

# The Castle

News and Information from the 412th Theater Engineer Command

**ACE intervention  
may have saved  
Soldier  
Pg. 28**

**The 411th Engineer Brigade's**

**Olympic  
hopeful**

**Pg. 18**





# ATTENTION AR SOLDIERS!

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### How is dental readiness determined and why is it important?

The dental fitness classification is the primary measure of a Soldier's dental readiness. The commander can use the dental fitness classification of unit personnel as an index of dental preparedness and to identify individuals who will require treatment during mobilization. The Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System (ASDRS) provides dental treatment for Class 3 AR Soldiers, and annual exams for ALL AR Soldiers outside of mobilization. The DOD Dental Classification Guideline and AR 40-35 outline the following dental fitness classifications:

### Standardized Dental Fitness Classifications\*

- Class 1:** Worldwide Deployment with no further treatment required.
- Class 2:** Worldwide Deployment with need for non-urgent routine treatment.
- Class 3:** Nondeployable without treatment for urgent conditions that likely will cause a dental emergency within 12 months.
- Class 4:** Nondeployable with no examination documented within the past 12 months.

\*A Synopsis of Reference: DoD Health Affairs: Policy 02-011 on the Standardization of Oral Health and Readiness Classifications, 4 June 2004



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## The Castle Fall/Winter 2012

Commander  
Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr.

Deputy Commander  
Brig. Gen. Doug Satterfield

Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacker

Public Affairs Officer  
Lt. Col. Doril Sanders

Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Capt. Maryjane Porter

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The 412th TEC, Public Affairs office,  
ATTN: The Castle,  
1265 Porters Chapel Rd.,  
Vicksburg, MS 39180-5790  
or e-mail [eng412\\_pao@usar.army.mil](mailto:eng412_pao@usar.army.mil)  
or phone 601-631-6103/6176.

**Cover photo**-Spc. Megan Henry, HHC 854th Engineer Battalion, approaches the finish line during the U.S. Skeleton National Team Trials in Placid, NY. (Story, page 18)

**Copyright 2011 Pat Hendrick Photography**

Army Reserve soldiers of the 401st Multi-Role Bridge Company, Oklahoma City, Okla., and the 652nd MRBC, Ellsworth, Wis., both subordinates of the 416th TEC, along with active component Soldiers of the 50th MRBC, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., hold sections of a multi-ribbon bridge in place during Operation River Assault 2011. The 412th Theater Engineer Command governed the exercise which took place at Fort Chaffee Ark., July 16-30, 2011.



# A Word from the Commander

As I write this, the holidays are recently over. Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher and I sent holiday greetings to all 412th Theater Engineer Command Soldiers and families in a video message that I hope you've seen. If you didn't, then I hope that you had a good Holiday, and a good start to the new year.

It is important to once again emphasize safety in all that you do. For example, the Composite Risk Management system is an outstanding guide to success. It helps identify obstacles to achieving your desired end state, but it helps you get there safely. Each Soldier is required to complete CRM training, so complete the training, and USE IT!

There have been some significant changes in leadership here at the TEC headquarters since the last issue of "The Castle." You have, no doubt, heard that Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor retired in November, and Command Sgt. Maj. Flubacher has stepped up to that daunting role. As my new battle buddy, he and I are looking forward to setting conditions for the success across the command.

The other major change is the civilian leadership in the command group. Our command executive officer, David Weeks, will be deploying soon in his military



Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr.

role as Brig. Gen. Weeks, 411th Engineer Brigade commander. In preparation for that move, I've selected Jody Bennett to serve as the Temporary CXO. Bennett has done an excellent job forging our Force Structure Division and has a detailed understanding of how the Army Reserve Command works and "How the Army Runs."

I am pleased to tell you that we had an extremely successful Commanders Conference in November. The conference was built around providing brigades and Direct Reporting Units the necessary tools to function at their level. One of the points in my philosophy is "Freedom of Action," which means that the headquarters must ensure all the subordinate commands have the tools to be successful, ensure the requirements are understood, and let / make them perform. I want Brigades/DRUs doing Brigade/

DRU business and the TEC doing TEC business. This conference focused on making that happen better. We're "walking" in the right direction, and will soon be "running." Our next big effort will be to measure our performance to ensure that we're getting the job done.

Speaking of getting the job done, I have to comment on the great work I saw at Extended Combat Training locations that I visited this past year. It was my intent to visit all the units. With 13,000 Soldiers, it is going to be hard to do, but Brig. Gen. Doug Satterfield, Command Sgt. Maj. Flubacher and I, are committed to visiting every major exercise and seeing the tremendous work taking place throughout the command.

As I get ready to visit the various units, I can tell you that I am interested in how their TEAM performs and what they are doing to make the team successful. In my philosophy I discuss how individuals have to be trained to perform at their maximum, but that it is the team that will accomplish the mission. Our ability to communicate, up and down – left and right, will be critical to making that happen.

Once again, I wish all of you and your families a very prosperous and happy 2012.

Act Safely!  
Essays!  
Build to Serve!

# Command Sergeant Major's Corner Shaping the Force

I want to wish a happy New Year to each Soldier in the 412th Theater Engineer Command. I trust that you had an enjoyable holiday season, and found time to spend with your family and friends.

I ask that you keep our deployed Soldiers and their families in your thoughts and your prayers. More units will deploy in the coming months, while others will return home to reunite with their loved ones.

In my last assignment as the 411th Engineer Brigade command sergeant major, I spent much of last year getting the headquarters ready to deploy. I had the pleasure of visiting some of the units that will support the brigade in theater. I am convinced that the Soldiers are well trained and prepared for the mission ahead.

The new-year will present numerous challenges that will require an added effort from each and every one of us. For example, the U.S. Army Reserve Command is expanding the "Shaping the Force Initiative." The goal is to have one qualified Soldier in each position. Many units have Soldiers that are double, triple, and even quadruple slotted, while other units are under strength. Soldiers that are double slotted will be scrubbed to determine if they have any transportation issues preventing them from transferring to units that can accommodate



Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher

them. If the under strength unit is within a 50-mile radius of a double slotted Soldier's home of record, then commanders will identify the excess Soldiers and transfer them into the new unit. If a Soldier is

## The goal is to keep one qualified Soldier in each position

transferred and he or she has a unit affiliation bonus, then there will be an exception to policy so that the Soldier does not lose the bonus. The purpose of this initiative is to fill all the units within the Army Reserve. This will greatly reduce the need to cross-level Soldiers into mobilizing units. I need

company commanders and first sergeants to manage their Unit Manning Rosters, so Soldiers sitting in Non-MOSQ positions can be moved into positions they are qualified for, and the Non-DMOSQ Soldiers can be trained.

The Army will be focusing more on Contingency Expeditionary Forces rather than Deploying Expeditionary Forces. The CEF units will be used when a contingency occurs and the Army needs to deploy forces in a rapid manner like in Haiti. During the Earthquake relief efforts the Army sent various units to assist in Search and Rescue as well as Recovery Operations. The Army Reserve will focus more on these CEF units to ensure they are manned, equipped, and trained, so they can deploy quickly when needed. The initiative mentioned in the previous paragraph is an important step in the manning strategy. I am sure you can see the importance of getting one qualified Soldier into each position, so the Army can provide Soldiers who are trained and ready to the CEF and DEF units.

I look forward to visiting our units in the coming year. Essays.

# Chaplain's Greetings

## A YEAR OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Why not make 2012 your best year ever! Maybe it's just me, but it seems that the older I get, the faster time moves. Do you remember being a kid and starting a new year at school? It seemed like the year would never end and the much anticipated summer vacation never come.

Talk about moving fast, where on earth did 2011 go? I trust and pray that it was a year filled with blessing and good fortune. What makes a year good anyway? Is it simply being the recipient of good circumstances or do we play a role? Probably a little bit of both. Situations good and bad come into our lives all the time that surprise us. They may fill us with great joy, or shake us to our foundations. But are we mere passive observers in life's journey, or can we make a difference by the choices and decisions we make? Why not take some time for self reflection and set some goals. Understand that if we keep doing the things we've always done, we'll keep being the people we've always been. First, let us consider our spiritual lives. In my civilian role as a Hospice Chaplain, I'm confronted with mortality every day and am often blessed to preside at the funerals of very Godly people who left life prepared to meet their Maker. How about us? Do we have habits that hurt others or offend a holy God? Why not make 2012 the year we get this squared away.



Chaplain Col. Timothy M. Samorajski

Secondly, let us consider our personal relationships. No person is an island. What we say, what we do and how we react to things is tremendously powerful. Each of us has the ability to be an instrument of blessing and healing or conversely an instrument of harm and hurt. Finally, let us consider our physical bodies and invest in pursuits that honor and enhance the temple God has given us. The Army challenges each Soldier to maintain a standard of physical fitness so that we might be prepared for the unexpected. So, are you excited about the possibilities 2012 brings? Let us consider our spiritual lives and make new strides, invest in the personal relationships God has given us and treat them as precious as gold and care for the physical bodies that accompany us throughout life. Why not make 2012 our best year ever!



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## Spc. Justin Pfeiffer finds passion in helping others

Story by Capt Maryjane Porter 412th TEC PAO

Some may see it as a burdensome obligation. But not Spc. Justin Pfeiffer, a member of the 365th Engineer Battalion, Schuylkill, Pa. The 23-year old watched and learned while growing up in small town Quarryville, Pa., that 'doing good for other people' is part of everyday family life.

So it came as no surprise when the Army medic stepped up to the plate to assist the 365th Family Readiness Group in hosting a Christmas banquet for roughly 200 Soldiers and their family members.

Pfeiffer gathered his own family – mother, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins – and discussed a plan to sell sub-sandwiches to local businesses with the goal to raise \$1,000. He was not worried about the outcome as Quarryville is a close-knit community and very supportive of the Armed Forces.

"My grandfather and several uncles are all retired military, so everyone was on board to support this from the get-go," he said, noting that the importance of giving back to one's community is a topic of regular conversation around the family dinner table.

Pfeiffer, in his vigorous but modest demeanor, took charge from the start and synchronized a collective effort to ensure minimal delays along the way.

He worked with his aunt, a manager at a local pharmacy store, to get approval to sell outside the store. He solicited the help of others to prepare and package over 100 sandwiches. He went door to door and galvanized local business owners to dig deep into their pockets for their support.

Pfeiffer did not mind standing six hours in the elements to sell sandwiches. He was more concerned about getting the job done. By the end of the day, he raised more than \$1200.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Renee Zimmerman

Brig. Gen. Douglas R. Satterfield, deputy commander, 412th Theater Engineer Command, displays an award presented to Spec. Justin Pfeiffer (pictured with his mother) for spearheading a 'Sub Sale'

"I just wanted to help, and it works when people come together and believe in a good cause," he said.

Pfeiffer's mother, Jodie Miller, said she is very proud of her son. "He's always been that way. Justin is very involved in church activities to benefit others, and I'm happy to see the military reinforce that spirit in him," she said.

Pfeiffer credits his mother and grandparents for the person that he is today. "I didn't grow up with a lot, but my family is always doing something to help someone else in our community. They instilled in me the values that I believe and practice to this day," he said.

"Spc. Pfeiffer did an amazing job. His initiative and focus on helping others is indicative of great leadership potential. I look forward to seeing him with sergeant's stripes or even bars on his uniform one day," said Maj. Michael J. Trofinoff, commander of the 365th Engineer Battalion.

Pfeiffer joined the Army Reserve in 2006 and was recently recognized for this significant contribution during an awards ceremony in December 2011.

The 23-year old is not sure what his future holds in the military. But if he decides to not re-enlist later this year, he contemplates joining the Catch A Dream Foundation to provide military veterans and young people with life-threatening illnesses a chance to experience an outdoors adventure.

316th Engineer Company commander joins City of Chattanooga leaders for...

## Reserve center grand opening



L-R, Col. Patrick Briley, directorate of public works, 81st Regional Support Command, Steven Leach, representative of City of Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield, Cpt. Lex Oren Jr. Chattanooga Army Reserve Center facility manager and commander of the 316th Engineer Company, Jim Coppinger, Hamilton County mayor, Ambassador John Dyess, United States Army Reserve Ambassador for Tennessee cut the ribbon marking the official opening of the Chattanooga Army Reserve Center, Chattanooga, Tenn. Dec. 3, 2011.

**C**HATTANOOGA Tenn.- Nearly a year after the 316th Engineer Company officially activated, the unit commander Cpt. Lex Oren joined community leaders in a ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the grand opening of the Chattanooga Army Reserve Center, the unit's new home on Bonny Oaks Drive.

Oren is also facility commander of the nearly 47,000 square foot structure, which is part of an approximately 15-million-dollar complex constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The compound sits on 26 acres

of land, and includes a 13, 585 square foot maintenance shop, and a Tennessee Air National Guard center.

"Seventeen years in the Army, and I've never had a building this nice," Oren said. "Everything's got new digital technology."

In addition to a computer lab and state of the art workout equipment, the building has a weapon simulator that enables Soldiers to train on individual and crew served weapons.

Spc. Markus Williams, a track mechanic with the 316th, says he's impressed with the gymnasium and space available to the five

units that will occupy the building.

The facility also has motion sensor light switches, a feature that Williams, a full time Soldier, says he has difficulty getting accustomed to.

"The lights in my office turn themselves off," said Williams. "I have to [frequently] wave my hands to turn them back on."

"That's something he's going to have to live with," said Col. Patrick Briley, directorate of public works, 81st Regional Support Command, the organization responsible for the building. "All the new buildings have that. That's just a way of saving energy, and being good stewards of government funds."

Briley said the the city and county leader participation in the ceremony is a testament to the support the Army Reserve receives from the community.

"As you saw this morning, they came out in droves to support these Soldiers," Briley said. "That tells us that we put a brand new facility in the right community."

Local leaders who took part in the ribbon cutting included, Jim Coppinger, Hamilton County mayor, Ambassador John Dyess, United States Army Reserve Ambassador for Tennessee, U.S. Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, and Steven Leach who represented City of Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield.



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Tel: (609) 562-7469

412th TEC Soldiers in the southern region must e-mail a completed SF182 to:

 [sylvester.chisolm@us.army.mil](mailto:sylvester.chisolm@us.army.mil)

Tel: (803) 751-9790

Supervisor and fulltime safety officer or training officer must approve form

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From left to right, Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, 412th Theater Engineer Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor, 412th TEC senior enlisted leader, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher, 411th Engineer Brigade senior enlisted leader, during a Change of Responsibility Ceremony that saw Flubacher replace Taylor as the TEC's top noncommissioned officer in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 19, 2011.

# Taylor retires, Flubacher New 412th TEC CSM

**T**he 412th Theater Engineer Command said farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher as the TEC's Senior Enlisted Leader during a Change of Responsibility Ceremony in Nashville, Tenn.

Nov. 19, 2011.

The COR ceremony serves the dual function of honoring the departing command sergeant major and officially recognizing the incoming CSM as the senior noncommissioned officer.

The command also honored Taylor during a Retirement Ceremony for more than 34

years of service to the military. Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr., the 412th TEC commander administered both ceremonies, which coincided with the TEC's 2011 Commander's Conference.

"It's pretty tough to leave... something you've done for the majority of 35 years," Taylor said during his farewell speech to an

audience that consisted mostly of representatives from the TEC's subordinate units.

Taylor's awards during the ceremony included the Bronze Order of the De Fleury medal for inspirational leadership to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Legion of Merit for his time in service.

With Taylor as the 412th's senior enlisted advisor for more than three years, the organization transformed from a strategic and planning unit, known as an Engineer Command, to a Theater Engineer Command, which is an operational, and functional headquarters that governs all

Army Reserve engineer, and engineer-support units east of the Mississippi River.

"We've come a long way since transformation," Taylor said.

"With this command team we have here I expect great things."

Taylor was also the senior noncommissioned officer of Deployable Command Post One, a 60-person element of the TEC headquarters that deployed to Afghanistan in Aug. 2009. Flubacher filled in as the 412th's acting CSM, in Taylor's absence while maintaining his position as the 411th Engineer Brigade's CSM.

Buckler told the audience that

he selected Flubacher after an extensive search that required candidates to submit eligibility packets that highlighted their qualifications.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Flubacher was the lead in that process," Buckler said. "His experience, his demonstrated performances are all indications of his potential to do better."

"It's an honor and a privilege," Flubacher told the audience during his first speech as the TEC's CSM. "I will do everything I can to support the 412th and the Army Reserve as a whole, [and] I appreciate everyone's trust and confidence."



Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor receives the Bronze Order of the De Fleury for inspirational leadership to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr., commander 412th Theater Engineer Command, with help from Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher, senior enlisted leader of the 412th TEC, during Taylor's retirement ceremony in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 19, 2011.



# 758th Engineers help elderly couple during IRT exercise

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

**T**wenty Reserve Soldiers from the 758th Engineer Company joined forces with the charity "Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, Inc.," during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise in Miami, Nov. 5-7, 2011.

RTMD is a non-profit organization that caters to the needs of the elderly, the handicapped and military veterans. IRT exercises provide real world

training opportunities that prepare service members for their wartime missions, while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

The 758th engineers took advantage of the partnership with RTMD when they renovated the home of Willie and Alvina Jenkins, an elderly Miami couple who had been on the charity's waiting list for two years.

"We help people out and it's great training for us," said Spc.

atomic bomb had went off."

The engineers improved the home's safety standards, by making repairs and modifications with supplies and material that RTMD provided. The three bedrooms and two bathrooms needed the most work.

"I know how to put in a toilet now, that's so neat," said Pvt. 1st Class Daniela Agudelo, a carpenter who cross trained with the plumbers during the exercise.

"This is a perfect environment for MOS training," said Kamberger. "It keeps the Soldiers

ready."

"I'm like a little kid at a toy store," said Alvina. "We love to see the community grow. I don't like to see houses in the neighborhood dormant because predators take up residences in there, then our children are not safe."

"We've made another family happy, and you can't put a dollar amount on safety," said James McCants a RTMD representative.

"The partnership between the U.S. Army Reserve and Rebuilding Together is so appreciated."



Pvt. 1st Class Stephen Evans removes a wooden brace at the home of Willie and Alvina Jenkins during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise, Miami Fla.

Jorge Perez-Perez.

The Jenkins were victims of Hurricane Andrew, the Category five storm that hit Miami in 1992.

"We were right here, right here in the house," Willie said. "It sounded like a freight train coming. My wife and daughter were standing near the back door, which is glass. I never seen glass pucker in and out like that, I told them to get away from the door."

The strong winds shattered the glass door as soon as Willie's wife and daughter stepped away.

"I went and curled up in the closet until it was over," he said. "After Andrew, it looked like an



Sgt. Terry Bears, 758th Engineer Company, checks the fit of a sheetrock patch during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise, Miami Fla. Nov. 5, 2011. The Army Reserve unit teamed up with the charity "Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, Inc.," to help an elderly couple whose home was devastated by Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Spc. Jose Duprey, 758th Engineer Co., Miami, Fla., replaces an electrical outlet at the home of Willie and Alvina Jenkins during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise, Miami Fla..



Spc. Christopher Aguirre (on ladder) and Spc. Jose Duprey perform a conductivity test at the home of Willie and Alvina Jenkins while Spc. Jorge Perez-Perez and another Soldier observes, during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise, Miami Fla.



733rd Engineer Company Soldiers placing a roof section on a 50-person pre-fabricated classroom during Castle IRC at Joint Base McGuire-Dix.

*The 733rd Engineer Company's first Platoon took on a project that was...*

# Cemented in Song

*Story & photos by Spc. Amber M. Hoy 314th PAOC*

**"Blame it all on my roots, I showed up in boots and ruined your black tie affair,"** sang the soldiers of first platoon, 733rd Engineer Company out of Greenville, Tenn.

The jovial engineers sang a blend of army cadence and country music to keep their morale high while assembling

a 50-person pre-fabricated classroom during exercise "Castle Installation Related Construction" at Joint Base McGuire-Dix, July 16-30, 2011.

"Singing makes the work easier," said Staff Sgt. David J. Kunter, noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

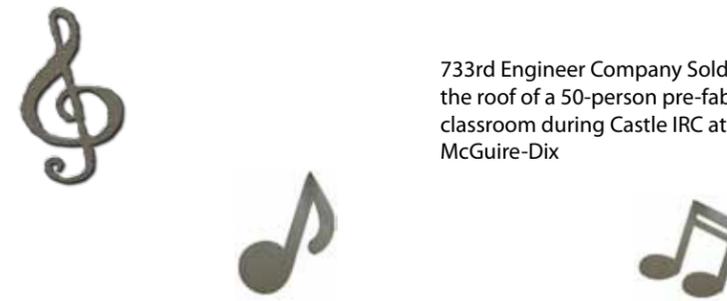
"When the heat index reaches 110-120 degrees and the hours get long, it's important to crack some

smiles and to lighten the mood with song," said Spc. Christopher R. Douppnik, a 733rd engineer and unit motivator.

Kunter compared the melodies at the worksite to cadence calling during military runs.

"If you are not thinking about how much is left, you run harder and farther," Kunter said.

The noncommissioned officers



also used singing as a safety tool that allowed supervisors to gauge which Soldiers had been in the heat too long.

"When someone doesn't participate, that tells us something is wrong and they might need to take a seat in the shade," Kunter said.

Douppnik, who jokingly wears a bird feather in his yellow hardhat, says that the unit is like a family.

"I wrestled in high school and this is the closest thing to that [type of] camaraderie," Douppnik said. "Everyone understands the task, so you do not have to tell people what to do. They already know."

733rd Engineer Company Soldiers secure the roof of a 50-person pre-fabricated classroom during Castle IRC at Joint Base McGuire-Dix

The cohesion Douppnik spoke of became evident when some lower enlisted Soldiers voluntarily stayed late to help keep the project, which started two days late, on schedule.

The 733rd, which is subordinate to the 412th Theater Engineer Command answered to the 416th TEC, the exercise's governing body, during Castle IRC. The overall focus of the mission was to improve training areas on JBMDL, and to give the engineers the opportunity to sharpen their construction skills during their two-week annual training.

The work progressed, the temperatures increased and the



choruses got louder.

"Now I'm not big on social graces, think I'll slip on down to the oasis, oh I got friends, in low places," the Soldiers chanted.

With that type of motivation it comes as no surprise that the platoon finished the project on schedule.



733rd Engineer Company Soldiers out of Greenville, Tenn. align the roof and wall of a 50-person pre-fabricated classroom at Joint Base McGuire-Dix during exercise Castle IRC.

Copyright 2011 Pat Hendrick Photography

Spc. Megan Henry, HHC 854th Engineer Battalion, maneuvers her sled during the U.S. Skeleton National Team Trials in Placid, NY. Skeleton is a winter sport where a single rider slides down an ice track headfirst laying face down on a metal sled. There's no steering or braking mechanism, and sliders use their bodies and feet to steer their sleds, which can reach speeds of more than 70 miles per hour. "On some of the curves you can get up to five Gs of pressure," Henry said, referring to G-Force, the unit of measurement for bodies enduring the stress of speed. "You have to be athletically built to take that kind of pressure repeatedly and not be dead tired afterwards."



*Spc. Megan Henry takes a...*

# 'World-Class'

*shot at the Olympics*

**I**t's not your everyday sleigh ride. Sliding headfirst down an icy trail at speeds in excess of 80 mph is 'like jumping out of an airplane without leaving the ground,' according to Spc. Megan Henry.

*Continued on next page*

Spc. Megan Henry takes a...  
**'World-Class'**  
shot at the Olympics

Continued from page 19

**T**he HHC, 854th Engineer Battalion intelligence analyst would know. At 24, she is an accomplished skydiver who first jumped out of an airplane at age 18 after seeing video footage of her father freefalling.

She picked up the basics of downhill sliding at a "sliding school" in Lake Placid N.Y.

"She's always been an adrenaline junkie," said her mother, Barbara. "When she was little, she always loved the fastest ride at the carnivals; she always loved roller coasters."

Henry quickly advanced



Copyright 2011 Pat Hendrick Photography  
Spac. Megan Henry begins her downhill descent during U.S. Skeleton National Team Trials, Lake Placid, NY.



Copyright 2011 Pat Hendrick Photography  
Virtually airborne, Spac. Megan Henry hits the ice during U.S. Skeleton National Team Trials, Lake Placid, NY.



Copyright 2011 Pat Hendrick Photography  
Spac. Megan Henry, boarding her sled during U.S. Skeleton National Team Trials, Lake Placid, NY.



Copyright 2011 Pat Hendrick Photography  
Spac. Megan Henry gathers momentum for her downhill descent during U.S. Skeleton National Team Trials, Lake Placid, NY.



Photo courtesy USBSF  
Spac. Megan Henry, HHC 854th Engineer Battalion and member of the Army World Class Athlete Program.

beyond the "sliding school," earning a spot in the World Class Athlete Program - an elite training program for exceptional Soldier-athletes. Her goal is to compete with the U.S. Skeleton team during the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"It would be rewarding to wear two uniforms to represent our country," said Henry.

Her journey to the WCAP began in April 2010, when Henry's former college strength

coach suggested she try out for the U.S. Bobsled team. As a general practice, the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation recruit athletes from other sports.

Henry impressed the Olympic officials during the tryout, but they told her that she needed to gain a minimum of 30 pounds because she was too small for Bobsled.

"I'm short in stature," said Henry who stands at 5-foot-3-inches. "My obligation to the Army requires a height and weight standard that I never would've passed."

Based on her start times and overall athleticism, the officials suggested that Henry try out for Skeleton. Determined to give it a shot, Henry took on the challenge with her family's support.

"I didn't know Skeleton from a bunch of bones in the doctor's office," said Henry's father Craig, a former high school All-American in football and track. "But she's very disciplined, once she commits herself, she'll see it all the way through."

In September 2010, Henry competed in a more comprehensive event that tested her speed, strength, and agility. She placed third overall, and first among women with a score of 693, well beyond the 600 minimum.

Her performance caught the attention of Tuffy Latour, head coach of the United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation. Latour is also a staff sergeant in the National Guard, and he noticed the Army logo on Henry's apparel.

"He approached me and was like, 'are you in the Army, or are you just wearing Army stuff?'" Henry said.

Latour suggested the WCAP to Henry, and she pitched the idea to her chain of command.

"It made no sense, her being in the Army Reserve and not applying for this great program," Latour said.

"She demonstrated the right motivation and commitment, plus an astronomical PT score," said Cpt. Aaron Perry, Commander HHC 854th Engineer Battalion.

Henry's Army Physical Fitness Test scores have consistently exceeded 300, with 406 being the highest. Her Basic Training APFT score was tops in the battalion at 386. She earned the Golden Strategic Army Corp award for academic excellence along

with a 398 APFT score during Advanced Individual Training at Fort Huachuca. During AIT, she also earned a gold award for completing the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition.

The German military established the GAFPB in the early 1960s to measure their soldiers' physical fitness. Fort Huachuca is one of 17 installations where U.S. Soldiers can earn the award.

Henry played Field Hockey in high school, and college at the Division 1 level. She was also a sprinter in high school.

"She's just a great athlete, she meets the athletic skills that we're looking for," said Latour. "She's progressively made the moves forward to make a run at the national team."

Henry credits the Army Reserve for the chance to compete, something she says she doesn't take for granted. "I'm still very excited and very grateful for the opportunity to compete at this level while representing the Army

**Nathan Crumpton.com**

Spac. Megan Henry, HHC 854th Engineer Battalion, a member of the Army World Class Athlete Program competing in an Americas Cup race, Lake Placid, N.Y. Dec. 2, 2011. Henry is trying to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Skeleton team with hopes of competing in the 2014 Winter Olympics.



Contributed photo

Spac. Megan Henry HHC 854th Engineer Battalion, prior to the start of a race during the America's Cup in Calgary, Canada.

# 302nd MEB Military Policeman awarded Purple Heart

Capt. Brien Durkee woke up at 3 a.m. and went to the Bahgram Airfield MP station to call his family back home in Massachusetts before starting the workday on September 11, 2010.

Durkee made an effort to call his wife Michelle and their two children

William and Brielle every two weeks.

"I couldn't call everyday because I was out on missions a lot," said Durkee.

That morning he spoke with his family for a few minutes and talked to one of the agents on duty.

"I left out of the MP station and walked 100 feet down Disney Drive, and a 107

107mm rocket came in and blew up 40 feet away from me," said Durkee. "All I heard was a swoosh sound and that was it, then lights out. When I figured out what was going on it was all over with."

Durkee said he woke up seeing stars. His head was pounding, his heart was racing, and he was confused and disoriented.

Medical authorities gave Durkee the opportunity to leave Afghanistan for further



photo courtesy of 99th

Capt. Brien Durkee after receiving the Purple Heart in a Ceremony on November 6, 2011

**I'm not a hero. I'm not anyone special. I'm a guy who walked down the street and got blown up.**

treatment, but he elected to stay since several of his troops had been in major firefights and were wounded.

"I was the detachment commander of 70 troops and I didn't see a replacement," Durkee said. "I'm proud of my guys, they defended several Forward Operating Bases when it wasn't their mission. They did it because we are MPs and that's how we trained."

An Airman brought a recovered fragment of the rocket to Durkee who used the piece of metal to remind the Soldiers who replaced the 342nd MP Detachment (Law and Order) that they should be aware of their surroundings because there's

no way of knowing when or where rockets will hit.

"My advice would be not to dwell on them, not to worry about them, but to respect them," said Durkee. "Respect the sirens and alarms when they go off."

On November 6, 2011, Brig. Gen. David W. Puster, Commander of the 302nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, presented Durkee with the Purple Heart at Ft.

Devens, Massachusetts.

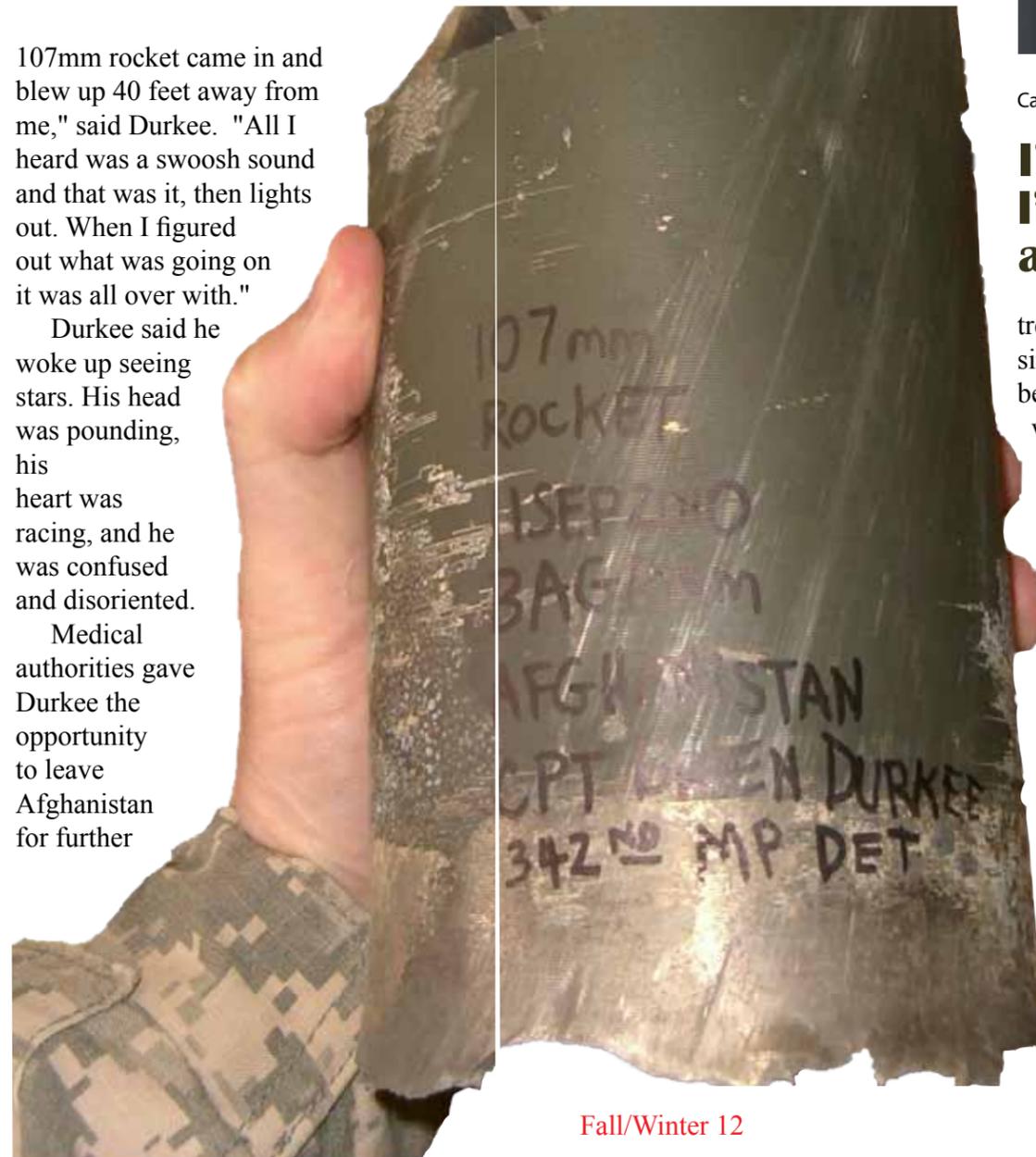
"I'm not a hero. I'm not anyone special. I'm a guy who walked down the street and got blown up," Durkee said.

Durkee said he hopes to continue service with the 302nd MEB if cleared medically.



photo courtesy of 99th RSC

Brig. Gen. David Puster presents Capt. Brien Durkee with the Purple Heart in a ceremony on November 6, 2011.



# Get me there brother

Story by Staff Sgt. Paul Roberts 314th PAOC

Lt. Col. Mark Leighton, HHC 412th Theater Engineer Command, had a lot on his mind while performing his warm up stretches prior to the 27th Annual Army 10-Miler in D.C.

The day before, Leighton visited the Vietnam Memorial



Photo by Sgt. Paul Roberts, 314th PAOC

Lt. Col. Mark A. Leighton, HHC 412th Theater Engineer Command, searches for his father's name on the Vietnam Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., Oct. 8, 2011. Leighton and a team of Soldiers from the 412th TEC headquarters in Vicksburg Miss., and the 314th Public Affairs Operations Center in Birmingham Ala. were in the nation's capital to participate in the 27th Annual Army 10-Miler race, Oct. 9, 2011.

to pay tribute to his dad, but he was also dealing with a more immediate loss. His friend Lt. Col. Jeff Dryden, a former 412th TEC intelligence officer, was killed in a motorcycle accident a month earlier.

Leighton and Dryden trained together during the summer of 2009 while preparing for their deployment to Afghanistan with an element of the TEC headquarters known as Deployable Command Post One.

As he trotted through D.C. with approximately 25-thousand other runners, Leighton reflected on past conversations with Dryden about "pushing through" and being examples for the younger Soldiers.

Around the eight-mile mark, Leighton said his body "started to ache and stiffen up," like it did 11 years earlier when he competed in the event.

Dryden wasn't around to encourage him, at

least not physically.

"Jeff popped into my head just as it was getting tough for me," Leighton said. "I had true inspiration whispering in my ear."

Leighton dedicated the last two miles to Dryden. He said he felt an emotional release and a sense of accomplishment as he crossed the finish line.

"I knew he would have been there cheering me on, if he could - and he was," Leighton said. "WE did it."

**I KNEW HE  
WOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
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ME ON, IF  
HE COULD  
AND HE  
WAS. WE  
DID IT**



Contributed photo  
The late Lt. Col. Jeffery Dryden former 412th Theater Engineer Command intelligence officer



Photo by Sgt. Paul Roberts, 314th PAOC  
Lt. Col. Mark Leighton (sunglasses) HHC 412th Theater Engineer Command, crosses the finish line during the 27th Army 10-Miler race in D.C.

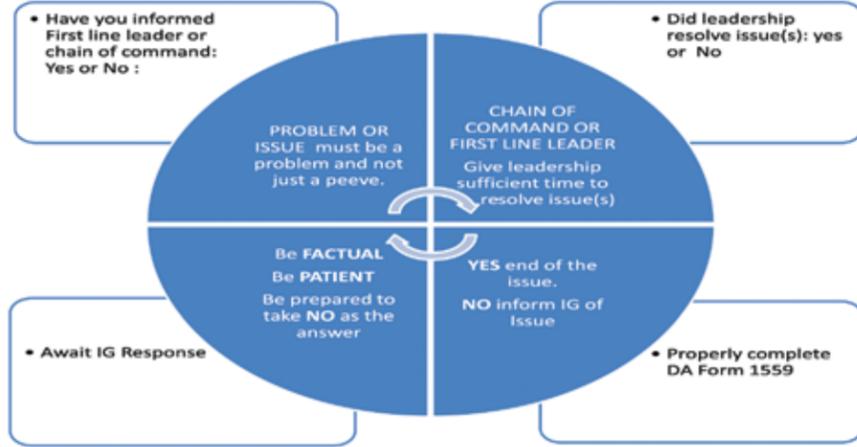


Photo by Capt. Maryjane Porter 412th TEC PAO  
The 412th Theater Engineer Command headquarters Army 10-Miler team, from left to right, Maj. Jaime Birmingham, Lt. Col. Marvin Bennett, Lt. Col. Mark Leighton and 1st Lt. Alan Moss



412th Theater Engineer Command

# IG CYCLE MATRIX



## WELL WRITTEN DA 1559

INSPECTOR GENERAL ACTION REQUEST			
For use of this form, see AR 25-1; the proponent agency is the Office of the Inspector General.			
DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974			
<b>AUTHORITY:</b> Title 10, USC, Section 3033.			
<b>PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:</b> To secure sufficient information to inquire into the matters presented and to provide a response to the requester(s) and / or take action to correct deficiencies.			
<b>ROUTINE USES:</b> Information is used for official purposes within the Department of Defense to answer complaints or respond to requests for assistance, advice, or information, by Members of Congress and other Government agencies when determined by the Inspector General to be in the best interest of the Army, and, in certain cases, in trial by court-martial and other military matters as authorized by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Department of Defense Manual Routine Uses (DA 1559).			
<b>DISCLOSURE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY. HOWEVER, FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE INFORMATION MAY HINDER PROPER IDENTIFICATION OF THE REQUESTOR, ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE REQUESTED ACTION(S), AND RESPONSE TO THE REQUESTOR.</b>			
<b>LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL:</b> DOE, JOHN E.	<b>GRADE / RANK:</b> PVT / E1	<b>DOB:</b> 123-45-6789	<b>COMPONENT / STATUS:</b> USAR / TPU
<b>UNIT AND COMPLETE MILITARY ADDRESS:</b> 123 POT HANDLE PLATOON 1 STOVE STREET ANYTOWN, USA 12345	<b>PREFERRED CONTACT TELEPHONE (day, time, and/or fax):</b> 555-123-4567		
<b>PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (if different from military address, including zip code):</b> 256 MICRO WAVE WAY TOASTER, KI 12345	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS (if home):</b> AKO: JOHN.E.DOE@US.ARMY.MIL DOEJ@YAHOO.COM		
<b>SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED (check all that apply):</b> STOP HARASSMENT FROM MSG BOTHERSOME			
<b>INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS REQUEST (provide all address and / or history, as accurate as possible):</b>			
1. Do you have any supporting documents? YES, I'M A H.S. WITNESS(S) AND STATEMENTS			
2. Is the chain of command aware of this issue? If yes, explain. Yes, I have told my Platoon Sergeant, john.e.whisper@us.army.mil or whisper1@aol.com, 601-867-5309			
3. Have you asked other agencies for Assistance? If yes, what agencies. No			
4. What is your status? (AGR, USAR, ARNG, Civilian, Contractor, etc.) USAR/TPU			
I do <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not <input type="checkbox"/> consent to release my personal information outside official channels in order to resolve the matters listed above. I understand that if I do not agree to release my personal information, my request for assistance may go unaddressed.			
This information is submitted for the basic purpose of requesting assistance, correcting irregularities affecting the individual, or obtaining conditions environment determined to be in the efficiency or reputation of the Army. Those who knowingly and intentionally provide false statements on this form are subject to potential punitive and administrative action (AR 15-6, 15 USC 1001).			
<b>DATE (YYYYMMDD):</b> 20110101	<b>SIGNATURE:</b> JOHN E. DOE		
DA FORM 1559, DEC 2007 REPLACES SECTION OF APR 2001, WHICH IS OBSOLETE. AFD 14 11 08			

## POORLY WRITTEN DA 1559

INSPECTOR GENERAL ACTION REQUEST			
For use of this form, see AR 25-1; the proponent agency is the Office of the Inspector General.			
DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974			
<b>AUTHORITY:</b> Title 10, USC, Section 3033.			
<b>PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:</b> To secure sufficient information to inquire into the matters presented and to provide a response to the requester(s) and / or take action to correct deficiencies.			
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<b>LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL:</b> DOE, JOHN E.	<b>GRADE / RANK:</b> PVT / E1	<b>DOB:</b> 123-45-6789	<b>COMPONENT / STATUS:</b> USAR / TPU
<b>UNIT AND COMPLETE MILITARY ADDRESS:</b> 123 POT HANDLE PLATOON 1 STOVE STREET ANYTOWN, USA 12345	<b>PREFERRED CONTACT TELEPHONE (day, time, and/or fax):</b> 555-123-4567		
<b>PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (if different from military address, including zip code):</b> 256 MICRO WAVE WAY TOASTER, KI 12345	<b>E-MAIL ADDRESS (if home):</b> AKO: JOHN.E.DOE@US.ARMY.MIL DOEJ@YAHOO.COM		
<b>SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED (check all that apply):</b> GET MSG BOTHERSOME OFF MY BACK			
<b>INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS REQUEST (provide all address and / or history, as accurate as possible):</b>			
1. Do you have any supporting documents? No, but my friends might tell you something			
2. Is the chain of command aware of this issue? If yes, explain. I think they are			
3. Have you asked other agencies for Assistance? If yes, what agencies. Yes, Tonator Police Department			
4. What is your status? (AGR, USAR, ARNG, Civilian, Contractor, etc.) USAR/TPU			
I do <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not <input type="checkbox"/> consent to release my personal information outside official channels in order to resolve the matters listed above. I understand that if I do not agree to release my personal information, my request for assistance may go unaddressed.			
This information is submitted for the basic purpose of requesting assistance, correcting irregularities affecting the individual, or obtaining conditions environment determined to be in the efficiency or reputation of the Army. Those who knowingly and intentionally provide false statements on this form are subject to potential punitive and administrative action (AR 15-6, 15 USC 1001).			
<b>DATE (YYYYMMDD):</b> 20110101	<b>SIGNATURE:</b> JOHN E. DOE		
DA FORM 1559, DEC 2007 REPLACES SECTION OF APR 2001, WHICH IS OBSOLETE. AFD 14 11 08			

## Contact Information

• Call toll-free

• The Command 1-800-673-1051 x173, x175, x180, x456

• Commercial 601-631-6173 x 6175, 6180, 6456

• USARC IG 1-800-359-6116

• DA IG 1-800-752-9747

• DoD Hotline (Fraud, Waste or Mismanagement) 1-800-424-9098

• Before visiting or calling the Inspector General, consider whether your concerns can be addressed more quickly and simply by your chain of command. You do not have to present your concerns to your chain of command before visiting or calling an IG. You must obtain permission to be absent from your duties if you wish to visit the IG during duty hours.



2nd graders at Lausanne Collegiate School spent their final day before the school's holiday break to sort care packages and write letters to their

## Memphis 2nd graders send letters, care packages to Soldiers in Afghanistan

Story & photos by Capt Maryjane Porter 412th TEC PAO

While students across Tennessee counted down the days toward their school holiday break, one group instead was busy writing letters and sorting care packages for their heroes overseas.

The 2nd graders at Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, along with their dedicated parents and teachers, spent their final day before the Christmas break to show their appreciation and support for the men and women of the 689th Engineer Company in Afghanistan.

The three classrooms bustled with the holiday spirit as they wrote letters, created art work and read their appreciative thoughts out loud. The overarching theme was a sense of gratitude to the deployed Soldiers for their

commitment and dedication to serve their country.

"I'm excited that they're going to read my letter and know that I care about them," said Wyatt Burnham of Germantown. The 8-year old was joined by his 10-year old sister Bonnie and his father Bentley, who also expressed his gratitude to the Soldiers for their service and sacrifice.

The sentiment was shared by every parent and teacher that gathered at the Memphis campus to donate all sorts of items and to witness the students' sense of pride toward their 'adopted' unit.

It's a small token of appreciation for what our Soldiers are doing for our country, especially during the holiday season when they're away from their families, said Elizabeth Holden, a parent who spearheaded

the care package initiative for her daughter's class.

Holden and her dedicated team of parents and teachers collected, packed and mailed 17 boxes of snacks and personalized letters, destined for the roughly 200 Soldiers of the 689th Engineer Company, 926th Engineer Brigade.

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven M. Hatchell, senior enlisted leader for the 926th brigade, thanked the parents and teachers, and especially the students, for their continued support of our troops and their families.

Lausanne Collegiate School is a coeducational, nonsectarian school in Memphis whose mission is to prepare each of its students for college and for life in a global environment.

# NCO'S ACTION MAY HAVE SAVED SOLDIER'S LIFE

By Dave Larsen, III Corps and Fort Hood Public Affairs

Just past 6 a.m. on the morning of Oct. 9, 2011, very few people were inside the III Corps Shoppette on T.J. Mills Boulevard. Staff Sgt. Timothy Warden stopped in to buy some ice and soft drinks on the way to work.

"I was getting ready to go to the range," he said. "We had a unit preparing to train on urban operations."

Inside the shoppette something strange happened.

"In my 15-and-a-half years in the Army," Warden said, "this is the first time I've come across something like this."

The staff sergeant, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 393rd Infantry Regiment, 479th Field Artillery Brigade, Division West, noticed another patron having issues with the cashier.

"He was in line in front of me trying to buy a pack of cigarettes," Warden recalled Oct. 11. "The cashier wouldn't sell him any because he didn't have his ID. He smelled of alcohol, and I suggested he leave."

Then the situation changed quickly.

"The Soldier said, 'Hey sergeant, once you finish here can I talk to you?'" Warden said. "I thought at the time maybe he needed a ride home, or was going to ask me for money to



Contributed photo

Staff Sgt. Timothy Warden, 1-393 Inf. Regt., 479th FA Bde.

buy cigarettes." Warden made his purchase and stopped to listen to the Soldier, who Warden guessed was in his early 20s. He noticed something else.

"He was looking pretty rough. He looked like he'd gotten into a fight. I noticed scratches on his arms, and I asked him who he got into a fight with, and he answered, 'I'm done,'" Warden said. "He kept saying that -- 'I'm done.'"

Warden said he told the young Soldier to call his roommate, to get him home safely.

"As I got ready to leave, he said, 'I just reenlisted, but I'm done, if you know what I mean?'" Warden said. It was then that his Army training kicked in -- the ACE model for suicide prevention: Ask, Care and Escort.

"It took awhile for it to click,"

he said, "but when it did, I knew this guy needed some help."

Warden called the military police and kept an eye on the Soldier until they arrived.

"Once the MPs arrived, I didn't need to stick around," he said. "I was told later they took him to the hospital."

Fort Hood leaders, who are alerted to every suicide ideation by Soldiers, contacted Warden Oct. 12.

"Wednesday, I got a call from the deputy commanding general's aide, and I thought, 'Oh my God, what did I do?'" Warden recalled. What Fort Hood leaders did was invite him to meet Lt. Gen. Don Campbell Jr., III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general, in his office Oct. 14, who commended him for his alert actions in aid of a fellow Soldier in need of help.

"It is the observant, proactive deeds of folks like Staff Sgt. Warden who save lives every day," Campbell wrote in a Facebook entry Friday. "Staff Sgt. Warden noticed a troubled Soldier at a shoppette; he intervened to see what the issue was. Upon talking with the Soldier, Staff Sgt. Warden knew he was in trouble; he kept the Soldier at the shoppette and called for help."

"It is because of Staff Sgt. Warden's quick actions that a Fort Hood team member is getting

## It was then that his Army training kicked in -- the ACE model for suicide prevention: Ask, Care and Escort.

the help he needs and deserves," Campbell continued. "We all must have the courage to help a buddy. One preventable death of America's finest -- our service members -- is one too many."

Warden said he was humbled to meet the post's commanding general, and more than a little nervous.

"When there's that much brass

around, I'm always nervous," he admitted, "but it felt good."

The most important thing, Warden said, is that a young Soldier is getting help and his family has been spared the loss of a loved one.

"I saved his mom the heartache of somebody coming to her door in Class As telling her she'd lost her son," he said. "No one wants that."

Warden said mandatory training

he's received was instrumental in handling that early Sunday morning situation.

"I had a job to do and somewhere to go, but in the end, I'm glad I stuck around to talk to this individual," he said. "If your battle buddy is hurting in any way, you know how to go out and get him some help."

**ARMY STRONG**  
U.S. ARMY

**ACE**  
Suicide Intervention

**A** **Ask your buddy**

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly: Are you thinking of killing yourself?

**C** **Care for your buddy**

- Calmly control the situation; do not use force; be safe
- Actively listen to show understanding and produce relief
- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury

**E** **Escort your buddy**

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to chain of command, Chaplain, behavioral health professional, or primary care provider
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:  
1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

USAPHC <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/>

TA - 095 - 0510

# A SURVIVOR'S PITCH

Story by Spc. Amber M. Hoy, 314th PAOC

**S**tanding on the pitcher's mound, nervously looking at the crowd, a Soldier from the 314th Public Affairs Operation Center in Birmingham, Ala., gathers herself as she prepares to throw the ceremonial first pitch prior to a baseball game between the Birmingham Barons and the Montgomery Biscuits at Regions Field.

The 314th PAOC selected Pfc. Allyson E. Putman to throw out the first pitch because she was the junior member of the unit.

During their interactions with the Soldier, unit leaders learned that Putman was a victim of the tornados that had ripped through

Alabama on April 27, 2011.

"We did not have power for 13 days. I just got my [battle assembly] check the day the tornados hit and I was the only one that had access to money," Putman said. "My whole check went to buying supplies for two families."

Putman is also a volunteer at the Union Grove Ala., Fire Department. She assisted in running the shelter and helped provide three meals a day to tornado survivors.

After the first storm came through, she went to check on her family only to find that her home town of Guntersville Ala. was devastated. Her mom told her that according to a radio

announcement, a second set of storms was going to hit sooner than authorities had predicted.

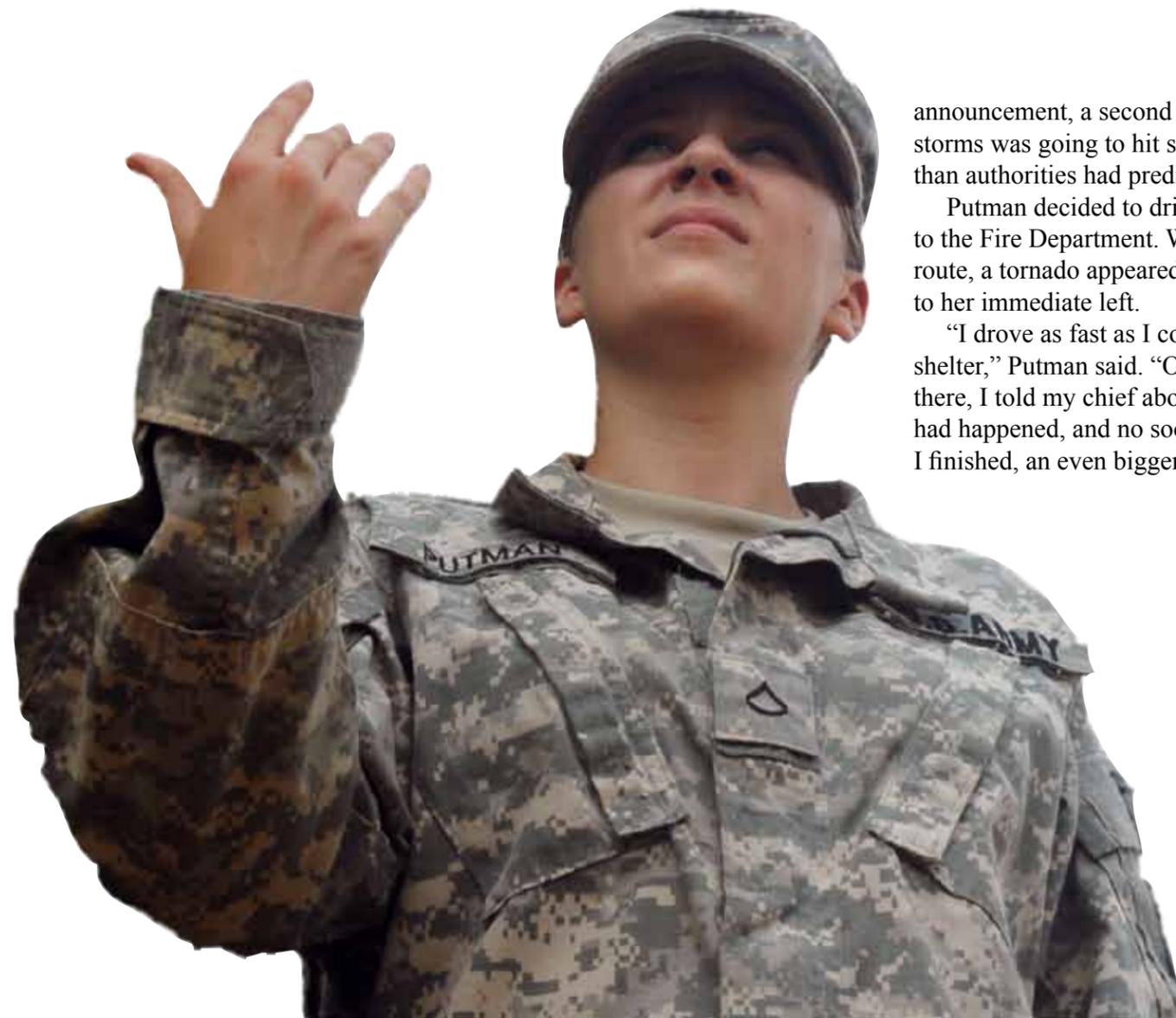
Putman decided to drive back to the Fire Department. While in route, a tornado appeared in a field to her immediate left.

"I drove as fast as I could to the shelter," Putman said. "Once I got there, I told my chief about what had happened, and no sooner had I finished, an even bigger tornado

was forming right across the street. We hurried to get everyone in the shelter, and that is where we remained until almost 11 that night when it was all finally over."

Considering all she had been through, the task of representing her unit in front of spectators presents a different challenge to the light wheeled vehicle mechanic. She stares down at home plate, reels back and hurls the baseball toward the catcher. The crowd cheers as the catcher's glove engulfs the baseball. Putman breathes a sigh of relief and jogs off the mound waving to the crowd.

"I'm lucky to be alive," Putman said. "I'm fortunate that my family and friends are safe."



# Mad Adders on the Ziggurat

*A team of 362nd MPAD Soldiers visit Iraq's oldest historical site*



Photo by Joshua McFall

Iraq's Ziggurat of Ur located just outside Contingency Operating Base Adder, near the present-day city of Nasiriyah, Dhi Qar province.

*Story by Spc. Anthony T. Zane 362nd MPAD*

**A**s U.S. forces prepare to exit Iraq, a team of soldiers from the 362nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, visited the Ziggurat of Ur as part of a news coverage assignment.

The 4000-year-old Ziggurat is an ancient stepped-pyramid built in the 21st century B.C., located near Contingency Operating Base Adder, the current home of the 362nd team.

"We can see it from our window and I wanted to get out

to see it in person," said Staff Sgt. Deane Barnhardt, a 362nd broadcaster.

In previous years, tours of the Ziggurat by U.S. Soldiers were common, but for security reasons the tours are now less frequent.

"When I deployed here last time, I visited the Ziggurat as part of a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation tour," said Capt. Donald Larsen, commander of the 362nd MPAD. "It was during the surge in 2006, and we suffered a lot of attacks."

The military journalists who call themselves the Mad Adders visited the site with a security team from the 282nd Field Artillery Regiment.

"We figured we'd...bring them with us, do a story on them, and get some cool photos," Barnhardt said.

The term Mad Adders stems from a play-on-words that incorporates COB Adder with the Mad Hatter character from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



The 362nd Soldiers split up into teams, and took up assignments at various locations across Iraq after they arrived.

"The seven-soldier team that became the Mad Adders has worked very hard," said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Fowler, the unit's acting first sergeant.

Fowler said the visit to the

Ziggurat gave the Soldiers a chance to do their mission, but also provided a rare opportunity to take in some culture and history.

As the unit continues its news coverage of the redeployment, Larsen says that he's excited that Iraq is more stable, and to see the conclusion of the U.S. Army's mission there.



Photo by Spc. Anthony T. Zane 362nd MPAD

Staff, Sgt. Jeremy Fowler (left) photographs Staff Sgt. Deane Barnhardt (far right) interviewing a 282nd Field Artillery Regiment Soldier during a tour of Iraq's Ziggurat of Ur.



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER  
4905 5th Ave. Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5363  
Comm. (334) 255-3770 Fax (334) 255-2266  
<https://safety.army.mil>

## PMCS for mission success

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4 MARC ASSUMPCAO Ground Task Force U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Fort Rucker, Ala.

**A** properly maintained and safely operated Army combat vehicle or Army motor vehicle can be considered the Army's first line of defense. Getting to the fight with all necessary equipment is critical; if Soldiers don't have a way to travel, the unit is less capable of achieving its mission and forces on the front line are put at greater risk. Cold weather adds another layer of complexity to already challenging conditions for vehicle crews – especially in theater – and it's vital that Leaders and Soldiers focus on preventive maintenance checks and services to keep their equipment fully mission capable and safe on the road.

First-line supervisors are key in establishing effective PMCS programs and ensuring their Soldiers drive in accordance with published standards. Attention to detail is important for both Leaders and Soldiers throughout the year, but driving in wintry conditions can be particularly dangerous. Following safe driving practices and using safe equipment can help prevent accidents and save lives, so be prepared to beat the cold!

Tips for maintaining and driving ACVs and AMVs during winter include:

- Perform PMCS before, during and after vehicle operations.
- Stay alert. Other drivers may fail to use their headlights, reduce their speed or adhere to other appropriate rules of the road.
- Take it slow! You'll need additional time and

stopping distance on icy roads. The recommended following distance on ice-covered surfaces is at least three times greater than the usual interval between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

- Apply your brakes early to allow enough time for stopping. If your vehicle is equipped with antilock brakes, simply press the pedal down and hold it. In vehicles without antilock brakes, gently pump the pedal to bring the vehicle to a stop without skidding.
- Check road conditions along the entire route and know the difference between conditions. Vehicle operations might start out as GREEN or AMBER but be RED further along.
- Keep headlights clear. Brush snow off all headlights and taillights, and use low beams so the vehicle is more visible to other drivers.
- Check tires and chains, and ensure your crews are trained to properly install snow tires. Inspect tires regularly, checking tread depth and tire pressure.
- Ensure windshield wipers are serviceable and the rubber lip is not torn.
- Check the windshield washer fluid reservoir regularly and refill as necessary. Debris from winter roads can be especially grimy.
- Ensure the vehicle battery is fully charged and in good condition.

For more information on PMCS and other vehicle-related topics, visit <https://safety.army.mil/drivertrainingtoolbox/>.



### Before every mission:

- Remove ice, snow and condensation from all windows and mirrors before operating the vehicle
- Ensure defrosters and windshield wipers operate properly
- Keep mirrors clean and adjusted

### When the tactical situation and local SOP allows:

- Use headlights during snowstorms and periods of reduced visibility
- Increase following distances between vehicles
- Use ground guides while backing and when visibility is restricted (e.g., roads or trails obscured by deep snow)

SOURCE: FIELD MANUAL 55-30, ARMY MOTOR TRANSPORT UNITS AND OPERATIONS, APPENDIX G, VEHICLE OPERATIONS IN ADVERSE WEATHER



ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



# Behind every Soldier is a strong support team

Use them to prevent suicide

Counselor

Battle Buddies

Family

Chain of Command

Coach

Chaplain

Physician

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) | 1.800.342.9647

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1.800.273.TALK (8255)

