She and 50 other young men and women participated in the island's first Youth, Leadership, Education and Development summit sponsored by the Army Reserve Child, Youth and School Services program.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Brig. Gen. Mark W. Palzer, commander of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) presents the 143d ESC "Top Gun Award" for excellence to Lt. Col. Deborah Jenkins, commander of the 352nd Combat Service Support Battalion Jan. 7 at Camp Blanding, Fla. Jenkins and her battalion was one of the last American military units to leave Iraq.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Apaula Adams, daughter to Maj. John Adams, public affairs officer, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), explores a Humvee Jan. 21 during the 7th annual Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show in Oveido, Fla.

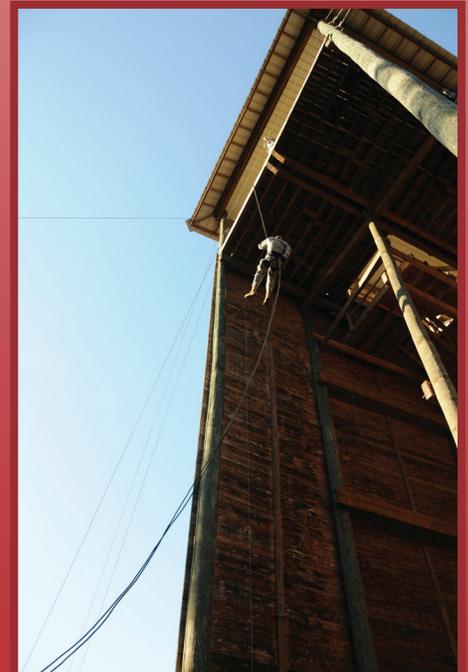


Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

A Soldier from the 377th Quarter Master Detachment, 257th Transportation Battalion, 641st Regional Support Group descends from a repel training tower, Jan. 7 in Camp Blanding, Fla. during the unit's multi-training exercise.

# Around the ESC



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

From left to right: Col. Gregory Maida, Support Operations Officer, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Claude Whitney, 143d ESC Safety Manager and Sgt. Maj. Monte Waller, Support Operations Sergeant Major, display the United Safety Councils, Military Safety Award on behalf of the 642nd RSG during an awards ceremony Jan. 13 in Orlando, Fla.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Spc. Leandro Mohammed with the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) speaks to visitors at his display of Humvees during the 7th annual Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show held Jan. 21 at the Oviedo Marketplace Mall in Oviedo, Fla. The show featured hundreds of vehicles and several aircraft owned by classic car collectors, emergency services agencies and, of course, the Army Reserve.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles | 210th MPAD

Spc. Tyler Loher runs on the track at Fort Jackson's Patton Field during the 207th Regional Support Group's Soldier of the Year contest held Jan. 19. Loher, a water purification specialist for the 431st Quartermaster Detachment, won the competition.



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Deidra Jackson | 210th MPAD

Soldiers from the 207th Regional Support Group and their significant others pose for a group photo during the unit's first annual "Warrior Spouse Day" held Jan. 21. The event gave the spouses an opportunity to walk in the boots of their husbands and wives in uniform as the participants donned Army gear and fired M16 rifles.

## UNIT PHOTOS WANTED

We want your photos of Soldiers in your unit performing operational duties and basic warrior skills. Include a caption with names, ranks, places, date and a short description of each picture. Send your best shots and/or any requests to:

[john.adams16@usar.army.mil](mailto:john.adams16@usar.army.mil)



# Take 5

## Safe Spa Days



- *Never use a hot tub alone*
- *Check the temperature before entering and never let it exceed 105 F*
- *If you have high blood pressure, consult your physician before using a hot tub*
- *Shower or bathe with soap before entering*
- *Limit times in the tub to 10 to 15 minutes*
- *Exclude children under the age of 5*
- *Avoid alcohol before or during hot tub use*



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<https://safety.army.mil>

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# 207th RSG Warrior Spouse Day

■ BY STAFF SGT. DEIDRA JACKSON  
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT JACKSON, S.C.-The 207th Regional Support Group held its first annual “Warrior Spouse” day, Jan. 21. The Warrior Spouse day was created to allow spouses to experience some fun Soldier-focused training. It allowed the family member to feel more a part of the unit, building the bond between unit and family.

“We did this because we wanted to give spouses a day in the life of a soldier,” said Capt. Yolanda E. Mason. Mason is the Higher Headquarters Detachment Commander and served as the officer in charge of the event.

“The spouses were able to get some soldier skills training and see what it’s like to experience some things we do in the Army,” she said.

The new recruits, 13 participants in all, put on military gear, which included army combat helmets and load-bearing equipment vests borrowed from their spouses, and filed onto a bus to start the day.

Throughout the day the spouses were taught how to walk and talk like a Soldier. Four of the spouses were chosen to fill leadership positions that included the platoon sergeant, platoon

leader and two squad leaders.

Their skills training included learning how to salute, report and march. All the basic Soldier skills a Soldier learns in basic combat training.

“The spouses really got a chance to live in our world,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jermaine D. Chandler, 207th Detachment first sergeant and also the noncommissioned officer in charge for the event.

“They learned how we train, why we train and where we train,” he said.

After learning basic commands and skills, the new recruits learned basic marksmanship where they learned to fire an M16 rifle. After becoming marksmen, the new recruits were given a meal ready to eat (MRE) for lunch.

The last part of training was a simulation vehicle. This part of the training allowed the spouses to simulate a convoy with one person driving, one navigating and one acting as a gunner. The purpose of this activity was to simulate being on a convoy in Iraq.

The convoy allowed the spouses to experience coming under fire and ride over improvised explosive devices. They also experienced vehicle malfunctions and casualties.

The day ended with the spouses coming back



Photo by Staff Sgt. Deidra Jackson | 210th MPAD  
Connie Jordan, (wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Don Jordan), Tamara M. Boles, (wife of Eric E. Boles) and Laura Clark, watch a monitor as they drive their simulated vehicle during training Jan 21.

to the McWhorter Reserve Center where they were greeted with applause and cheers from not only their family members, but the 207th RSG units. The new recruits were then presented with a coin and a certificate of completion from Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, Commanding General of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command and Col. James C. Bagley, Commander of the 207th Regional Support Group.

When asked what the one thought she wanted to leave the spouses with, Capt. Mason stated, “The strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of our families, meaning we’re only as strong as the strength of our families.” ☒

## 207th Regional Support Group’s Soldier, NCO of the Year Named

■ BY SGT. JON SOLES  
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT JACKSON, S.C.-The 207th Regional Support Group’s Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year were named following two days of competition of basic Soldier skills, physical fitness for duty and Army knowledge, held at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Three Soldiers competed in the events, which provided an opportunity for highly-motivated Soldiers to win awards, as well as bragging rights.

Staff Sgt. Cedric Bell, a truck driver from Livingston, Ala., assigned to the 828th Transportation Battalion, was named the 207th RSG’s top NCO for the year following a demonstration of his physical fitness, marksmanship, Army knowledge before a board and his ability to conduct a five-mile march.

“I am very proud to receive this award,” Bell said. “I didn’t think this day would happen, but it just goes to show that hard work pays off.”

See *Best Warrior*, pg. 17



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles | 210th MPAD

Staff Sgt. Cedric Bell receives the Army Commendation Medal from Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot after he was named the 207th Regional Support Group’s Noncommissioned Officer of the Year at the 207th RSG’s Dining Out, held at the Fort Jackson Officer’s Club on Saturday, Jan. 21. Visot is the commander of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command. Bell, a native of Aniston, Ala., is a truck driver assigned to the 828th Transportation Battalion.



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soles | 210th MPAD

Spc. Jarred Barnette of Philadelphia, Miss., catches his breath after completing a grueling 5-mile road march over sandy dirt roads at Camp McCreech, S.C., on Saturday, Jan. 20. Barnette, a truck driver assigned to the 287th Transportation Company, competed in the 207th RSG's Soldier of the Year competition held at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The 207th RSG's top Soldier award went to Spc. Tyler Loher, a water purification specialist assigned to the 431st Quartermaster Detachment. Loher, a native of New Bern, N.C., said he trained for months to compete for the top Soldier awards.

"It took a lot of hard work, dedication and commitment to earn this award," Loher said. "I could not have done this without the support of my families or my NCOs, who expected more out of me each and every time I saw them."

The competition began Friday morning, Jan. 20, with the Army Physical Fitness Test at Patton Field. The air was cold and damp, but the Soldiers stayed warm and worked up a good sweat as they completed the push-ups, sit-ups and 2-mile run. Loher led the way by achieving the maximum number of sit-ups and push-ups, followed up with a 13 and a half minute run.

Later on Friday, the Soldiers hit the books instead of the pavement when they all appeared in dress uniforms before the 207th RSG's board. The competitors, Bell, Loher and Spc. Jarred Barnette, a truck driver assigned to the 287th Transportation Company, studied their Army knowledge and checked out their dress uniforms while waiting to appear before the board.

Each Soldier appeared before Command Sgt. Maj. Don Jordan, senior enlisted advisor for the 207th RSG; Sgt. Maj. Roberto Fernando, also of the 207th RSG; Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Rosario, senior enlisted advisor for the 828th Trans. Bn., and 1st Sgt. Sharon Flood of the 650th Trans. Co. Each Soldier was asked to execute drill and ceremony movements, recite the Soldier's or Noncommissioned Officer's creed

and answer questions about military history, regulations and other Army knowledge.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, the Soldiers were in their Army Combat Uniforms for a 5-mile march in the woods of Camp McCreech on the far eastern side of Fort Jackson and a demonstration of rifle marksmanship in the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). At times, the Soldiers marched through sinking sand and rain-softened soil as they trudged toward the end point of the march. Soaking with sweat, all three Soldiers completed the road march and immediately moved over to the EST.

In the EST, the Soldiers again showed why they were competing for the 207th RSG's top honors. All the Soldiers demonstrated skilled marksmanship with the M16 A2 rifle. Bell scored the highest in marksmanship, which he credited to his civilian job as a Sumter County (Alabama) Sheriff's deputy.

The months of preparation, hard work and sweat that went into the Soldier and NCO of the Year contests was rewarded in an elegant way at the 207th RSG's Dining Out on Saturday night at the Fort Jackson Officer's Club. Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commander of the New Orleans-based 377th Theater Sustainment Command, presented the awards to Bell and Loher. It was a chance for the officers and NCOs to recognize the achievement and dedication of Soldiers who are the present and future of the 207th RSG. ☒

## 'No one is more professional than I' How to succeed in WLC

■ BY SPC. JOHN CARKEET IV  
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

### Why didn't I ask?

My heart raced as I pulled into the front parking lot at the Regional Training Institute in Camp Blanding, Fla. Unanswered questions bounced inside my boggled brain: Where exactly do I report? Who will instruct us? Did I bring everything? What is expected from me for the next two weeks? Should I have enrolled in this course less than one year after graduating from Basic Military Training?

One question, however, remained in the forefront of my mind: Why didn't I answer these questions before I left for Warrior Leadership Course on that warm January morning?

Though tempting, this column will not recount how my lack of preparation planted the seeds for several hilarious tales at my expense. Rather, it aims to unveil hints, tips, tactics, secrets and strategies to not only succeed in WLC, but also begin the transition from one who gives orders because he

or she wears sergeant stripes to one who leads Soldiers as a professional non-commissioned officer.

### By failing to prepare . . .

I departed my home in Winter Park, Fla., confused, haggard and hungry. Not surprisingly, I arrived at Camp Blanding—a 100-mile trek through country roads—even more confused, haggard and hungry. I would have minimized much of the stress endured during the first 48 hours at WLC if I had followed these steps:

#### 1. Don't wait until the night

**before reporting day to pack:** I started packing at 10 p.m., finished at 1 a.m., and woke up at 5 a.m. Enough said.

**2. Bring everything on the packing list:** It took several days to acquire many key items on that four-page list. To my dismay many of them remained in my closet or dresser until graduation day. Despite this annoyance, I nearly avoided the onslaught of borrowing, bargaining and begging conducted inside the barracks every night.

See WLC, pg. 21

# HORSEPOWER HEROES

■ BY SPC. CHRISTOPHER GRAY

*489th TC Detachment (Seaport Operations)*

## Time in Service

2000-present

## Mission

The RT-240 Rough Terrain Container Handler lifts, stacks and transfers shipping containers weighing up to 53,000 pounds.

## Dimensions

Length: 4 meters (13.12 feet)

Width: 12 meters (39.37 feet)

Height: 4 meters (13.12 feet)

Weight: 53,000 kilograms (116,600

pounds)

## Crew

1

## Engine

Make & model: Cummins QSM 11 diesel

Horsepower: 400

Maximum road speed: 37 kmh (23 mph)

## Background

In the late 1990s the U.S. Army Transportation School recognized the need to develop a versatile vehicle that could lift and move a 25-ton shipping container while operating in a military environment.



Through extensive research of innovative commercial systems followed by a collaborative undertaking with the Marines and Kalmar Industries, the Army introduced the RT-240 Rough Terrain Container Handler to its full spectrum of logistical operations.

The first 25 RT-240s entered service at the turn of the century. By 2004 the Army operated nearly 350 RTCH systems throughout the world. Its multi-purpose functionality has saved the Army millions of dollars by reducing the time and personnel required to transport supplies from ship to shore.

## Capabilities

All RTCH systems can ford in fresh and salt water up to five feet in depth, while many possess upgrades that allow them to traverse through thick mud and sand. The expandable top handler allows the operator to pick up and lower containers of various shapes and sizes from multiple angles. Although the RT-240 can lift, stack and shuttle enormous weight, it is small enough drive in and out of the rear door of a C-17 military transport plane. Every RTCH can also “fold up” for trans-oceanic transport. ☒



Artwork by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn ■ 143d ESC



**African American/Black History Month  
“Black Women in American History and Culture”**

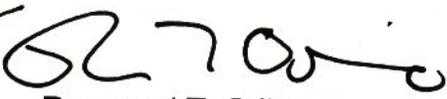
**February 2012**

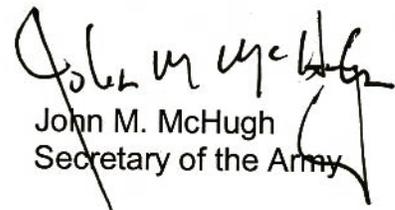
African American women have played a vital role in the history of our Nation and our Army since the American Revolution. Their patriotism, loyalty and leadership, coupled with their hard work, intellect and artistic expression, have enriched the African American community and the Nation as a whole. In slavery and freedom, their struggles have been at the heart of the human experience, and their fight against racism and sexism serve as a testament to their perseverance to overcome adversity.

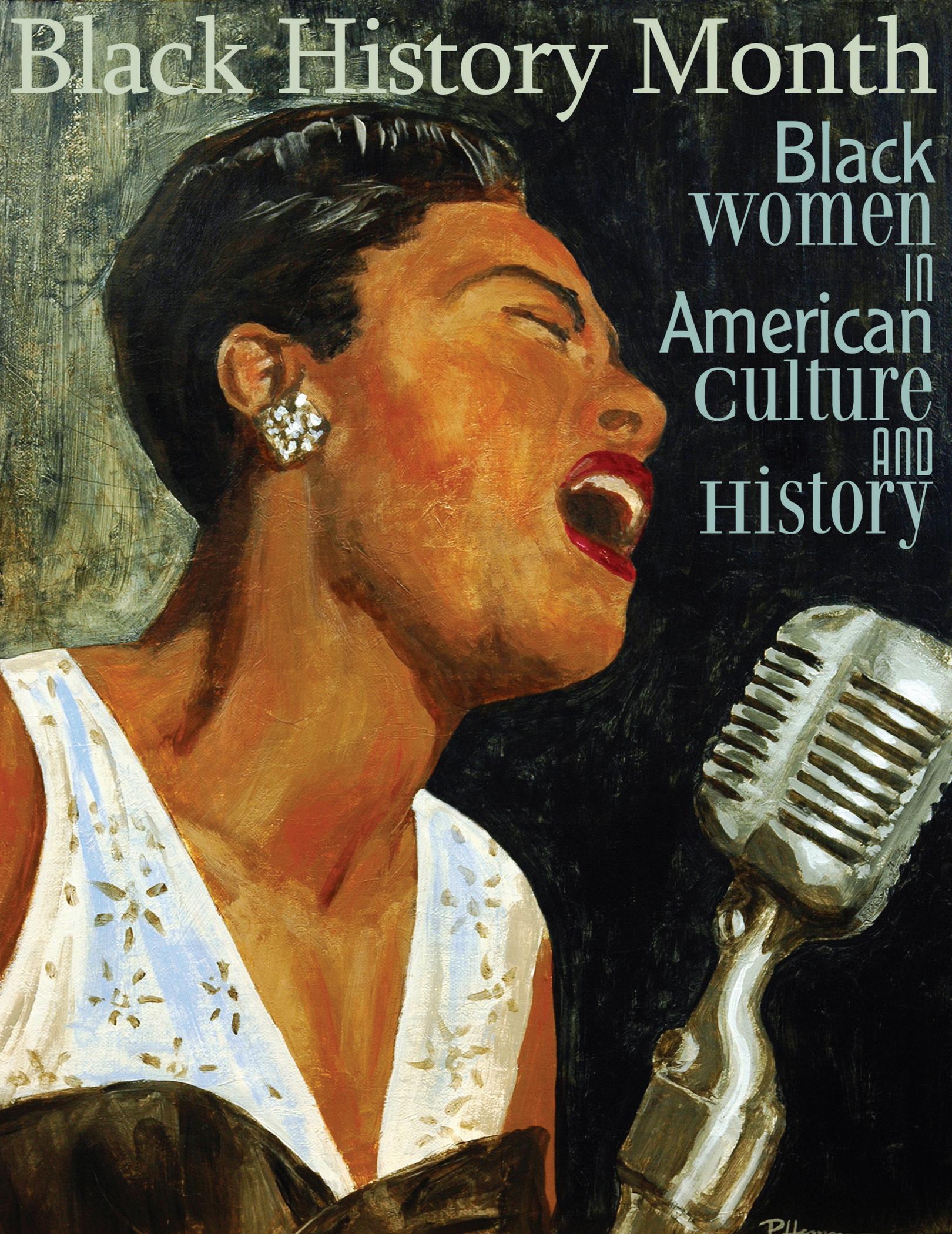
From Harriet Tubman, a leader and conductor of the Underground Railroad, to Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement, to First Lady Michelle Obama, these courageous women serve as role models for all to emulate. The Army has also benefitted from the leadership, intelligence and contributions of the African American women in our ranks, and today we celebrate the recent promotion of Major General Marcia Anderson, the Army’s first African American female Two Star General and recognize Ms. Tracey Pinson, the Army’s highest ranking female African American Senior Executive Service member. These women, and so many others, are expressions of a vibrant culture in which African American women play a critical role in the strength of this Nation and our Army.

We are grateful for the sacrifices and contributions African American Women, Soldiers, Civilians and Families have played in our success. We encourage the entire Army Family to honor publicly their contributions by encouraging all leaders from across the Army to plan and execute appropriate commemorative activities to celebrate African American/Black History Month.

  
Raymond F. Chandler III  
Sergeant Major of the Army

  
Raymond T. Odierno  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

  
John M. McHugh  
Secretary of the Army



# Black History Month

Black  
women  
in  
American  
culture  
AND  
History

Pillay

I write “nearly” because I somehow acquired two gloves for my right hand and none for my left.

3. **Think outside the packing list:** These items will make life easier in the barracks, classroom or field: anti-itch cream, aspirin, Ben Gay, boot cleaning kit, cough drops, digital still camera, ear plugs, energy drinks, foot powder, highlighters, one dollar bills, pillow, school backpack (black or digital camo), sports watch, sunblock, three-ring binder, toy soldiers and a water-resistant notebook. You will find out why soon enough.

4. **Memorize the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer:** Better to do this on your own time rather than the limited time the cadre gives you to prepare for upcoming assignments. Just type, “NCO Creed,” in any Internet search engine and dozens of links happily unveil all 289 words at no cost.

5. **Memorize marching cadences:** When (not if) you get called to the front of the formation and lead your platoon to chow or class, you best have a handful of cadences just waiting to be bellowed by a commanding voice. “Left, right, left” gets boring in a hurry, and your instructors will “kindly” request you liven the tune.

#### Manual overdrive

WLC tests your ability to lead a squad in drill and ceremony, physical readiness training and basic battlefield tactics. A few minutes of study and practice in each category during the weeks leading up to WLC may spell the difference between a mediocre and magnificent evaluation. Therefore, it behooves you to familiarize yourself with these official Army publications:

1. FM 3-21.5: Drill & Ceremony
2. TC 3-22.20: Army Physical

#### Readiness Training

##### 3. STP 21-1-SMCT: Soldier’s Manual of Common Tasks, Warrior Skills Level 1

A sound mind will shatter without a sound body. Dedicate a few hours every week to improving your physical strength, endurance and flexibility. You can even multitask



Photo by Spc. John Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

WLC students from Camp Blanding, Fla. review squad tactics using toy soldiers.

by incorporating PRT into your exercise regimen.

If that’s not enough incentive, remember that your overall performance hinges on your height and weight standards. Several students fell from honor graduate grace thanks to a few extra pounds. Never follow their heavy footsteps.

#### Take a break from breaks

WLC instructors grant students 5-10 minute breaks every hour. There’s nothing wrong with spending a few of them chewing the fat with your comrades while chewing on your candy bar and chugging your third can of Monster. However, students who spent a majority of those breaks working on their oral and written assignments often got more sleep than those who stepped out of the classroom at every opportunity.

With only 15 days separating your class from graduation, you

may likely perform or submit three graded assignments in a 24-hour period. Staying ahead of the learning curve by sacrificing a few trips to the vending machines may pave the way to a perfect score (and perhaps spare you from unnecessary calories.)

#### Commanding with confidence

many minor errors in judgment.

The essence of this leadership trait sunk in when one of our instructors briefed my squad before we stepped onto the lane.

“I don’t care if you tell your troops to fix bayonets and charge a machine gun nest. You won’t lose points if you give such commands with confidence, though I will tell you afterwards that was a dumb idea.”

#### There’s no “I” in “NCO”

The physical intensity of WLC falls below that of Air Assault, Airborne, Ranger and similar “HOOAH!” schools. Nevertheless, teamwork remains an essential component to success. No Soldier can hope to claim expertise in every MOS. Fortunately, your classmates boast a bundle of backgrounds. Seek their advice and identify their needs as soon as practical.

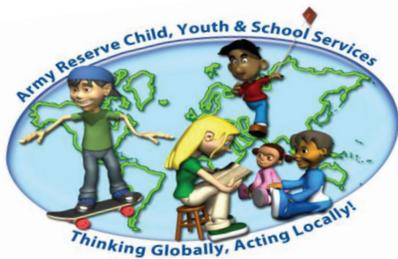
Like most schools, WLC is an ever-evolving program. The curriculum may change, but the Army Values remain constant. Uphold these values and earn your comrades’ respect and confidence by demonstrating that you are no mere corporal, specialist or sergeant. You are a professional, a non-commissioned officer . . . a leader. ☒

Your instructors do not expect you to do everything right the first time. Sometimes they want you to make mistakes so they may see how you react, adapt and recover as a leader. Therefore, you must display confidence—fake or otherwise—regardless of the task. Whether you’re giving an oral presentation or defending against an ambush, the way you carry yourself may outweigh

### There’s an app for that!

For a mere 99 pennies Soldiers with iPhones and iPods may download a mobile application that includes course material and strategies for success at WLC. Lessons include sample questions for the written exams as well as notes and tips on communication, training and leadership assignments. Visit <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wlc/id488542718?mt=8> for a full preview, then purchase the app via your iTunes account.

Sadly, I did not know this handy pocket guide existed until one week into the course. By then it didn’t matter as yours truly thought it was terrific idea to buy a Windows Phone.



## Attention Army Reserve Families!!



**4 TOP TO DOs** when moving your child between schools across States...

**CHOOSE A SCHOOL**  
[www.greatschools.net](http://www.greatschools.net)

**INITIATE KEY POC**  
 Contact your respective School Liaison Officer/School Support Specialist nearest your Military Installation: [www.arfp.org/cyss](http://www.arfp.org/cyss)

**CHECK A LIST**  
<http://www.militarychild.org/military-parent/checklist-for-transferring-students/>

**APPLY A LAW**  
**INTERSTATE COMPACT LAW** deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts across States--specifically relating to meeting timely high school graduation requirements, placing appropriate coursework/programs, allowing participation in extracurricular activities/try-outs, granting excused absences, complying to special need services, and more...  
 For further information, please visit: [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net)

**ACADEMIC ONLINE RESOURCE**

[www.tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com)  
[www.soarathome.com](http://www.soarathome.com)  
[www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com)

**FACE TO FACE MATH TUTORING**

Where: Orlando, FL  
 Venue: Starbucks  
 Duration: 1 hr/session  
 Days: Saturday & Sunday  
 Grade Level: K-6th  
 POC: Matteo Orfanel  
 Phone: 800-221-9401 x. 1294

- **At No Cost** to AR Families
- **PARENTS MUST** be present
- **No more than 2 students** per session
- Each student cannot exceed more than 4 session
- First come first serve basis
- 143d ESC Families in Orlando, FL takes priority

# News from the Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services!



**ZERO TO THREE**

**Brain Development:** The first three years of life are a period of incredible growth in all areas of a baby's development. Click on the link below to access this online interactive tool and learn more about a baby's brain map:

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/brain-development/baby-brain-map.html>

**FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS** about this newsletter, please contact:  
 email 1: [morfanel@odysseytci.com](mailto:morfanel@odysseytci.com); email 2: [matteo@arcyss.com](mailto:matteo@arcyss.com); desk: 800-221-9401 x. 1294  
 Matteo Orfanel, School Support Specialist, 143d ESC/Puerto Rico  
 Army Reserve Child Youth & School Services



# 143d Toons



**Kid  
 convoy**



**Got Mob?**