



Issue 9 Spring/Summer2012

# The Castle

News and Information for the Greater Engineer Command



**BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2012**

*page 22*

**LT. GEN. TALLEY TAKES COMMAND**

*page 29*





# ATTENTION AR SOLDIERS!

## FREE DENTAL CARE is now available for Class 3 and 4 Conditions!

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# DEPLOYABLE

## DENTAL READY = MISSION READY



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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**

Spring/Summer 2012

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*Front Cover photo by Spc. Devin M. Wood 340th  
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# A Word from the Commander

## A Year Gone By, Looking Ahead

**W**ow! A year has gone by since my first time writing an article as the new Commander. It is true that time flies when one is having fun. The year has had many changes and many more are coming. I cannot get into that, though, until I discuss Safety.

With summer approaching we will have literally thousands of Soldiers involved in many training activities across the continental United States and overseas. My Safety message to them and everyone reading this is that a good mitigation plan does not work unless leaders ensure that it is implemented. If we are not actively verifying that all our mitigating measures are in place, we increase the chance of an injury. Let's all do our part to not only stay safe, but to keep others safe.

So what is new in the 412th Theater Engineer world? We now have a new Chief of Engineers, Commander, United States Corps of Engineers and a new Chief, Army Reserve, Commander, United States Reserve Command. We are truly fortunate to have the caliber of leadership that Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick (the new CoE) and Lt. Gen. Jeffery Talley the new Chief



Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr.

of Army Reserve will provide to our community and the USAR.

In last summer's issue I discussed a couple of my philosophies. One of those is in how we should continue to "get better." To do that, we have to measure ourselves against ourselves. I'm starting to use a new system of metrics that will include a big item. That item is the percentage of units that have achieved their "Aim Point."

An Aim Point is the metric that measures a unit's level of preparedness compared to where it is in the Army Force Generation Model. This measure of personnel, logistics, maintenance, and training readiness defines how "well" the TEC is supporting USARC in its mission to provide trained and ready individuals and units to meet the Army's needs. One of our major focus areas in the next couple months will be on how we can all manage our business to be successful – not

only against this metric, but, in having units ready for any contingency. In other words, get more units meeting their Aim Point.

In this issue, Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Flubacher writes about the use of Structured Self Development (SSD). Please, spend time reading his article. He is helping direct us to success for the future. As we assess the training level of our unit, we have to have trained individuals, especially at the lynch-pin grades of E-5 to E-8. We cannot be proficient in our Mission Essential Tasks if we do not have a core of trained non commissioned officers. As I have emphasized in many discussions as well as in previous articles, the "team" has to succeed. Aim points are a team's measurement of success.

Lastly, I want to wish all of you a safe and happy summer. As well being full of great training opportunities, the summer also represents a time when Families come together and share a lot of fun. Hopefully we can all make the best of all these opportunities and come out of the summer safe and happy.

Best Wishes to all for a great summer! Keep Safety in Mind ALWAYS!

**HOOAH!! Essayons!  
BUILD TO SERVE!!**

# Command Sergeant Major's Corner

# Building the NCO Corp

## emphasis on Structured Self Development

**T**he title of this article may sound strange but the 412th and the USARC as a whole is running short on senior grade Soldiers and in particular NCOs. I will discuss the way ahead to help prepare you for your next promotion. Beginning October 1, 2012 any Soldier attending an NCOES course will have to complete the appropriate SSD course. To attend WLC a Soldier will have to complete SSD1, to attend SLC the NCO will have to complete SSD3 and to attend the Sergeants Major Academy the NCO will have to complete SSD4. As of April 2012, the USARC has only about 3.92% of Soldiers completing SSD1. The 412th is much worse. In looking at just one brigade there are only 17 Soldiers that have completed SSD1 and 6 completed SSD3. This is where I need every Soldier within this Commands help. I need commanders, first sergeants and command sergeants major to ensure that their Soldiers are enrolled in the appropriate SSD course. The squad leader and platoon sergeant need to counsel their Soldiers to ensure each and every Soldier is aware of the requirement in order to attend NCOES come this October.



Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher

They also need to monitor Soldier's progress. One way to do that is by having their Soldier go into Army Career Tracker (ACT) and input their first line leader. This way the first line leader can go into ACT and view their progress.

Soldiers in the rank of staff sergeant and below can receive pay to complete the SSD courses up to ten Additional Training Assembly's (ATA) per year. They can work on their courses at home, at the Reserve Center and any where a computer has CAC access. This was implemented to compensate our Soldiers for the time they put in on their own to take care of their career. This also creates incentive for our Soldiers to complete their SSD and be ready to both attend their next

NCOES as well as prepare them for their next promotion. We need to push this and push it hard if we are going to fill our ranks with NCOs. If I were a young Soldier reading this article I would be aggressively pursuing completion of my SSD. I would see this as a great opportunity to get promoted, as very few other Soldiers have completed their SSD. Completing my SSD would put me as a front runner in attending NCOES as well as a front runner in getting my next promotion.

I hope you see this in the same way as well. Maj. Gen. William Buckler and I will be traveling to various ECT sites visiting our units and Soldiers this summer. I will be addressing these units and Soldiers about SSD and NCOES requirements to further convey this message. If you haven't enrolled then do so. If you have, then continue to progress and complete your course and submit for pay... you deserve it. Then be ready physically and mentally for attending your next NCOES and submit your promotion packet for consideration for promotion. Stay safe. Essays.

# Chaplain's Greetings

# TALKING IT OUT

## GIVING COMMUNICATION A CHANCE

**L**ike so many of their arguments, the couple couldn't really remember what started the most recent fight as they sat in their Pastor's office attempting to put their damaged marriage back together. As their defiant teenage daughter stormed out of the house on her way to school, her frustrated parents looked at each other and wondered why "we just can't seem to talk to her any longer." As they consider what to do, they look at each other and conclude, "What's the use of bringing up issues, they just lead to more fights."

Without question, effective communication remains the single most critical and yet elusive component to a healthy and satisfying relationship. What is effective communication and how is it achieved? The Bible provides a clue when it says, "This you know, my bretheren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger (James 1:9)."

The first step then involves giving up our natural urge to argue our point of view, to prove that we are right and the other person is wrong, to "win the argument" at



Chaplain Col. Timothy M. Samorajski

any cost. We do this by listening. Consider the technique of taking turns being the speaker and the listener when seeking to resolve a conflict.

After taking a "time out" of a few hours, the couple was able to reconnect and discuss their disagreements over how much to spend on an upcoming vacation in a calmer and less heated manner. They agreed that the husband would be the first speaker and the wife the listener. They agreed that the person speaking would speak for themselves and not mind read, would keep statements brief and pause to let the listener paraphrase

back what the speaker said. They also agreed that the listener would paraphrase back to the speaker what they heard and would focus on the speaker's message without rebuttal.

They also agreed that after an agreed upon period of time, they would "share the floor" by switching roles and giving the listener the chance to become the speaker. After each partner shared their points of view on how much to budget for their annual family vacation, they looked at each other in amazement. Although they still disagreed in some key areas, they both felt like they had been heard and their viewpoints respected. The wife shared in relief, "We can do this, we can discuss hard topics and still like each other afterwards!"

Effective communication is never, easy. Like anything of worth it takes effort and commitment. Let us then consider the Lord's command to indeed be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.



Maj. Gen. William Buckler(left), Commander, 412th Theater Engineer Command and Maj. Gen Paul Crandall (right) Commander, 416th TEC during the first joint workshop between the two organizations. The workshop was held in Vicksburg, Miss., February 3-5, 2012 to discuss the future of the engineer commands and cohesion between the two division level organizations.

## Two “TECs,” one voice

By Spc. Devin M. Wood,  
412th TEC PA

**H**istory was made when the only two theater engineer commands in the United States military came together for the first time in a joint workshop in Vicksburg Miss., February 2012.

Senior leaders from the Army Reserve’s 412th and 416th Theater Engineer Commands got together to discuss issues facing both organizations, and to find ways of synchronizing the “way ahead” for both commands.

“Our desired relationship is to speak with one voice in all our strategic efforts,” said Col. Miyako Schanely, 416th TEC chief of staff.

“That way we don’t have two separate engineer commands saying two different things,” said Lt. Col. Mark Leighton, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, 412th TEC.

“We understand the global environment, we agree what our role is and we pursue that role while not being at odds with each other,” said, Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, commander, 412th TEC.

Though many of the participants communicate electronically with their counterparts, many of them had never met. The workshop afforded the two commanders and their staffs an opportunity for face to face interaction.

“We brought up different issues, we talked

about them, and we provided some common guidance and it gave the staffs some opportunity to hash out different things...but the real benefit was that general Crandall, (the 416th TEC commander) and I provided our vision,” said Buckler.

Both sides seem to agree that the workshop was a step in the right direction, and there’s discussion of a second workshop.

“By the end of the first day...we already were seeing benefits that made it worthwhile,” said Buckler.

“This time we only had the HQ’s staff in our workshop, but the next meeting, whether VTC or in person, we need to involve appropriate staff representatives from our down-trace units as well,” said Schanely.

The two division level headquarters changed from engineer commands to theater engineer commands when the Army Reserve transformed from the Regional Support Structure to the current Functional Command Structure in Oct. 2009. The 412th TEC currently governs all Army Reserve engineer, and engineer-support units east of the Mississippi River, and the 416th is manages the ones to the west.



# ARMY RESERVE EXCEEDS FORMER ACTIVE!



Spc. Emilo Aguiar, carpentry team leader, 758th Engineer Company, instructs two Soldiers on setting up a skill saw during an Innovative Readiness Training exercise on January 11, 2012. IRT exercises provide real world training opportunities that prepare service members for their wartime missions, while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

*Spc. Devin M. Wood*

**F**or Specialists Jose' Duprey and Emilio Aguiar, coming off active duty into the Army Reserve meant new challenges.

Aguiar was looking to maintain his skill set as a carpenter at a tempo he was accustomed to on active duty. Many of Duprey's acquaintances told the former Marine that the Army Reserve would not meet his expectations.

"I was fortunate to come to a place that has the same

mindset," said Aguiar. "It's about accomplishing a task."

"These Soldiers...come here to work, they aren't here to slack off," said Duprey.

Aguiar and Duprey are members of the 758th Engineer Company in Miami. The unit takes advantage of training opportunities during battle assemblies by participating in the Innovative Readiness Training program.

IRT exercises provide real world training opportunities that prepare service members for

their wartime missions, while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

"Rebuilding Together" is a non-profit organization that caters to the needs of the elderly, the handicapped and military veterans. Working with the charity, 758th engineers renovate homes in the Miami area.

The Soldiers handle the electrical, plumbing, carpentry and masonry, and the charity pays for the materials.

First Lt. Johnny Walker,



# E DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS' EXPECTATIONS

executive officer, 758th Engineer Company, said the unit's involvement with the IRT program has given Soldiers like Aguiar and Duprey something to be proud of.

"When we started doing these projects morale shot through

the roof," said Walker. "They're learning, they're progressing, remembering what they were taught, plus learning new things that you don't get in MOS schools."

Aguiar and Duprey have

transitioned smoothly into their roles as citizen Soldiers, and are now team leaders. Their combined experiences and positive attitudes allow them to be examples for younger Soldiers.



Spc. Jose' Duprey, electrical team leader, 758th Engineer company, instructs Pvt. Kevin Prada on the proper use of equipment during and Innovative Readiness Training Exercise on January 11, 2012. IRT exercises provide real world training opportunities that prepare service members for their wartime missions, while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.



# “I dream in color:” 412th TEC Soldier targets underprivileged youth with childrens book

*Spc. Devin M. Wood*

From an early age, Capt. Jarvis Buchanan knew that he wanted to be a writer. The 412th Theater Engineer Command’s mobilization officer, recently fulfilled his childhood dream, with aspirations of helping today’s youth.

Buchanan authored and self published his first book titled, “I dream in color” about a fictional character named Jackson, who struggles with growing up in a less fortunate home. Jackson is a fifth grader preparing for the new school year, and he’s embarrassed by the clothes he has to wear.

He falls asleep and meets Henry Flipper, the first African American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. In the dream, Jackson spends three days with Flipper, and sees firsthand the challenges Flipper endured at the academy.

Witnessing what Flipper went through makes Jackson realize that there’s more to life than material items like fancy clothes.

“The inspiration for the book came from a desire to help impressionable children that are falling behind; specifically minorities,” said Buchanan.

The book uses modern slang terms kids commonly use, and in one chapter Jackson teaches Flipper the latest dance craze called the “dougie.”

“If we can mix the new lingo with some of the past history, then we can grab some attention,” said Buchanan.

Buchanan read “I dream in color” to students at Bates Elementary School in Jackson March 2012, as the school participated in Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day.

After the reading, Buchanan signed autographs and answered questions about being a Soldier, and an author.

“This is just my way of reaching kids,” said Buchanan. “It’s not about me, it’s about the message.”

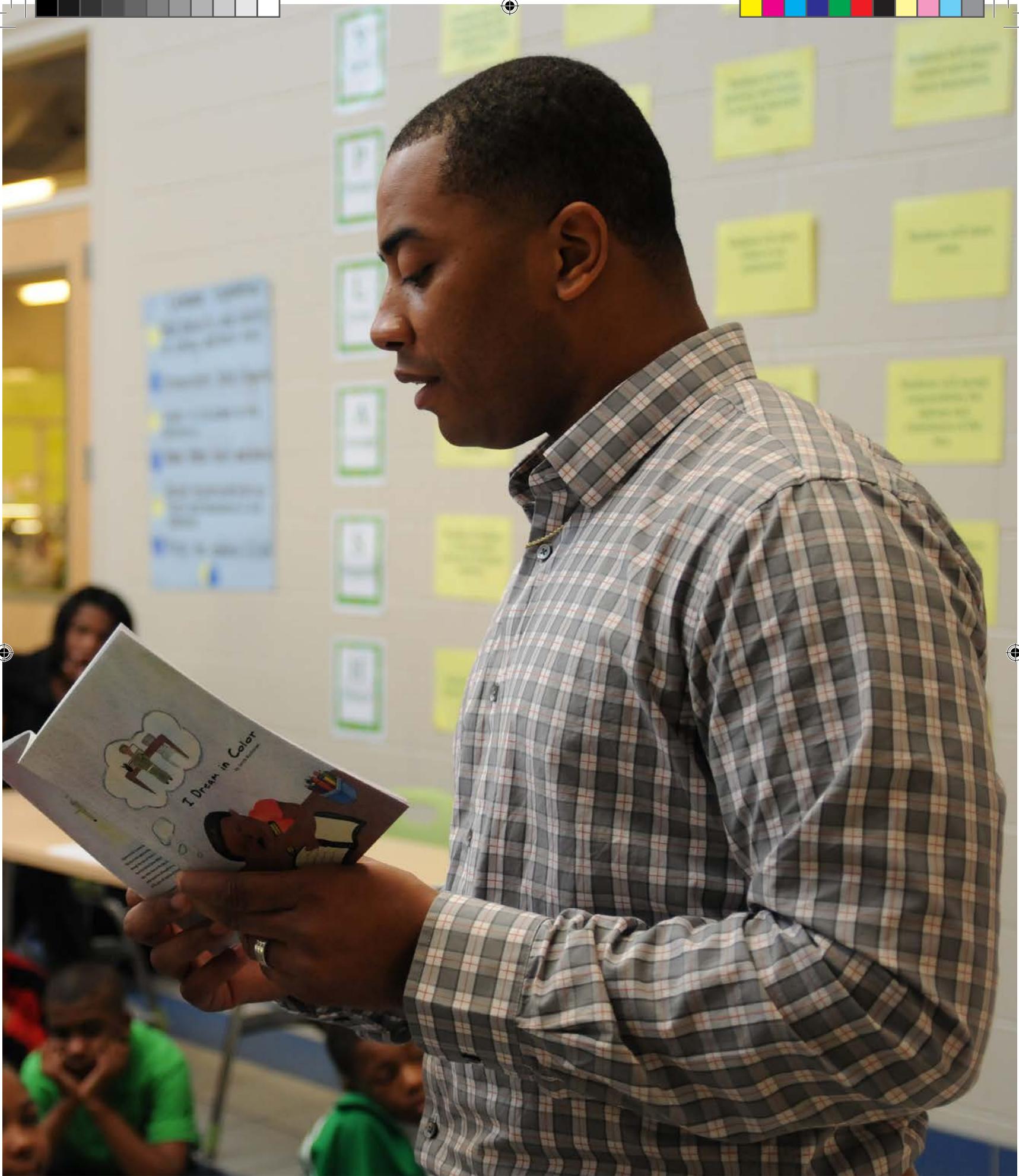
Buchanan said he plans to write more ‘I dream in color’ books using other historical figures to teach kids different life lessons through Jackson’s adventures.

“I want to show kids that it’s okay to dream of being firemen, police officers, or Soldiers,” said Buchanan. “Not just rappers or basketball players.”



**Capt. Jarvis Buchanan, Mobilization Officer, 412th Theater Engineer Command, reads his book about a fictional character named Jackson, who struggles with**





th Theater Engineer Command, reads his book 'I dream in color' to students at Bates Elementary School in Jackson, Miss. 'I dream in color' is about a as with growing up in a "less fortunate" home.



# Shuberts' shawl not S

*Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene*



Master Sgt. Mark Hayes, HHC 412th Theater Engineer Command, displays a 139 year-old shawl he originally bought for his wife as a Valentine's Day present. Hayes and his wife later gave the shawl to the descendants of Civil War Hero Frank Shubert.

Imagine someone else more deserving of the Valentine's Day gift that you bought your spouse.

That's the dilemma Master Sgt. Mark Hayes, senior noncommissioned officer of the 412th Theater Engineer Command's Resource Management Office, faced after he realized the historical significance of a baby shawl that he bought for his wife, Sue.

The shawl was packaged in an old flour sack with three hand written notes, one of which identified the maker as Cecelia M. Shubert.

Cecilia, according to Hayes' research, was the wife of Frank Shubert, a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient who fought with the 43rd Regiment New York Volunteers. Frank received the medal for capturing two Confederate markers at Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865. The notes also said that Cecelia made the shawl in 1873 for her baby, Walter Shubert. Hayes then noticed that Frank and Cecilia had two great grandsons who are still living.

"I thought, if they're still alive then they're probably interested in having these items," said Hayes. He discussed the issue with his wife, who agreed that Frank's



# Sue's but Shinemans'

and Cecelia's descendants are the shawl's rightful owners.

"I just kinda looked at him and my thought was, 'this doesn't belong to us,'" said Sue.

Hayes e-mailed Ed Shineman, one of Frank's great grandsons, and asked if Shineman was related to the Civil War hero. In the same message, Hayes told Shineman that he (Hayes) had something that Shineman may be interested in.

"Yes, I am Frank's great grandson," Shineman replied via e-mail.

Shineman said that he and his brother maintain most of his great grandfather's Civil War memorabilia, which include the Medal of Honor certificate and Frank's sword. He said they also have a number of Cecelia's items, most of which have notes attached.

"She wrote down everything," said Shineman. "We went through her effects. She has all kinds of notes; everything's labeled."

February 2012, Hayes mailed the shawl to Shineman, who plans on displaying it in a case along with the rest of his great grandparent's heirlooms.

"We're also making a website for Frank and Cecilia," said Shineman. "We'll probably photograph it and put it up on the site with the other memorabilia."

"I feel pretty good about the decision to send it back to the family," said Hayes. "Who knows what it's worth? It's priceless to them."

To make up for the Valentine's Day present that Sue didn't get,

Hayes took her out to dinner and he also bought her an airline ticket to attend her daughter's bridal shower in Columbus, Ohio.

"We've been married 23 years," said Hayes. "She's over the flowers and candy."



A 139-year-old shawl and the flour sack that contained it with notes written by the shawl's maker Cecelia Shubert. Cecelia, who made the shawl for her son Walter, was the wife of Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Frank Shubert. Master Sgt. Mark Hayes, HHC 412th Theater Engineer Command, bought the shawl for his wife Sue as a Valentine's Day gift, but gave it to Frank and Cecelia's great grandchildren to add to their collection of family heirlooms.



Maj. Andrew Rigor, Executive Officer 368th Engineer Battalion, walks on to the Wheel of Fortune set to the surprise of his wife Maryanne, while cast members and show contestants look on during an episode dedicated to military spouses Jan. 12, 2012. Rigor reunited with Maryanne after spending a year in Afghanistan with the 368th.

# 368th Engineer Battalion Soldier

*Spc. Devin M. Wood*

**C**ame show prize money? Fourteen thousand dollars. New Sony Tablet? Four hundred dollars. Reuniting with your spouse after a yearlong tour of duty? Priceless.

Maryanne Rigor could hardly contain herself when her husband, Maj. Andrew Rigor, Executive Officer of the 368th Engineer Battalion, walked onto the Wheel of Fortune stage after he returned

from Afghanistan.

“I was like, oh my you’re not supposed to be here, what’s going on?” Maryanne said.

Approximately four months after show officials selected Maryanne to be a contestant, the Rigors learned that the production date conflicted with the 368th’s welcome home ceremony on January 12.

“I knew she was a big fan of

the show, and not many people get to go on as a contestant,” said Rigor.

Disappointed that her husband couldn’t be there, Maryanne traveled with family to Los Angeles the day before filming. Little did she know, he had devised a plan to surprise her.

“I had to get permission to leave a day early in order to fly out to Los Angeles, said Rigor.”



# Rigor surprises wife on game show

He arrived in L.A. the night before the show, and stayed in a hotel room with his parents. Maryanne stayed in the same hotel in a room directly across from them.

“They sort of snuck me in there around midnight so she wouldn’t know I was there,” said Rigor.

The next morning, Maryanne left early to be at the studio by 8 a.m. - Rigor arrived three hours

later and explained the situation to the Wheel of Fortune staff.

After making the arrangements with the producers, Rigor watched his wife compete from backstage.

Toward the end of the show, Pat Sajak, the show’s host, handed each of the other two contestants a Sony Tablet-S, then he asked, “do we have another gift for Maryanne?”

That was Rigor’s cue to walk

out and surprise his wife.

“It was the best surprise I’ve ever had in my entire life,” said Maryanne. “It was shocking!”

The Rigors hosted a “watch party” for family and friends at their New Hampshire home when the show aired on February 9.

Maryanne later collected her Sony Tablet-S along with the prize money, but the “grand prize” was her husband.

# DCP 2 returns from Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene, 412th TEC  
PA NCO

**F**amily members, military, and community leaders honored Reserve Soldiers of the 412th Theater Engineer Command, Detachment 21, Deployable Command Post 2, during a welcome home ceremony April 2012.

Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr., commander 412th TEC, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher, the TEC's senior enlisted leader, presented 14 Warrior-Citizen awards to returning Soldiers. The award consisted of an encased United States flag, a yellow

Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag, an Reserve Soldier lapel set and a specially designed commemorative coin.

Congress and former President Bush established the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award Program specifically for Reserve Soldiers returning home from overseas service. Twenty-five other Reserve Soldiers who previously deployed, received Warrior-Citizen Certificates of Apparition during the ceremony from Buckler and Flubacher.

Buckler also administered

the oath of reenlistment to Staff Sgt. Robert Nelson Jr., following the ceremony.

The detachment, lead by commanding officer, Col. Craig Sanders of Lititz, Pennsylvania and senior enlisted leader Command Sgt. Maj. Terry New of Vicksburg. Det. 21 arrived in Gulfport on March 31 after spending nearly a year in Afghanistan overseeing U.S. engineer operations.

*Page 19: Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher and Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler welcome home 412th TEC's DCP 2 after deploying to Afghanistan*

Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, Jr., 412th TEC commander, welcomes home Col. Craig Sanders, commander of DCP 2, from Afghanistan.





# A lifer's tale

Story by Spc. Devin M. Wood 412th TEC Public Affairs

**L**t. Col. Deveon Sudduth has done a little of everything during her 33 years of service in the Army.

She's now a signal officer at the 412th Theater Engineer Command headquarters, but she started her career as an enlisted Soldier, and she has served in capacities such as military police, personnel and signal.

When she was a young private in 1980, Sudduth mobilized to Fort Chafee, Ark., as an MP during the Cuban Refugee reconstruction to help establish order among approximately

**"Every time I think about getting out I find something else I want to accomplish."**

25,000 Cuban refugees.

In 2006, she volunteered for the first of two tours of duty in Iraq.

"I was working at the mob station and kept seeing people go over that were so young, I had more years in the military than they had in life," said Sudduth. "I couldn't stand watching them go, and me sitting their drawing big bucks, so I went."

Sudduth returned to Iraq in

2009 where she worked with the Iraqi Signal School managing the communications-training curriculum.

She is often away from her home where she lives with her husband Jimmie in North Mississippi.

"He is very supportive," said Sudduth. "I thought about getting out after my last tour in Iraq, and he told me I really needed to think about the decision because he knew I loved it."

Sudduth and her husband plan to use their 100-acre horse farm

near Columbus, Miss., to help veterans.

"I hope one day to be able to use the farm and horses as therapy for Wounded Warriors," said Sudduth.

For now, she has no plans of retiring.

"Every time I think about getting out I find something else I want to accomplish," said Sudduth. "I'm not sure I could breathe if I wasn't in the Army."



**Lt. Col. Deveon Sudduth (center) G6/Signal Officer for 412th TEC**



Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, Jr., administers the oath to Sgt. 1st Class Rosanna Grace

## New assistant I.G. sworn in

The 412th Theater Engineer Command's new assistant inspector general was sworn in during a ceremony at the TEC headquarters, Feb.

Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler Jr. administered the oath of office to Sgt. 1st Class Rosanna Grace, a Jackson Miss. native who has spent 31 years in the active Army and the Army Reserve combined.

"Being around as long as I have, I see a lot of things that I can help Soldiers and their family members with," said Grace "I want to be able to reach out to help them, and to better the command."

Grace holds two Military

Occupational Specialties, one of which is Human Resources management. That skill set will benefit the I.G. shop since the team deals with a lot of personnel issues, according to Lt. Col. Marvin Bennett, the 412th TEC I.G.

Grace is also a licensed clinical nurse with the state of Mississippi.

This is her third Army Guard and Reserve assignment. Her last duty station was Fort Bliss Texas where she served with the 2291st Unit States Army Hospital as a Senior Human Resources Noncommissioned Officer. The 2291st backfilled the William Beaumont Army hospital.

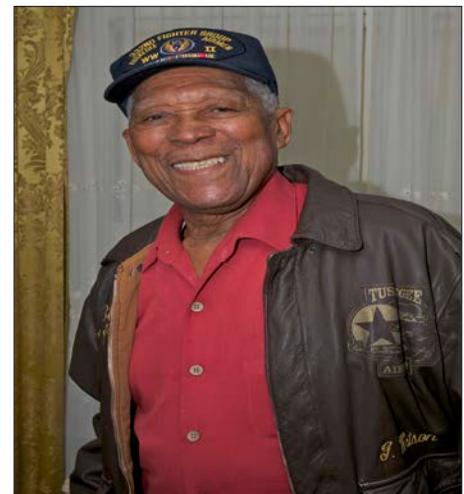
Story by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene

## Road blocks don't end at the front gate

Spc. Bradley R. Miller, 326th MPAD

In late 1942, a young serviceman was riding a bus through downtown Montgomery, Alabama with some friends. When the bus came to a stop at a red light on Cleveland Avenue, the man spotted a lovely young woman waiting to catch the next bus.

He was so taken by her beauty, even as his friends teased him; he mustered all the courage he could to introduce himself. So with his hopes high, he decided to get off the bus to meet her. (Cont. on Page 32)



George Watson, Sr., a former Tech. SGT with the Tuskegee Airmen, sports his commemorative leather jacket and cap memorabilia during an interview in his home on February 2012.



# And now the 412th TEC'

Story & photos by Spc. William J. Taylor, 314th Public Affairs Operations Center

Sgt. Marc D. Bradley, 391st Engineer Battalion, (number 4) picks up the pace during the run portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test during the 412th Theater Engineer Command's 2012 Best Warrior Competition at Fort Rucker Ala., April 24, 2012. Bradley earned the title of the 412th TEC 2012 Best Warrior in the noncommissioned officer category, and represented the command during the United States Army Reserve Command's 2012 Best Warrior Competition in June at Fort McCoy Wis.



Sgt. Marc D. Bradley, Jr.

After a week of hard fought competition, two Soldiers now have the distinction of being the 412th Theater Engineer Command's "2012 Best Warriors."

Sgt. Marc D. Bradley Jr., a construction equipment repairer, 357th Engineer Company, Asheville, N. C., and Pfc. Nathan Eilenfeldt, a combat medic with the 463rd Engineer Battalion, Wheeling, W. Va., earned the title in the noncommissioned officer and lower enlisted categories respectively.

"My Soldiers at the unit told me not to come home if I did not win," said Bradley, an Active Guard Reserve Soldier. Eilenfeldt said that the competition has helped him further his goals.

"I wanted to go to Airborne School, and in order to do that I knew I needed to win," said Eilenfeldt, who has been in the Army for a little more than a year. "I want to become the best Soldier that I possibly can be." Eilenfeldt, works as an Emergency Medical Technician in Grove City, Pa. He got his civilian job after receiving his EMT certification through the Army.

Eilenfeldt scored the highest out of all junior enlisted competitors in the day and night land navigation courses, the M4 Rifle reflexive fire course and in the Army Physical Fitness Test.

The Castle

# 's "2012 Best Warriors"

Sgt. Charles Bielitz and Spc. Zedrik Pitts were the competition's runners-up.

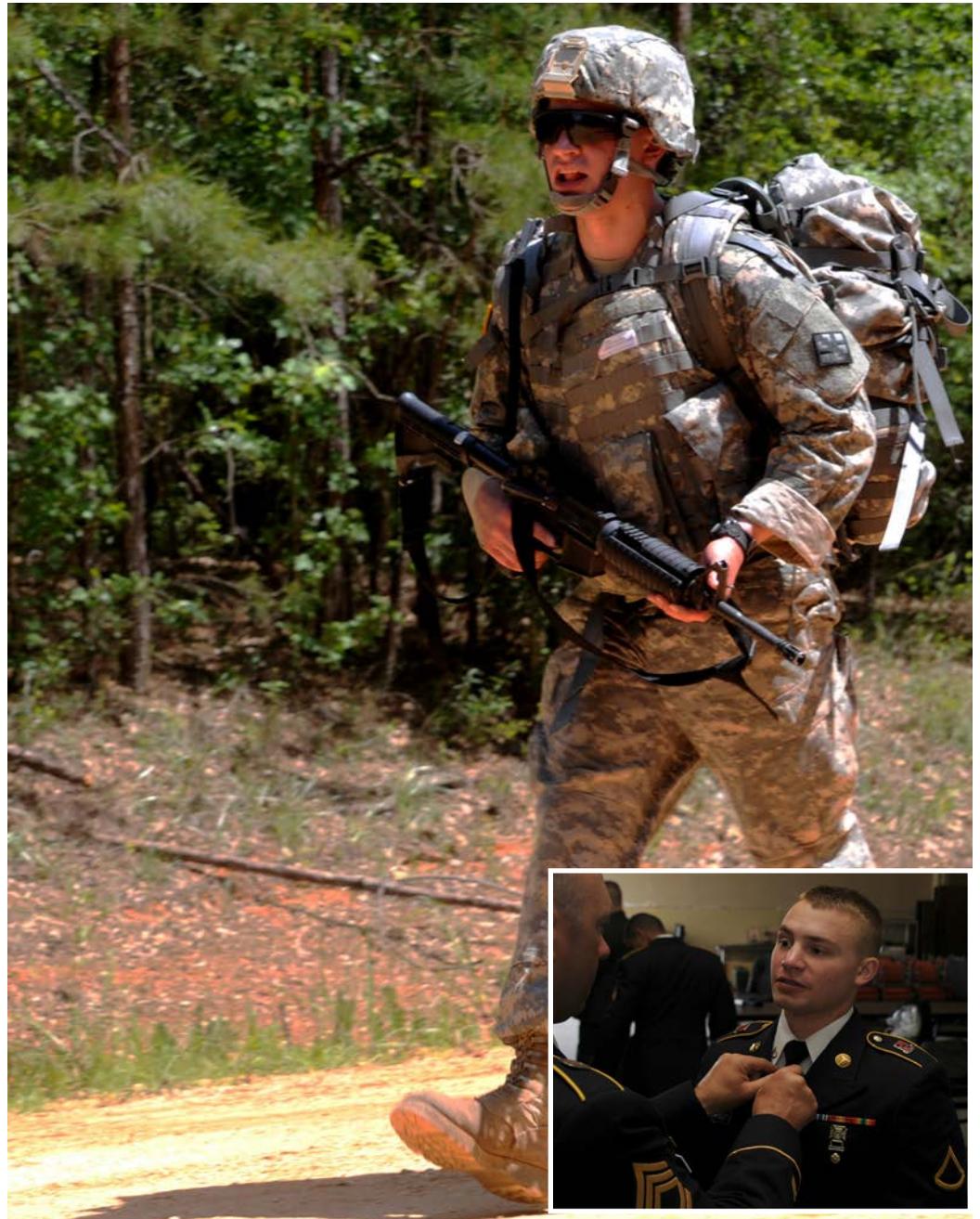
The weeklong event, which the 926th hosted at Fort Rucker, Ala., tested the 24 competitors mentally and physically. The fitness test, two land navigation courses, and a 10-kilometer ruck march took place within the first 48 hours.

"We stressed them to their limits with physical events and little sleep," said Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Hatchell, senior enlisted leader of the 926th Engineer Brigade. "We wanted to make sure we got the best out of them."

"No matter how hard things were, they never complained and they never gave up," said Sgt. Maj. James Drayton, 926th Engineer Brigade, the competition's noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The Soldiers that won this competition are sharp, and we are going to train them in Combative Level One and Combat Lifesaver courses to get ready for the next level," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher, the TEC's senior enlisted leader.

Bradley and Eilenfeldt will represent the 412th TEC in the United States Army Reserve Command's Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy, Wis., from July 14 to 21.



Pfc. Nathan Eilenfeldt

**Pfc. Nathan Eilenfeldt, 463rd Engineer Battalion, endures 10-kilometer ruck march during the 412th Theater Engineer Command 2012 Best Warrior Competition at Fort Rucker, Ala. April 25, 2012. Eilenfeldt won first place in the lower enlisted Soldier category, and will represent the command at the United States Army Reserve Command competition 2012 Best Warrior Competition in June at Fort McCoy Wis.**

## Soldier attributes accomplishments to family support

*1st. Lt. Lance Landreneau, 340<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment*

Family support is essential to Soldiers' success, especially while a nation is at war.

When four years of nearly back-to-back deployments began in 2002 for Warrant Officer Roxanne Pitts' family, her mother and father moved in to help with her six-month-old Evelyn, six-year-old Austin and 10-year-old Christian.

"My parents were the continuity through the whole thing," said Pitts.

Pitts, who joined the Army in 1990, has endured challenges in her career.

In 2005, she left the Army for three months to take care of her children, and in 2011 she broke her wrist before her Warrant Officer Basic Course.

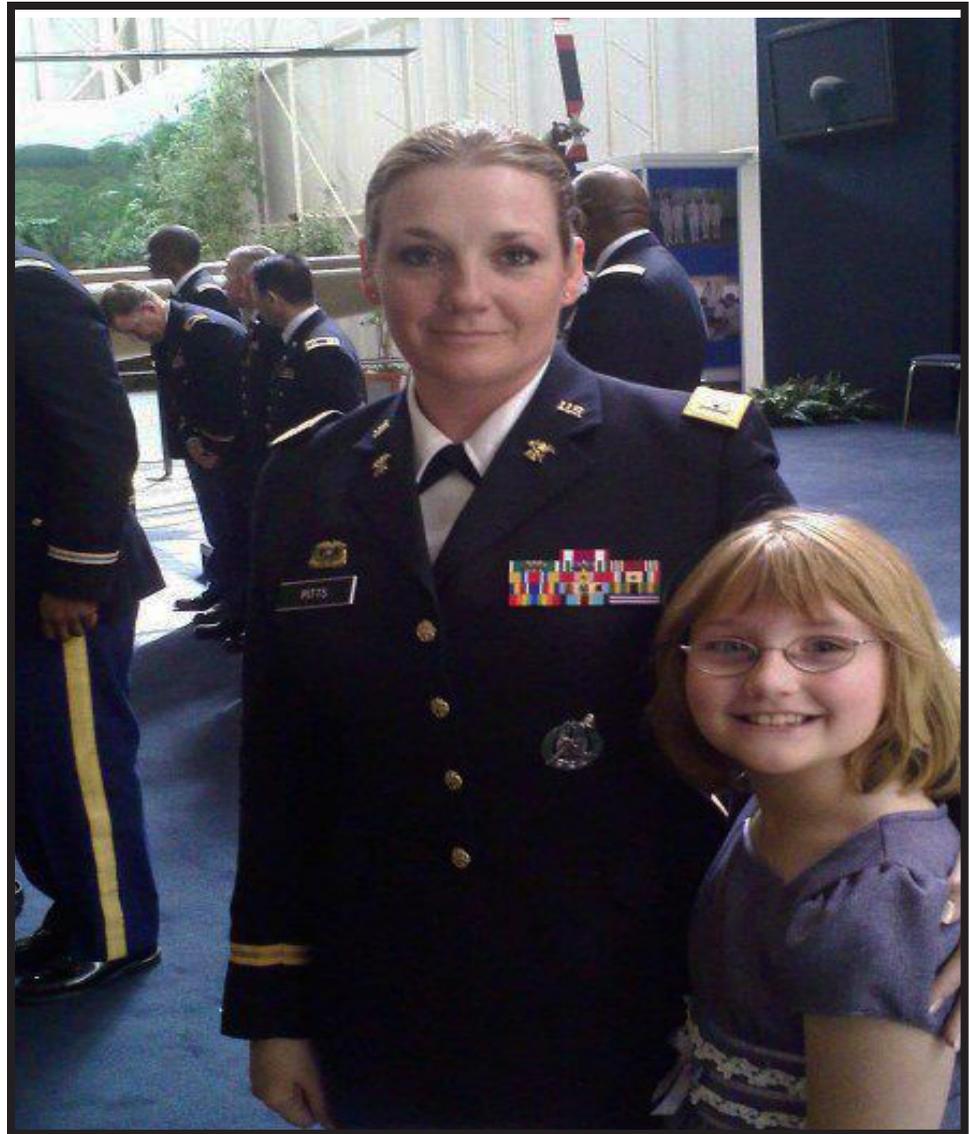
Her husband, Jason, who is also a warrant officer in the Army,

In her was her motivation through the transition. He encouraged Pitts to push herself to the next level of leadership.

Pitts was awarded the National Defense Leadership Development Award for her leadership skills displayed in WOBC.

"It was a tough road, but I finally feel like I deserve to be here," said Pitts.

In her civilian capacity, Pitts is the 412th Theater Engineer Command's supervisory logistics management specialist. She has mentored seven females at



Chief Warrant Officer Roxanne Pitts receives a warm smile and hug from her daughter, Evelyn, after completing the Warrant Officer Course.

the TEC who are considering becoming warrant officers. So far, one candidate has been accepted into the program.

"She has given me points of contact, told me the requirements and led me in the direction of becoming a warrant officer," said Sgt. Shannon Fisher, executive administrative assistant at the 412th TEC.

Pitts plans to stay in the military until she is 62, which would give her 45 years of service. She said this would not be impossible without the support she receives from her family.



Members of 44th Engineer Company check for mines during training at NTC.

## 449th Engineer Company train at NTC in preparation for deployment

*Spc. Devin M. Wood 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs*

FT. IRWIN, Ca-- The harsh terrain of the Mojave Desert gives units that come to the National Training Center, a chance to exercise their skill sets in an environment similar to the Middle East.

Reserve Soldiers from the 449th Engineer Company conducted route clearance operations at NTC Feb 19 to March 23, 2012 in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.

“This is the best training I can give my Soldiers before going down range,” said Capt. Travis

W. Absher, commander 449th Engineer Company.

The 449th supported the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, by keeping all logistical routes clear of roadside bombs and insurgency.

“Working alongside 3rd ID (Infantry Division) gives us the chance to show that the Army Reserve is capable of operating during war time,” said Absher. “We aren’t just weekend warriors. “

Many of the Soldiers operated route clearance equipment for the first time during the rotation. “We don’t have all of this equipment back at home station,” said Cpl. Cody Michaud, a squad leader with 2nd platoon. “Being here and having these things issued to us really helps us prepare better.”

The 449th also participated in complex situational training exercise.

“The STX lanes were pretty intense,” said Spc. Michael

Klahnen, a team leader with 2nd Platoon, 449th Engineer Company. “Opposing forces, IEDs (roadside bombs) allowed us to exercise our basic skills.”

Absher said the training scenario at NTC has honed his Soldiers skills and increased survivability.

“My payment will be bringing all these Soldiers home safely,” said Absher.

### Legal site adds new feature for Reserve/NG Soldiers

Many people don't think of legal issues until they have one. With Reserve and National Guard troops deploying almost as often as the active duty Soldiers, readiness has been a critical concern for over a decade throughout the two conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the various places in Eastern Europe, Africa or wherever else Citizen Soldiers may find themselves.

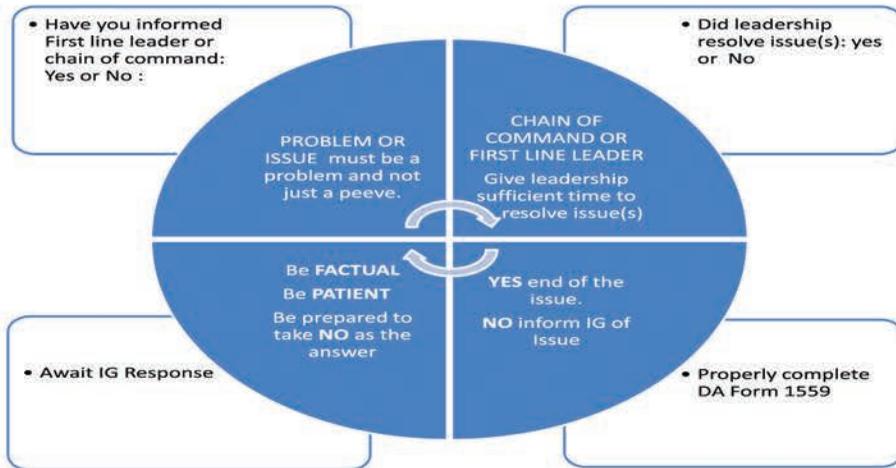
For more information visit: <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/LRR>





412th Theater Engineer Command

# IG CYCLE MATRIX



## WELL WRITTEN DA 1559

INSPECTOR GENERAL ACTION REQUEST			
For use of this form, see AR 20-1; 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 3020.		
<b>PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:</b>	To secure sufficient information to inquire into the matters presented and to provide a response to the requestor(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 courts-martial and other military matters as authorized by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Department of Defense Blanket Routine Uses also apply.		
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.			
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL	GRADE / RANK	SSN	COMPONENT / STATUS
DOE, JOHN E.	PVT / E1	123-45-6789	USAR / TPU
UNIT AND COMPLETE MILITARY ADDRESS	PREFERRED CONTACT TELEPHONE (day, home, and / or cell)		PREFERRED CONTACT TELEPHONE (day, home, and / or cell)
123 POT HANDLE PLATOON 1 STOVE STREET ANYTOWN, USA 12345	555-123-4567		555-123-4567
PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (if different from military address, including zip code)	E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional)		
256 MICRO WAVE WAY TOASTER, KI 12345	AKO: JOHN.E.DOE@US.ARMY.MIL DOEJ@YAHOO.COM		
SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED (What do you want the IG to do for you?)			
STOP HARASSMENT FROM MSG BOTHERSOME			
INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS REQUEST (background, use additional sheets if necessary, list resources if applicable)			
1. Do you have any supporting documents? YES; I HAVE; WITNESSES AND STATEMENTS			
2. Is the chain of command aware of this issue? If yes, explain. Yes, I have told my Platoon Sergeant, john.c.whimmer@us.army.mil or whimper1@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 unresolved.			
This information is submitted for the basic purpose of requesting assistance, correcting injustices affecting the individual, or alleviating conditions considered detrimental to 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 (UCMJ Art 107, 18 USC 1001).			
DATE (YYYYMMDD)	SIGNATURE		
20110101	JOHN E. DOE		
DA FORM 1559, DEC 2007 REPLACES EDITION OF APR 2001, WHICH IS OBSOLETE. APO PE 11 01			

## POORLY WRITTEN DA 1559

INSPECTOR GENERAL ACTION REQUEST			
For use of this form, see AR 20-1; 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 3020.		
<b>PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:</b>	To secure sufficient information to inquire into the matters presented and to provide a response to the requestor(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 courts-martial and other military matters as authorized by the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Department of Defense Blanket Routine Uses also apply.		
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.			
LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL	GRADE / RANK	SSN	COMPONENT / STATUS
DOE, JOHN E.	PVT / E1	123-45-6789	USAR / TPU
UNIT AND COMPLETE MILITARY ADDRESS	PREFERRED CONTACT TELEPHONE (day, home, and / or cell)		PREFERRED CONTACT TELEPHONE (day, home, and / or cell)
123 POT HANDLE PLATOON 1 STOVE STREET ANYTOWN, USA 12345	555-123-4567		555-123-4567
PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS (if different from military address, including zip code)	E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional)		
256 MICRO WAVE WAY TOASTER, KI 12345	AKO: JOHN.E.DOE@US.ARMY.MIL DOEJ@YAHOO.COM		
SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED (What do you want the IG to do for you?)			
GET MSG BOTHERSOME OFF MY BACK			
INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS REQUEST (background, use additional sheets if necessary, list resources if applicable)			
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, Toaster 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 unresolved.			
This information is submitted for the basic purpose of requesting assistance, correcting injustices affecting the individual, or alleviating conditions considered detrimental to 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 (UCMJ Art 107, 18 USC 1001).			
DATE (YYYYMMDD)	SIGNATURE		
20110101	JOHN E. DOE		
DA FORM 1559, DEC 2007 REPLACES EDITION OF APR 2001, WHICH IS OBSOLETE. APO PE 11 01			

## 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.



Maj. Justin Kilpatrick and Sgt. 1st Class Anna Allatt 412th Theater Engineer Command, G3 Operations, recently returned from an important trip to Africa where they discussed command capabilities and future engagements with local engineers in Chad and the Central African Republic

## 412th TEC G3 Goes to Africa

*By Capt. Maryjane Porter, 412th TEC PA*

BANGUI, Central African Republic - Maj. Justin Kilpatrick and Sgt. 1st Class Anna Allatt, 412th Theater Engineer Command, G3 Operations, discussed command capabilities and future training missions here with local engineer units April 2012.

The duo also traveled to and held similar discussions with representatives in N'Djamena, Chad, the capital and largest city in the country. The port city borders the Central African Republic in the south.

"They were very grateful for our visit and are very anxious

to engage in military to military exercises," said Allatt. For their efforts on this trip, the two received unit patches from an engineer commander with the Central African Republic.

The 412th TEC team also had the opportunity to meet and back-brief Honorable Mark Boulware, U.S. Ambassador to Chad, and Honorable Laurence D. Wohlers, U.S. Ambassador to Central African Republic, following meetings with each of the local engineer groups.

"The ambassadors were very receptive to our assessment, but noted there are limitations on

certain issues," said Allatt. The assessment report from this trip will be presented to AFRICOM in the hopes of planning and conducting future engagements in the years ahead.

The 412th TEC provides engineer support to U.S. Army Africa/AFRICOM by participating in joint exercises, providing engineer mission command, and developing relationships for further military-to-military engagement and solidifying partnerships in support of a theater security cooperation strategy.

# 926th FSC Competes for Connelly



Spc. Jerica Chatman, 926 FSC BN Food Service, prepares her grandma's banana pudding recipe as a special treat for their tactical feeding evaluation

Story and Photo by Capt. Maryjane Porter  
Deputy PAO 412th TEC

Soldiers from the 926th Engineer Battalion Forward Support Company, 926th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, were out in full force to show they have what it takes to compete in the 2013 Philip A. Connelly Awards Program.

In setting up for the USARC evaluation, they wasted no time putting up a containerized kitchen and laying out other equipment in a public park across from the reserve center, and worked feverishly around the clock to ensure no stone was left unturned. Exceed all requirements to pass the test and make it to the next round were the priority for the day.

"I'm very proud of my team. Our Soldiers work extremely hard every year. We're very excited to be here, and to have this opportunity to enhance and test our skill set and possibly to compete at the next level," said Staff Sgt. Wardell Davis, 926th team leader and Food Service

NCOIC.

But to get to the next level, the Department of the Army phase, the 926th FSC team had to pass the current evaluation conducted under the watchful eye of Chief Warrant Officer Danny Tindel, Food Service Technician from the U.S. Army Reserve Command. Soldiers were evaluated on a myriad of criteria ranging from accounting procedures, field sanitation, command support, appearance, serving, kitchen site selection and layout, equipment and food preparation.

It's important that they are aware of the standard and actually practice what we preach for health and safety reasons, said Tindel. One Soldier who takes this lesson to heart is First Cook Spc. Jerica Chatman, who also works as a chef at the University of Alabama hospital.

"Cooking is my passion. It's taking care of people. So it's important that everything has to be done right, at all times, in our line of work," said the mother of two

and a native of Pell City, Ala. Chatman and her team cooked up a hot meal for 50 people that included rice, green salad, stirred fried vegetables, chicken and banana pudding.

"Food was great. They continue to improve each time," said one satisfied Soldier.

The 926th Soldiers were acknowledged for their great effort and received certificates from USARC G4. If they make the USARC's Top 4 cut by July, they will represent the 412th TEC in the 'Army Reserve Field Kitchen' category. The DA phase of the evaluation is conducted October 1 to 15 December, with the overall winner to be announced in March 2013.

The Connelly Awards program is governed by AR 30-22 and is managed by the Quartermaster Center and School's Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence, and cosponsored by the International Food Service Executives Association and the Department of the Army.

The award is designed to improve food service operations and to recognize excellence in Army mess halls and during field kitchen operations.

The Department of the Army and the International Food Service Executives Association established the Phillip A. Connelly Memorial Awards Program in 1968. The program is named in honor of the late Phillip A. Connelly, a former president of IFSEA.



# Talley takes command of Army Reserve

by Timothy Hale

*From Army Reserve website*



**Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley addresses the audience during the U.S. Army Reserve Command promotion ceremony and change-of-command ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C.**

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley assumed command of the U.S. Army Reserve Command at a ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., in June.

With the passing of the command flag, Talley becomes the 32nd Chief, U.S. Army Reserve. He also is the seventh commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, which relocated to Fort Bragg from Fort McPherson, Ga., last year.

"Never in our nation's history has the Army Reserve been more indispensable to America's Army," Talley said. "For after a decade of war, the Army Reserve has evolved into a central part of the total force. With streamlined deployable forces and citizen-Soldiers the embody the warrior spirit."

"Our Army Reserve Soldiers and civilians are truly 'Twice the Citizen,'" he said.

"I promise I will not let you down -- you or America's Army or the nation," Talley said. Talley brings more than 30 years

of active and reserve service to his new position with command experience in the United States, Iraq, Kuwait, and South Korea. He also has extensive work in the civilian sector in civil and environmental engineering earning a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University, and multiple master's degrees.

As the chief, Talley serves at the strategic level as the principal staff adviser to the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff on all Army Reserve Affairs. As the commanding general, he serves at the operational level, commanding all Army Reserve troop program units worldwide, with a total end strength of 205,000 soldiers and more than 12,000 civilians.

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, said the "Army Reserve has proven itself time and time again. These warriors have proved themselves as an integral component of our joint force."

He praised Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz,

the outgoing Army Reserve chief, for leaving behind a "tremendous legacy -- an operationalized Reserve force of citizen-warriors seasoned by combat but grounded by our Army values."

Talley replaces Stultz who is retiring in July after 38 years of Army service. Stultz spent the last six years as the Army Reserve's senior officer -- the longest-serving commanding general in that position.

During his time in command, Stultz was instrumental in transforming the Army Reserve from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve supporting contingency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and establishing a presence in other parts of the world in theater security cooperation missions.

"I'm not leaving sad, I'm smiling. It's been a great run," Stultz said, thanking everyone in attendance for what they do for Soldiers everyday.

# BATTLE O

Story by Spc. Amber Hoy  
314th Public Affairs Operations Center

Cannons exploded in-sequence and layers of smoke lowered onto the grass. Soldiers dressed in blue and grey uniforms marched across the battlefield in box formations.

On March 31, 2012 re-enactors from all over the United States came to southwest Tennessee to turn back time for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh.

For this event retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Roby F. Evans, personnel security specialist for the 412th Theater Engineer Command Vicksburg, Miss., transformed into Pvt. Evans with the 46th Mississippi Infantry of

the Confederate Army.

“Participating is a heritage thing,” said Evans. “I had kin folk that fought on both sides of the battle. It’s important to pay homage to those who fought and died for us.”

Evans has a deeper understanding of what Civil War soldiers endured because of his military service. These soldiers wore dense clothing and usually traveled long distances by foot.

“I have a greater appreciation for what the soldier had to go through,” said Evans. “For instance, this uniform is 100 percent solid wool. The soldiers marched 26 miles before the battle from Corinth, [Miss.] to the Shiloh area to fight against General

Grant’s army.”

Trisha Evans, Roby Evan’s wife, joined in on the action as well. The couple arrived to the camp the Tuesday before the big Saturday battle and endured the Tennessee humidity throughout the week. During these events, Mrs. Evans donned a period era dress completely hand sewn with a traditional hoop skirt.

“My wife and I are both history lovers,” said Evans. “We like to give back to the art of history and living history. I don’t know if I would want to do [re-enacting] without my wife. We are looking forward to bringing our grandchildren out here in the future.”

The camps strive to be as

Col. Kent Goff, G4 deputy commander of 412th TEC, explains the details of the Battle of Shiloh



# F SHILOH

traditional as possible with rope beds and cast iron pots for cooking over a fire.

“Giving history back to the kids is important,” said Evans. “We show the kids how to melt down lead into bullets. We like to portray the whole scenario at the camp.”

Evans knew that on the other side of the battlefield, his fellow co-worker, Col. Kent Goff of the 412th TEC was portraying Pvt. Goff of the Union Army.

“I hope I have [Goff] in my sites and place a round strategically within his body,” Evans jokingly stated.

Goff is a historian and has participated in re-enactments since he was 14 years old.

“I get a chance to go beyond the books and participate,” said Goff.

Goff compared modern drill and ceremony to tactical maneuvers used during the Civil War.

“It’s very difficult to maneuver troops on the field,” said Goff. “When you think of modern formations and how many times we practice and people still screw it up, and these guys were doing it under fire.”

Several re-enactors at these events have previous military experience.

“I did a quick survey in one of my units and about a third of the people out here have served in the military and the rest were military

buffs,” said Goff.

Goff was excited about the battle and about seeing Evans on the field.

“When I see [Roby Evans] across my sites I will shoot him down, knowing that it’s a blank round,” laughs Goff.

As the battle continued, cavalrymen rode across the field to deliver messages to their officers. The infantrymen fired volleys to their opposition. Commanders yelled orders across the field. After each individual battle, spectators applauded as the infantrymen make their way back to the lines.

Roby Evans, personnel security specialist for 412th TEC, works on a portable desk. Today’s version of the laptop computer.



(Cont. from Page 21)

After a conversation at the bus stop, the two exchanged addresses with plans to meet up again. Seventy years after that seemingly random encounter, they are still together.

Given the context of the times, the U.S. having been newly thrust into World War II, this spontaneous action doesn't really sound like anything too far out of the ordinary. However, what makes this version of the classic love tale a little different is that the hero of the story was George Watson, Sr., one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and the courage he showed that day was just a sample of his true temperament. Such temperament was a factor for Watson and the rest of the airmen, as they navigated their way through the adversity set before them.

When telling stories about his time spent in Alabama, Watson's eyes lit up and a big smile crossed his face. His vivid memories spawned story after story of a different time in America and the world.

"I fell in love with Alabama," Watson said, "because I met my wife down there and I enjoyed it down there. Alabama is a pretty place."

Watson served as a supply and administrative clerk for the 366th Air Service Squadron in Tuskegee, Alabama, which directly supported the 332nd



George Watson, Sr., a former Tech. SGT with the Tuskegee Airmen, points out a photo of himself in President Obama's inaugural book to Sgt. Samuel Conrad of the 326th MPAD in Watson's home February 2012.

Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Along with Watson, the service group consisted of welders, parachute riggers, mechanics, cooks and many other members which allowed the 332nd FG to earn the "Presidential Unit Citation" for the successful famed mission to Berlin and back in 1945.

Watson said that at the time, he and his compatriots didn't fully understand how their involvement in the experiment would impact the war, not to mention the social change that would occur as a result.

"What was on my mind at the time, was to make money," said Watson. "My father passed away, I had three brothers and I was the oldest one. My mother was scrubbing floors to make money

and she was depending on me."

In spite of segregation, unfair treatment and even "scientific evidence" in 1925 War College of the United States issued a memorandum stating Negroes were inferior, had smaller brains and simply could not operate complex machinery, let alone be effective combat pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen exceeded the expectations many people had of the fighter group, according to Watson.

The men and women involved in the Tuskegee experiment, both pilots and ground support crews proved themselves by maintaining the sophisticated aircraft and flying hundreds of successful missions. In the process this helped turn the tide of the war

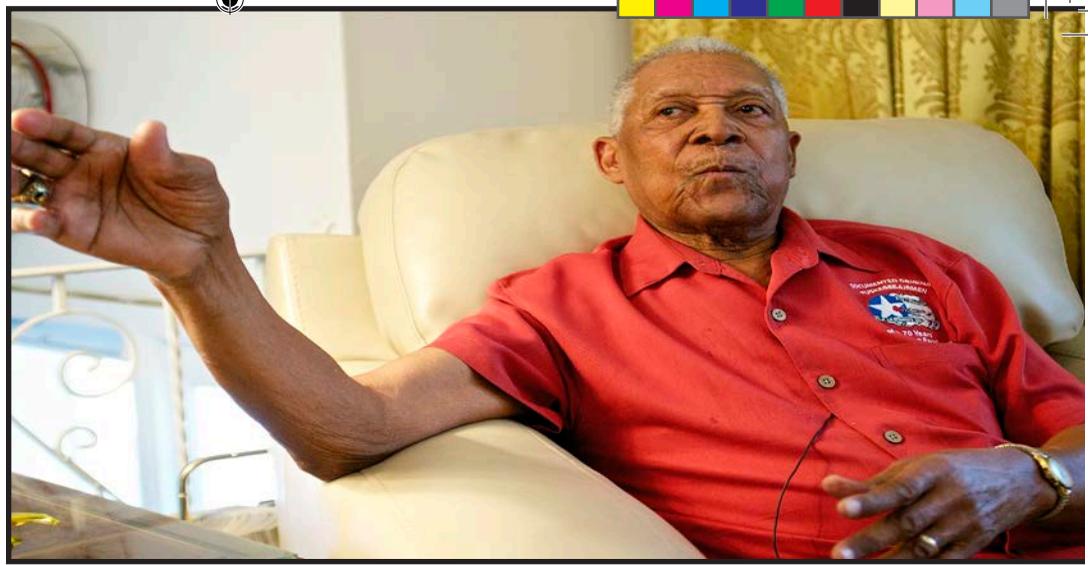
and changing the military forever, as detailed in Watson's book, "A Salute to: The Beginning."

Unfortunately, the roadblocks did not end at the front gate. Watson explained, the first class to complete training only graduated 5 out of 13 cadets, of which 4 of the "failures" already had their pilot's license prior to enlisting. The following class had even fewer graduates.

Watson said, after involvement from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Negro Press and the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the classes began to graduate more cadets. Tuskegee became the only Army installation to include the entire pilot training program at a single location. Watson said he feels this allowed for the airmen to receive more streamlined and consistent training and gave him more opportunities than he would have had moving from base to base.

Watson beamed with pride when he spoke about how he strived to achieve all that he could in order to prove to himself, his family and his soon-to-be wife that he could do anything he set out to do.

"During my time in Alabama, I went from being a Private to a Tech. Sergeant in less than a year," Watson said. "Because I did my job well and I volunteered for



**George Watson, Sr., a former Tech. SGT with the Tuskegee Airmen, tells stories about World War II, when the world was a different place for African-Americans, during an interview in his home on February 2012.**

everything. I was always in the limelight."

Off post encounters were sometimes just as daunting as the military training for the airmen. The airmen were required to wear their uniform at all times and some local civilians attempted to incite poor behavior from the recruits by spitting on them and starting fights, just to keep them away from town, Watson recalled while shaking his head.

Watson said, in order to avoid any more conflict than necessary from such trouble makers, the airmen would often cross to the other side of the street when crossing paths with groups of locals.

"Even the old sheriff used to come around and try to get the men in trouble, even when we weren't doing anything," explained Watson.

Even with all of the hardships that these men had to endure, both relating to racial prejudice and the war in general, a positive attitude

was an important asset for them to have. With a smile, Watson said it was comradery and sense of humor that helped the airmen through the difficult times and kept their heads up toward that very sky where they tested their mettle and showed the world what they were made of.

"When you dwell on negative things," Watson said when speaking of the difficult time at war while being so far away from his loved ones, "it'll weigh you down. I've been through a lot of negative things. I make a lot of jokes and that is what kept a lot of the Tuskegee Airmen going."

By throwing caution to the wind and jumping off of a bus in an unfamiliar town that day, Watson set into motion the path his life would follow for the next seven decades. Being deployed overseas during wartime was difficult, but Watson said having a loving woman waiting back home gave him the best reason of all to persevere and return home safely.



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>

# Ride Fun, Ride Safe!

*Bob Van Elsberg Strategic Communication Directorate U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Fort Rucker, Ala.*

**S**ummer is coming and with it the kind of weather that draws riders to the road. If you're a dedicated rider or thinking about taking up the sport, the Army can help you ride safely.

## **For new riders**

Climbing gas prices and the fun of motorcycling attracts new riders each year. The good news is Soldiers can get professional training at no cost. In fact, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic RiderCourse, provided by contractors at Army installations, is a requirement if you want to ride. The course provides a blend of classroom instruction followed by practical, hands-on training to build the basic skills needed for safe riding. Motorcycles often are provided for students, allowing those contemplating riding to get a taste of the sport before investing their hard-earned cash.

## **For experienced riders**

Following the basic course, within the first year of riding Soldiers are provided either the Experienced RiderCourse or Military Sportbike RiderCourse to further hone their highway survival skills. Beyond that, the Army provides Motorcycle Refresher Training to Soldiers who have deployed more

than 180 days. Motorcycle Sustainment Training ensures riders don't get rusty by providing them the Experienced RiderCourse or Military SportBike RiderCourse training every three years. The choice of courses depends on the type of bike the Soldier rides, each being tailored to handling characteristics and safety concerns specific to different motorcycles. Soldiers also have the option to take an Army-approved advanced level motorcycle course. A list of approved courses is located on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website at <https://safety.army.mil>.

## **For all riders**

The battle buddy concept has taken to the streets through Army-approved Motorcycle Mentorship Programs available at various installations stateside and overseas. In these MMPs, skilled riders help less experienced riders develop survival skills for the streets and highways. In addition to making riders more street savvy, MMPs provide an environment where riders are encouraged to ride responsibly, a key issue in preventing accidents.

Detailed information on the MMP can be found at <https://safety.army.mil/MMP/>.

SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

# Take 5

for Motorcycle Safety

- Ride with a battle buddy – join a Motorcycle Mentorship Program!
- Let Motorcycle Safety Foundation training kick-start you for success.
- Ride quick, agile and safe with Military SportBike Course training.
- Suit up for safety – wear your personal protective equipment.
- Keep the “rubber side” down by riding responsibly.
- Don't speed. Life is not a sprint – it's a marathon.

*Take 5 ... then take action.*



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U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER  
<https://safety.army.mil>

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