

Highlighting the Mission Command of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command

CANDO

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A photograph of two soldiers in full combat gear. The soldier in the foreground is wearing a helmet, a tactical vest, and a large backpack. He has a determined and shouting expression on his face. The soldier behind him is wearing a cap and a uniform with a name tag that reads "EDMONDS". He is looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a white vehicle.

Battle to be the Best
Warriors compete for coveted title

Take to the skies
Soldiers and Airmen team up to train

Stitches of Love
Group honors the fallen through quilting

CAN DO

377th TSC Command Team

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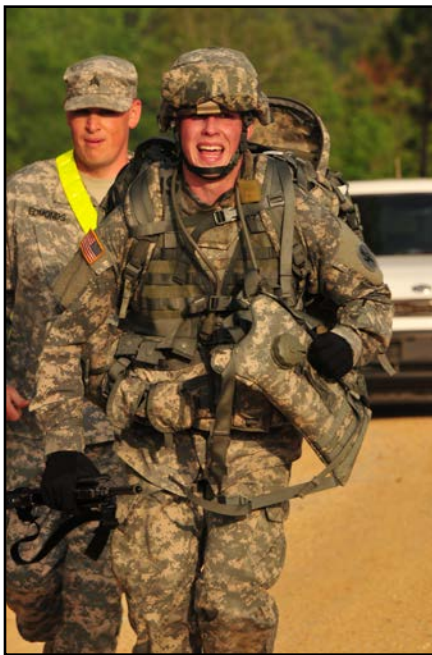
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On the Cover: *Spc. Logan Walz, 103rd ESC, sprints toward the finish line of a 6-mile ruck march during the 377th Theater Sustainment Command Best Warrior Competition held at both Camp Shelby, Ms. and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans April 22-25. SPC Walz will represent the 377th TSC in the junior enlisted category at the U.S. Army Reserve Command Best Warrior Competition in June.*

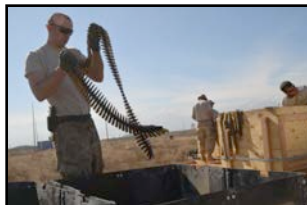
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We're transforming our approach to training and Professional Military Education, challenging a lot of the "old school" process of trapping and finding ways to reduce the wait-listing for courses. We're aggressively pushing to get Soldiers of all ranks into the courses they need so they can both execute their mission and grow as LEADERS.

We're growing our communications and automation capabilities, both through equipment and through training. Simply put, for us to effectively transport cargo, supply and support personnel, we must be able to capture, analyze and share information—both internal to our HQ, and to our partners across the battle space.

We're striving to be better resourced with ready equipment and staffed with trained personnel. Our G-4 and G-1 teams are doing a great job of leading those fights every day and studying how they can do it even better in the future.

These are only a few of the highlights of your command over the last 12 months. But remember, we've been working these actions while never losing sight of our immediate and most critical mission—TRAINING, EQUIPPING AND RESOURCING SOLDIERS WHO ARE DEPLOYING TO THE CENTCOM THEATER.

And finally, who could forget the 377th's professional response to both Hurricane Isaac and Super-storm Sandy. We captured lessons learned from these events and will be even better prepared this year, both personally and as a Command.

The big take away for me as I look back over the last 12 months and forward to the next year is that we have done it TOGETHER—Uniformed and Civilian; AC, AGR, and TPU; officer, NCO, and enlisted. We have become a more cohesive unit—one that realizes that its true strength must come from shared experiences, shared knowledge, a shared mission-focus and a shared culture.

I'm proud of what we have done and eager to continue moving forward to ensure that "When the Nation Calls- 377th CAN DO- Anytime, Anywhere."

Elaine and I offer our sincere thanks to you and your Families for your unwavering commitment to this unit and your service to our great Nation.

MG Peter S. Lennon
Commanding General
377th Theater Sustainment Command

Greetings 377th TSC,

It's been an amazing year since the 377th's colors were entrusted to me on May 19, 2012. The pace has been full-out and I am extremely proud of the strides that WE'VE made.

As I've told you in many sessions, the Army sustainment community is undergoing a major transformation as we build to "2020 and Beyond", and the 377th TSC is in the thick of it. Our active component partners recognize our value and are anxious to gain rapid access to us and the power we bring, whether it be for a homeland national disaster or for a contingency event overseas. When the nation calls, we can expect to be part of the response—we must be ready.

We're also transforming the 377th as an organization, both structurally and in our processes. We're posturing ourselves to better take advantage of the personal skills and talents that we have both in the headquarters and in our six general officer-led subordinate commands across the country. In the late summer and early fall, we choreographed the smooth mission command realignment that impacted all four of our ESC's—a task that required careful planning from all our sections and leaders.

On the local level, you've undoubtedly seen a push to make our Support Operations (SPO) Section more ready to deploy and engage on short notice; whether it's through our Early Entry Command Post (EECP) or our Main Command Post (MCP). While our focus continues to be South and Central America, our motto has never been more true-- "Anytime, Anywhere".

But that's only the tip of the iceberg. Our support operations transformation is a command wide-effort as we take steps to make the Support Ops and G-3 sections of all our units more engaged, ready and responsive. We're also transforming our rail capability, taking a new look at how we manage our Army Reserve watercraft and how our parachute rigger units are aligned.

The Company Leader



The company commander, first sergeant and first line leaders are the cornerstone of the Soldier's development process. From the moment a new recruit enters our Army, their development is connected to the company level leader. Drill sergeants fill the roles of platoon sergeants, teaching the basics of what right looks like; from the proper wear of the uniform to the handling of some of the most sophisticated technology in our arsenal. We owe our success to this level of leadership.

The company Level must be the place where we place our greatest investment, that is, TIME. The success of everything that we do is dependent upon it; from the individual Soldier training, to the ability of a company to field ready Soldiers who can mobilize and execute their company's Mission Essential Task List [METL] in a collective setting. A leader at this level makes the most impact on the Soldiers of today and the leaders of tomorrow. From the sponsorship of a new Soldier, through the integration to the section; the first sergeant, whose role is covered by AR 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program, must understand the process and ensure that the process is implemented to standard.

The individual Soldier training and Welfare rests at the NCO level; the first sergeant must ensure that each soldier is Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified or DMOSQ; this means that the first sergeant leads the effort to identify Soldiers who have not been trained to their duty requirements. Platoon sergeants assist the process by ensuring that their Soldiers are both medically and physically ready to go to schools. This process requires more than once a month interface; platoon sergeants must lead their squad leaders to develop a relationship of trust whereby a Soldier will communicate with them regularly during the course of the month. This process is called accountability; holding leaders accountable to the duties and responsibilities assigned develops a culture of accountability.

The company leadership is the tip of the spear of discipline in the formation. When noncommissioned officers at the team and squad level correct deficiencies and teach what right looks like, they are ensuring that what seem to be little infractions do not spiral out of control into conduct that tears at the very fabric of our values. For example, correcting loose talk can prevent sexual assaults, hazing and other actions that undermine a cohesive and disciplined unit.

Ready, trained and disciplined Soldiers capable of deploying and executing missions in support of unified operations is the result of hard work by dedicated leaders at the company level—it is not an easy task. We as senior leaders owe you a debt of gratitude for your professional and dedicated service; we also owe you the support and resources required to ensure your success. I ask all leaders above the company level to dedicate time to coach, teach and mentor the most important leadership team in our formation – The Company Leader.

Can Do! Anytime, Anywhere!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nagee Lunde".

CSM Nagee Lunde
377th Theater Sustainment Command
Command Sergeant Major



Collecting Dust?

By Chaplain (Capt.) Doug Daspit

I have a closet in my bedroom where I hang clothes that I wear on a regular basis. I have another closet in another room where I hang my ACUs.

That is probably a fitting metaphor for the challenges that are often faced by Reservists. We take seriously our military tasks. We are trained and ready for the fight. Yet, our uniforms can collect dust for weeks before we are asked to take it out and put it on. We get busy with civilian jobs, community responsibilities and our families and the Army can drop off of our radar screens.



There is a verse in the Scriptures that urges people of faith to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” This command is inextricably tied to a second one to “not give up meeting together.” In my personal faith community, this serves as a reminder that our presence is important. Community cannot exist among individuals that don’t spend any time together.

I wonder how many of us allow our relationships with fellow Soldiers to collect dust between Battle Assemblies as well. It is amazing how much can occur in our lives over the course of only a couple of weeks. Have you developed an intentional plan to ensure that you stay in contact with your Battle Buddies?

Here are a couple of practical questions:

- * How often do I spend time socially with my fellow Soldiers outside of duty time?
- * Who am I calling on a weekly basis? How am I using social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to keep up with fellow Soldiers individually and with my unit as a whole?
- * Do I have the ability to check my military email account from home? Do I check it on a regular basis?

Resiliency is not developed in a moment of crisis. It is constructed upon a foundation that is built little by little over the course of everyday life. If we establish strong relational bonds, then together we will be ready for whatever life may throw at us.

Don’t wait until next Battle Assembly. Make a commitment to start today.



377th TSC Best Warriors

SHOOT FOR THE TOP



Sgt. Ryan Veltman, 143d ESC, peers through the sight of an M-4 carbine during the weapons portion of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command Best Warrior Competition held at Camp Shelby, Ms. and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans April 22-25.

Story and photos by Sgt. Vanessa Josey

EIGHT SOLDIERS GO THE DISTANCE

Hardly business as usual during the 377th TSC Best Warrior Competition as competitors took on both the expected and unexpected in two different locations for a shot at representing the command at the next level

NAS JRB NEW ORLEANS, LA—

Eight Soldiers vying for the 377th Theater Sustainment Command Best Warrior title battled over four grueling days split between Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss. and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans in Belle Chasse, La.

A line from the Soldier's Creed summed up what each competitor sought to prove: "I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills." However, proving that would take much more than rote memorization; it would require demonstrating that they live the creed daily

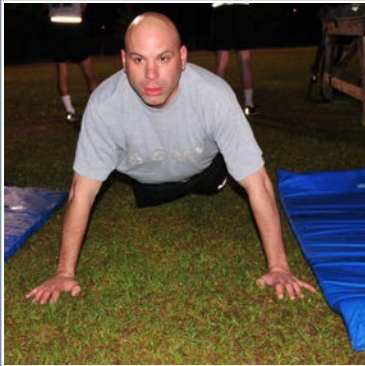
"These Soldiers are leading by example," said 377th TSC Command Sgt. Maj. Nagee Lunde. "They are leading from the front to standard.

All are inspirations to those of us in leadership as they are the Soldiers we are grooming to lead the Army of tomorrow. This is a great way for us to see our hard work in action."

From pre-dawn hours to well after sunset, the Soldiers pushed themselves through the competition while, at the same time, encouraging one another to embrace the suck.

"We all volunteered because it is a chance for all of us to put our Soldier skills to the test," said Sgt. Joseph Patnode, a human resource specialist representing the Deployment Support Command based in Birmingham, Al. "This gives us the chance to do what we signed up to do," he continued. "Soldiers leading by example, pushing ourselves to our limits and also [meeting] awesome Soldiers who motivate, challenge and, at the end of the day, become our friend."

BWC EVENTS TAKE TROOPS...



TO THE LIMIT

(Top) Sgt. Scott Blunk assumes the push-up position during the APFT (Center) Spc. Namoo Han pushes across the finish line of a 6-mile ruck march. (Bottom) Sgt. 1st Class Edward Martinez prepares for night land navigation. (photos by Sgt. Vanessa Josey)

The competition included more than a dozen events. Competitors demonstrated their Army knowledge through a written essay and by answering a series of questions before a board of sergeants major. A 6-mile road march, weapons qualification and land navigation during the day and night pushed competitors like Pvt. 1st Class John Smith to their physical limit.

"I didn't do too well in land navigation; I'm going to admit that, but I'm not letting it put me down," said Smith. "I'm not going to give up because that's not who I am. There's a reason why I'm here and I'm proud of that."

Smith, an intelligence analyst assigned to the 377th TSC, later went on to win the Modern Army Combatives match on the final day of competition.

"The Army is the strength of our nation," said Lunde. "However, our Soldiers are the strength of our Army—our most important asset. We want to ensure we have empowered each and everyone one with the tools to take care of themselves and their battle buddies."

To that end, Soldiers had to navigate the unexpected in the form of 4 mystery events including an orchestrated scenario dealing with a Soldier in crisis. In 2012, more Soldiers took their own lives than died in combat. Army leaders have made resiliency training a top priority across the force. Organizers put that training to the test when unsuspecting competitors walked into dramatic scenes where role players exhibited signs of desperation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chantell Black

Sgt. Joseph Patnode, DSC, taking Sgt. 1st Class Edward Martinez, 377th TSC, to the mat



Competitors take notes just before a night land navigation course on Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Ms.

“They had the chaplain and chaplain assistant come in and set up a stressful suicide situation which we then had to try and diffuse,” said Patnode. “It was very unexpected and very realistic—that was great training.”

Leaders believe it’s critically important that Soldiers are equipped with tools to not only recognize the signs but to also have the courage to use them.

“Each Soldier handles every situation differently,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Dock Whittaker of the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command. “This was a chance to see how effective our message and



Pvt. 1st Class Randall Reinink stands with enlisted runner-up Spc. Namoo Han, 310th ESC and NCO runner-up Staff Sgt. Ryan Veltman, 143d ESC.

teaching is to the Soldiers. One casualty is one too many.”

The competition wrapped with a banquet honoring all the competitors for completing the rigorous event. Spc. Michael Walz, a cargo specialist representing the 103rd ESC, took top honors in the junior enlisted category. With a tradition of military service in his family, he plans to make the Army a career and encourages others to tackle this competition.

“It will make him or her [a] better Soldier. This is a perfect chance to build on the lessons we actively learn every day. What better way to put Soldiering into action and also set an example for your battle buddy standing next to you?”



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Nagee Lunde gives words of encouragement to Pvt. 1st Class Randall Reinink, 143d ESC, who later finished first in the 6-mile ruck march.

Patnode’s calm during the mystery event factored into an overall score that put him ahead of the competition to win the NCO Best Warrior title. He believes the confidence he’s gained through this experience will help make him a better leader.

“That’s really what being a leader is all about is being able to train them [junior Soldiers] and lead them with confidence and skill.”

The Soldiers will represent the 377th TSC at the US Army Reserve Best Warrior Competition that will take place in late June.

For video highlights of the competition go to: [377th TSC Best Warrior 2013.com](http://377thTSCBestWarrior2013.com)



941st Transportation Company Takes to the skies

A pilot program brings an entire brigade together to hone skills in

Story and photos by Sgt. Scott Matheson
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CHARLESTON, S.C.--

Soldiers from the 941st Transportation Company, United States Army Reserve, received a hands-on lesson in Joint Operations when they coordinated with the United States Air Force Reserve to transport tactical vehicles from Charleston to Columbia, S.C. via a C-17 Globemaster III as part of a Field Training Exercise (FTX) on March 1.

The 941st TC is a medium truck and fueler unit assigned to the 812th Transportation Battalion, Charlotte, NC and the airlift was a result of nearly four months of planning by 941st company commander Capt. Peter Powell who sees monthly battle assembly as a chance to enhance training by embracing whatever the military can offer.

“Battle assembly isn’t just doing the same thing over and over,” Powell explained, “this mission was a great opportunity to use many available assets to keep Soldiers interested and motivated during a challenging battle assembly. Soldiers have to be used to



Capt. Powell provides oversight and assistance to his Soldiers during airlift operations prior to the 812th Transportation Battalion Field Training Exercise the weekend of March 1-3. Powell coordinated the airlift with members of the US Air Force Reserve in Charleston in order to give his Soldiers a unique experience not normally afforded to Army Soldiers. “Battle Assembly isn’t just doing the same thing over and over,” Powell explained. “You have to get hands on.”

the real world; to being in the field, carrying their weapons and driving their trucks. You have to get hands on.”

The 941st element of eleven Soldiers, three M1078 light utility trucks and one M1165 HMMWV were guided through the process of airlifting their vehicles by loadmasters of the 315th Airlift Wing.

The loadmasters showed the Soldiers how to properly place their trucks on the aircraft and secure them in place with chains. At the completion of the short flight to North Field, a drop zone in the rural midlands of South Carolina, the procedure was reversed, and the trucks rolled out to link up with the remainder of the 812th Transportation Battalion at their FTX site on Ft. Jackson.

Capt. Powell was pleased with the coordination and training, and expects the lessons learned on the airlift will be spread throughout the remainder of the company as they prepare for a Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise (QLLEX) at Ft. Bragg, N.C. in June.



First Ones In, Last Ones Out

Early Entry Command Post team refines operations through real-world exercise

Story and photos by Spc. Charles Thompson
377th TSC PAO

NAS JRB NEW ORLEANS, LA--

Soldiers of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command’s Early Entry Command Post (EECP) team completed a multi-month training exercise at NAS JRB New Orleans, Apr. 21. The training prepared them to deploy when disaster strikes in their area of operations. As part of their dual mission, the unit provides support operations for the U.S. Southern Command, which includes Central and South America.

The scenario is Hurricane Mark, a category 5 storm, that has just devastated the Central American country of Guatemala. The 377th TSC

has deployed an EECP to the area to assist in relief efforts.

The unit has spent the past 3 months preparing for this exercise and is ready to see the results this training brings.

“This is an unfolding scenario that began in October that is going to run until the end of April”, said Col. Joel Weeks, 377th TSC Assistant Chief of Staff of Operations. “For a long time we did not have any battle staff training, so our ability to synchronize, integrate, coordinate and disseminate information as a collective battle staff had been left to atrophy somewhat, so

the intent with this training is to take baby steps.”

The exercise was conducted in three phases that consisted of developing reporting and coordinating lines of communication with the Main Command Post (MCP), publishing operations order, and forming and executing load plans.

“Our intent is to be able to have the EECP able to deploy within 96 hours of getting notification,” said Col. Theresa Baginski who heads support operations for the command. “This weekend we are in Guatemala in the EECP and the MCP is here in Belle



Spc. Ashley Schexnayder and Cpt. Susan Stewart update the accountability of personnel during the "Hurricane Mark" training exercise during battle assembly at NAS JRB New Orleans, Saturday, Jan. 12.



Maj. Gen. Peter S. Lennon, 377th Theater Sustainment Command's Commanding General, speaks with the units Early Entry Command Post team after a weekend of training at Camp Shelby, Ms., Saturday, Mar. 23.



Soldiers of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command break down the Early Entry Command Post for the "Hurricane Mark" training exercise during battle assembly at Camp Shelby, Ms., Saturday, Mar. 23.

Chasse, so we are going through the process of developing our reporting and coordination lines with the MCP."

In January of 2010 an earthquake in Haiti killed more than 200,000 people and affected more than 3 million. The U.S. government and the Department of Defense launched Operation Unified Response in which the 377th TSC provided logistical support to the operation.

"We are using the Haiti mission strongly as a reference point identifying what went right and what went wrong," said Baginski. "We can learn from that disaster so that we get the right personnel and equipment packages ready for the next."

When the earthquake struck Haiti, the 377th sent an EECP consisting of 20 Soldiers within 96 hours.

The Commanding General of the 377th TSC at the time, Maj. Gen. Luis Visot felt strongly about further developing the EECP.

"We were asked to provide logistical support, but it took us close to 30 days [for the full headquarters] to respond", said Visot.

"In order for us to be more responsive, relevant, and credible I felt very strongly that it was critical for us to be able to develop, establish, and maintain an early entry command post."

Since then the 377th TSC has received new equipment including mobile command tents that allow the EECP to set up quickly and effectively communicate with the MCP.

The exercise also allowed Soldiers to train with new software developed by the 75th Training Division called Distributed Simulations Capability enabling troops to train as they would deploy.



Soldiers of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command set-up the Early Entry Command Post for the "Hurricane Mark" training exercise during battle assembly at NAS JRB New Orleans, Saturday, Jan. 12. The 377th TSC is preparing their Early Entry Command Post team consisting of 42 Soldiers for operations to assist in the event of a natural disaster.

"This software is allowing the MCP and the EECP to train using a communications systems that would be similar to the one they would use in a real mission," said Gary Hoffmann, a Department of Defense contractor with the 75th TD. "It allows remote access and can be used by several units in different locations at the same time."

According to Weeks, a foreign humanitarian disaster relief effort is one of the most difficult things from a sustainment prospective you can do in the DoD.

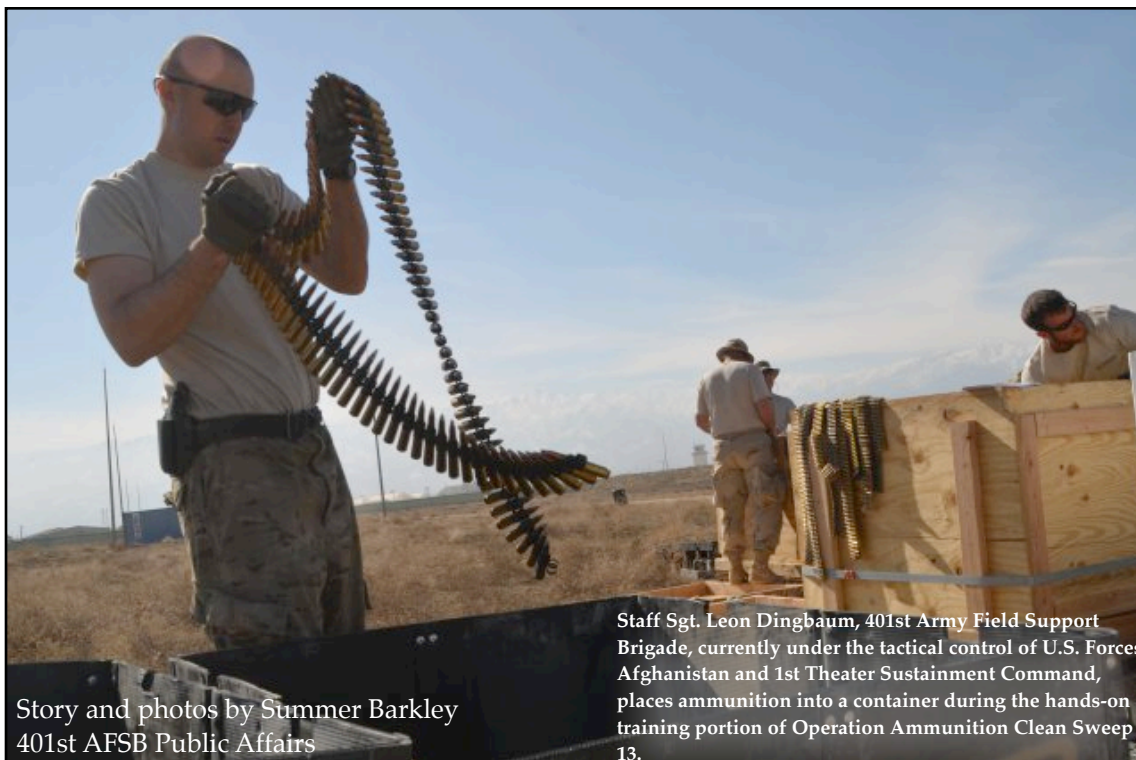
"The mission is to support the local population affected by the disaster," said Weeks. "As a supporting unit we

have to be resource neutral or resource positive. We have to bring enough capability to sustain ourselves and make sure that we are there to support them."



Operation Ammunition Clean Sweep 13

Taking aim at retrograde in Afghanistan



Story and photos by Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Leon Dingbaum, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, currently under the tactical control of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and 1st Theater Sustainment Command, places ammunition into a container during the hands-on training portion of Operation Ammunition Clean Sweep 13.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN --

Following classroom and hands-on training, five Operation Ammunition Clean Sweep 13 teams are ready to spread across the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan searching for unserviceable or unsafe ammunition for demilitarization and serviceable ammunition to return to record for reissue or retrograde back to the United States.

The goal of OACS-13 is to advise and assist, inventory, retrograde and dispose of munitions in support of the Brigade Combat Teams and CJOA-A requirements. The end state of the operation is to improve unit readiness, increase visibility of munitions, reduce unserviceable and legacy munitions and determine the

scope of the CJOA-A munitions retrograde requirements.

This is the third iteration of Operation Ammunition Clean Sweep in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"There are three primary differences between this OACS and the two prior," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Turner, Joint Munitions Branch chief, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan J4 (Logistics). "The addition of Soldiers to assist with retrograde as ammunition items are identified; the addition of contracted disposal personnel to mitigate retrograde requirements as items are identified; and a reporting structure that ties the CJOA-A munitions managers from 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and 1st

Theater Sustainment Command (forward) together with Joint Munitions Command as well as the Corps and Regional Operational Commands."

Four of the teams consist of two Quality Assurance Specialists Ammunition Surveillance civilians, three Soldiers and two explosive ordnance disposal contractors; while one team will not have contractors.

Their job is to travel to forward operating bases to search through ammunition handling areas, MIL VANS (20-foot military owned shipping containers) and containers for munitions and explosives. They will empty the areas where the items are stored, separate by lots, inspect for safety and serviceability, segregate by condition code, and

repack serviceable and safe munitions and explosives for use by the Warfighter or to be retrograded out of theater as directed by USFOR-A. The contractors will demilitarize ammunition determined to be unsafe, unserviceable or not destined to be retrograded.

"The QASAS deployed from Defense Ammunition Center, Blue Grass Army Depot, Letterkenny Munitions Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and Tooele Army Depot," said Thomas Evans, Joint Munitions Command senior command representative to the 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

"They will determine unsafe, unserviceable and excess ammo that will be demiled (demilitarized) in place. The teams will de-mil as far forward as possible to save costs, manpower and resources," Evans said.

The Soldiers are from the 60th Ordnance Company, 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 1st Sustainment Brigade and the 401st AFSB.

"I will be assisting commanders throughout CJOA-A with munitions management by travelling to each location and inventorying and inspecting all Class V," said Staff Sgt. Leon Dingbaum, 401st AFSB, who is currently under the tactical control of USFOR-A and 1st Theater Sustainment Command. "Our team will consist of military ammunition specialists, DA Civilian QASAS and our contracted EOD disposal teams."

Dingbaum, who's military occupation specialty is 89B3P (ammunition specialist in a 30 level position and parachutist qualified), said he is glad to have the opportunity to work in his military occupational specialty.

"We will inventory what each unit has on site and provide recommendations to higher as to



A Soldier sorts through loose ammunition March 5 during the hands-on training portion of Operation Ammunition Clean Sweep 13 before traveling across the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan searching for unserviceable or unsafe ammunition for demilitarized and serviceable ammunition that can be returned to record for reissue or retrograde back to the U.S.

what should happen to various munitions based on condition and lot number integrity," said Dingbaum. "USFOR-A and 1st TSC will provide us disposition instructions as to what items are to be retrograded, destroyed, or remain on hand as part of the unit's combat load. We will also assist the units with packing retrograde items as well as disposal of unserviceable items in forward locations as much as possible."

Retrograde of non-mission essential equipment is one of the ongoing missions of the 401st AFSB and Operation Ammo Clean Sweep 13 is designed, in part, to assist the retrograde effort.

"This will absolutely help with the

retrograde of equipment out of theater as we will have eyes on accountability of what ammunition is on hand at each site and what condition it is in," said Dingbaum. "The ability to de-mil/destroy munitions at forward locations will also take the burden off of larger bases to dispose of unserviceable ammunition and make it easier for them to pack/ship items that will be retrograded."

Turner echoed Dingbaum's observations and said he sees three primary benefits regarding retrograde.

"It will reduce intra-CJOA-A retrograde through forward disposal of unserviceable and items identified as "do not return" to CONUS; it will allow for the proper packaging and preparation of items that are required to be retrograded (for safe shipment); and it will provide a means of identifying the scope of the munitions to be retrograded from forward locations so that adequate planning for containerization, air movement and vessel requirements are clarified."

As the OACS 13 teams prepare to fan out across the CJOA-A, they will be moving ammunition containers weighing as much as 76 pounds, working in austere conditions, sometimes at a high altitude and frequently out in the elements during the heat and blowing dust of the Afghan summer.

Their reward, in addition to completing an important mission, will be to hear many "big voice" announcements saying "Attention on the FOB, attention on the FOB, there will be a controlled DET (detonation) in the next five minutes."

STITCHES OF LOVE



HONORING THE FALLEN

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MAJ MONICA RADTKE
103RD ESC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

FONDA, IOWA—

“We will never forget” is a mantra that Betty and Dennis Nielsen, along with their crew of quilters, remember with each spool of thread they pull off the shelf. The group has collectively used miles of thread to sew over 7,300 quilts since starting Freedom Quilts, Inc., in 2001. The all-volunteer organization, located on a rural farm outside Fonda, Iowa, toiled many hours to create personalized quilts for families of fallen service members located across the United States.

On April 6, Betty Nielsen, founder of Freedom Quilts, presented six of those quilts to families of veterans who served in Vietnam, Iraq and/or Afghanistan during a ceremony held inside her makeshift shop. One of the presentations included the family of Army Reserve Sgt. James Witkowski. Witkowski was posthumously awarded the Silver Star in November 2005 for his heroic actions while deployed to Iraq. His parents, Jim and Barbara, from Surprise, Ariz., made the trip to Iowa to accept the quilt, which pays tribute to their son.



(Banner) Barbara and Jim Witkowski view the quilt made in honor of their son, Army Reserve Sgt. James Witkowski, during the Freedom Quilts presentation on April 6 in Fonda, Iowa. Sgt. Witkowski was killed in October 2005 near Balad, Iraq. He was riding in a convoy when it came under enemy fire and a grenade was thrown into his vehicle. Witkowski made the decision to shelter the rest of the Soldiers from the grenade blast with his own body. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star in November 2005 for his heroic actions that day. **(TOP)** Family members of fallen service members follow Betty Nielsen, front right, down an aisle of American flags displayed by members of the Iowa Patriot Guard Riders. Six families attended the ceremony and each received a quilt sewn in honor of their loved one.



Col. Robert Wiley, Support Operations Officer, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), U.S. Army Reserve, located in Des Moines, Iowa, was the keynote speaker during the event. “Memories are important to us. We can never forget these great Americans or the sacrifice their love ones endured.

The Niensens and Freedom Quilts -- what a powerful and valuable service to our nation. We, as the United States military, cannot do the jobs without the support of organizations like Freedom Quilts," he said.

The ceremony was filled with emotion and memories- one family member spoke about the years spent to tirelessly locate her brother's remains in Vietnam. Army Spc. 5 Donald Grella, from Laurel, Neb., was killed while serving in Vietnam. The helicopter he was on failed to return from a routine mission in December 1965, soon after braving enemy fire at the battle of Ia Drang. Grella and the three other crew members were listed as Missing in Action until their remains were recovered in October 2009.

Patriotism and desire to keep the memories of fallen service members alive is what drives Nielsen to keep sewing. "The quilts and the event serves as a reminder to the families that their loved one is not forgotten," said Nielsen. "The quilts were sewn by volunteers

committed to honoring troops and their families."

Nielsen includes a hand written personal note to the service member's family with every quilt. In fact, she has 200 quilts neatly folded on a shelf and awaiting shipment because she still needs to write letters to those families. "I write the letter when the time is right and the words come to me," she said. Just like the quilts, the letters come from Nielsen's heart.

Each quilt is unique and personalized. The quilts presented during the April 6 ceremony contained the Soldier's favorite desert (one was apple pie), their portrait, hobbies, service emblem, to name a few. Nielsen gets to know each family and learns about the service member before designing the quilt.

In the process of developing the quilt, Nielsen inevitably forms relationships with the families. She mentioned the hours spent on the phone with families- listening to their stories and allowing the family to reminisce about their loved ones.

Nielsen shows no signs of slowing down. She is determined to keep the project moving forward and keep fallen troops' memories alive. "Through the gift of a quilt, we strive to comfort these families and preserve the honor and memory of their loved ones," she said.

Freedom Quilts, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of comforting mourning families. To learn more about Freedom Quilts, visit their Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/FreedomQuilts.



(Top) Col. Robert Wiley, 103rd ESC Support Operations Officer, speaks with the parents of Army Reserve Sgt. James Witkowski during the Freedom Quilts presentation on April 6 in Fonda, Iowa.



(Top) The family of Marine Lance Corporal Jeffrey B. Beise, from Zimmerman, Minn., reflect on his life and service during the Freedom Quilts presentation on April 6. The family received a quilt sewn in honor of Beise during the event. Photo by Maj. Monica Radtke, 103rd ESC Public Affairs Office.

Around the Command



316TH ESC RETURNS FROM KUWAIT

FORT HOOD, TX--More than 240 Soldiers from the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) returned from a nine-month deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. It marked the second deployment for the Coraopolis, Pennsylvania-based unit that ran supply and logistics operations to support service members in the Middle East. Maj. Gen. Peter Lennon, Commanding General of the 377th TSC, greeted Soldiers as they stepped off the plane.



Spc. Matthew Henderson is greeted by 377th TSC Commander Maj. Gen. Peter Lennon after he and fellow 316th Soldiers flew more than 7600 miles from Kuwait to Fort Hood, Tx.

NEW LEADER AT THE 310TH ESC

FORT BENJAMIN HARRIS, IN-- Col. Michael Dillard officially took the reigns from Col. Rodney Faulk during a change of command ceremony for the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service building April 20. The 310th ESC includes more than 8000 Soldiers and civilians spread across 5 states.



310th ESC Chief of Staff Col. Linda Wade (third from left), leads a troop inspection with incoming and outgoing commanders Col. Michael Dillard (far left) and Col. Rodney Faulk (far right) joined by Maj. Gen. Peter Lennon, 377th TSC commanding general.



Around the Command

DSC COMMANDER PROMOTED



BIRMINGHAM, AL--In front of Soldiers and friends, Maj. Gen. Peter Lennon, commanding general of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, promoted Brig. Gen. Michael Mann, commander of the United States Army Reserve Deployment Support Command, to the general officer ranks. As the future of the Army moves toward a globally-responsive and regionally-engaged force, it is crucial to have leaders that are prepared to train and lead Soldiers to the next level. Lennon agrees that the newly-promoted commander is a leader who does just that. He leads from the front and he leads up, always taking his soldiers to another level, said Lennon.



Maj. Gen. Peter Lennon shakes the hand of newly promoted Brig. Gen. Michael Mann during a ceremony in Birmingham, AL. Approximately 1.5 percent of Army Reserve officers ascend the ranks to become eligible to pin on a star.

NEW WARRANTS JOIN RANKS



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Richard Friedberg, the 377th TSC's acting Command Chief Warrant Officer, presented Chief Warrant Officers 1 Daniel Weir(left) and Christopher Pugh(right) Warrant Officer Excellence Coins for their professionalism, leadership and proven allegiance to the Warrant Officer Corps.

FORT RUCKER, AL--Chief Warrant Officers 1 Daniel Weir and Christopher Pugh have joined the ranks of the quiet professionals. The two successfully completed Warrant Officer Candidate School Apr. 17. The rigorous 7-week course trains candidates to be valuable members of the total Army by focussing on developing them as technical experts, combat leaders, mentors and advisors to both Soldiers and commanders. They join the ranks of over 500 Warrant Officers in the 377th TSC.





Whopping Cough...are you Protected?



Capt. Patti Hilbun
377th TSC Medical Readiness Officer

“**W**hat, another shot?” “I don’t need a Tetanus shot. I just got one not too long ago.” I am sure many of you are having this response after discovering you are RED in the Immunization Category of your Medical Readiness. There is a very good reason for this new requirement. The Tetanus Diphtheria immunization we have been receiving for years has been replaced by the Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis immunization as part of the Routine Adult Immunization Profile. This is not only required for military but for civilians also.

preserve that immunity and eradicate this disease. You may be asking “What are the consequences of this disease?” There is a very serious answer. As an adult, Whopping Cough is not much more than a very bad cough. However, if an infant has not received all three immunizations for this disease and contracts it, it is a most certain death. Pertussis is highly contagious and can be prevented with vaccination.

Now for the reason. It has been noted by medical professionals that there is a rise in the occurrence of Whopping Cough (Pertussis). Statistics show the reported cases have risen from 7,867 in 2000 to a high of 27,550 in 2010. So, it has been discovered that the immunizations we received as infants did not last a lifetime. We need booster shots to

So, I am asking all of you Soldiers, please update your immunizations by obtaining the new vaccination. It is called the Tdap. Ask for it by name. Spread the word to your civilian family and friends, impress them with your new-found knowledge and save a life!

Panhandle Army Reserve Center holds groundbreaking

BAY COUNTY, FL-- The community of Bay County, Fla., will be getting a new \$6 million Army Reserve center which is expected to be completed by early 2014 and will house three transportation units and more than 100 soldiers.

Unlike the Army Reserve of the past, today, the Army Reserve is truly an operational force,”

Sgt. 1st Class Joel Quebec
81st Regional Support Command

“Bay County has a long and proud history of supporting the military and its personnel,” said Tunnell. “We greatly appreciate your commitment to and defense of our country. I am proud that the completion of this facility will expand the Army mission here in Bay County.”

The 81st Regional Support Command, based at Fort Jackson, S.C., hosted the groundbreaking ceremony, which brought representatives from throughout the Bay County community and the Army Reserve.



Military and civil officials unveil the artist rendering during a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Army Reserve center, near Panama City in Bay County, Fla.

After the artist rendering had been unveiled, several Army Reserve leaders and community leaders used gold-painted shovels to break ground during the ceremony, leading the way for a new 17,769 square feet training building, 4,627 square feet maintenance facility and a 458 square feet storage building on the 10.3-acre site.

Army Reserve Ambassador for North Carolina Johnny Dwiggin, welcomed the guests who included James Waterstradt, the staff representative for Steve Southerland, U.S. Representative for Florida's 2nd congressional district, Bay County Commissioner Guy Tunnell and members of the units that will occupy the facility.

Dwiggin said in his opening remarks. “We transcend countries and people all over the world.”

He referred to the location as Fort Bay County because this is going to be home for about 100 soldiers.

The three units to move in next summer are the 309th, 334th and 508th Transportation Detachments.

Soldier Sound off!



MSG JOSUE MARTINEZ

A TRUE BATTLE BUDDY TO ME IN MY EXPERIENCE IN COMBAT AND LIFE IS BEING OPEN AND HONEST AND PAYING CONCERN TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL THAT IS RELYING ON YOU AND TAKE ACTION ON THE NEEDS—FOR GOOD OR BAD. WE CELEBRATE; WE CRY TOGETHER. BASICALLY, WE NEVER LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND. IN A TIME OF NEED, THAT'S THE PERSON YOU WANT TO TALK TO ABOUT EVERYTHING.

Soldiers use the term frequently, but what does being a true **battle buddy** mean to you?



TOMECA TILLIS

A TRUE BATTLE BUDDY FOR ME IS CARING FOR THE PERSON. FOR ME IT'S THE WHOLE PERSON NOT JUST, "HEY ARE YOU COMING TO BATTLE ASSEMBLY, HEY DID YOU GET LODGING AND KIND?", **BUT HOW ARE YOU?** BECAUSE I FEEL IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS OKAY, EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE IN PLACE.



MSG ANGELIA PHILLIPS

A TRUE BATTLE BUDDY [MEANS] YOU'RE LOOKING OUT FOR THAT PERSON; YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A GENUINE CONCERN FOR THAT PERSON AND YOU HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM. YOU CAN BE TRUE TO THEM IF THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG AND NOT FEEL THAT YOU HAVE TO DANCE AROUND TELLING THEM.



2LT BEN GAINES

WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER—BEING ON TIME FOR PT, KNOCKING ON EACH OTHERS DOOR, MAKING SURE WE'RE EATING, MAKING SURE WE'RE SLEEPING RIGHT MAKING SURE WE'RE GETTING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE CARE. BEING A TRUE BATTLE BUDDY MEANS YOU'RE ACTUALLY PUTTING THE "BROTHER" IN "BROTHER-IN-ARMS". IT'S AN OVERALL, ALL ENCOMPASSING, I GIVE A DAMN.

Food for Thought from the Reading Room



Monkeys

Story by Lt. Col. Leon Jones, Jr.

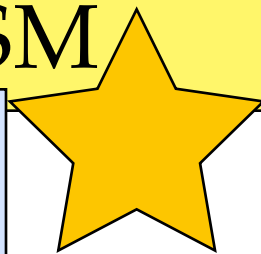
It is not uncommon for us to be so busy that we feel like our work load is growing instead of shrinking. The more time we spend at work, the more we seem to fall behind. Many would say that we are poor time managers or that we are poorly organized. What if I told you that the problem might be monkeys? That's right, monkeys. According to Kenneth Blanchard, William Oncken, Jr. and Hal Burrows, monkeys are your "next move". Who owns that next move? They go on to explain in their book *The One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey*, how these monkeys rob us of time and energy which robs us of our productivity.

First of all, a monkey is real and some of us may refer to it as a problem. In actuality, the monkey, as defined in this book, is really not the problem. However, caring for the monkey is a responsibility that requires time and often leads to problems. If it is my monkey, I am allowed to carry it on my back as long as I like. However, when it is your monkey that is on my back, "Houston, we have a problem." Did you notice how subtle I transitioned to we have a problem with your monkey? Just as subtle, other people's monkeys are jumping onto your back through what appears to be simple situations. For example, I have a problem because I cannot find my hard copy of the report that was given to us during an off-site meeting last week. During lunch, I ask to borrow your copy. You agree to comply as soon as you return to your office. I may have a problem, but you now have a monkey because you own the "next move." Until you complete your next move, I am waiting on you. As supervisors, our subordinates are often waiting on us because we are now carrying their monkeys on our backs.

Now that you know how easily monkeys transfer from their rightful owners to you, you are wondering how to rid yourself of the monkeys in a way that they do not come back. At the same time, you want to monkey-proof your back so that no monkey every jumps there again. This solution to keeping the monkeys off your back is described as "Monkey Management" on page 94. To learn how to monkey-proof your back, refer to the chapter on coaching.



PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM



We have many talented people in the 377th TSC. This feature highlights our top Soldiers, their unique skills and the services they provide.

To nominate a Soldier, e-mail angele.p.ringo2.mil@mail.mil

Capt. Ted Zagraniski

Hometown: *Oakton, Virginia*

Brief description of your job: *Plans Officers write orders and policies, and guide staff teams through the development of detailed plans which meet the commander's intent.*

What Does Being a Professional Soldier Mean to You?

To me, being a professional Soldier means securing a peaceful future for my family, my fellow Soldiers, and my country while reflecting upon and trying to live up to the Soldier's Creed.

Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Army?

The non-commissioned officer corps. My grandfather, a retired lieutenant colonel, always told me, "Listen to your sergeants," and that's what I've tried to do. I look up to the NCOs corps. We ask so much of them, they serve the nation with pride and develop the next generation of Army leaders. I have been very fortunate to work with and learn from some truly outstanding NCOs.



What do you enjoy most about the 377th TSC?

The opportunities I've had here have been amazing! The 377th TSC has enabled me to maximize my potential in so many ways. I never would have won an Army scholarship to Harvard University if it wasn't for senior officers at the 377th TSC encouraging me to apply.

What achievement are you most proud of since joining the Army?

I am most proud of my time commanding the 664th Ordnance Company (Ammunition Supply). We deployed to Iraq and safely returned with all of our Soldiers, we established a positive, disciplined command climate, and we achieved our missions to a high standard. I still keep up with nearly 100 of my "Ammo Dawgs" online. I love hearing from them about how our experiences continue to shape the company's success and their individual futures.

What is your professional motto?

I like the motto that the US Field Artillery Center and School puts on everything: "Skill is Better Than Luck."





Family Focus



FRG Training Improves Program

By Mr. Horace Milstead
377th TSC Family Programs



Jessica Nicholas, 143d ESC, was among dozens of volunteers from across the 377th TSC who received FRG advanced training and was recognized by Brig. Gen. Jonathan Ives, 377th TSC deputy-commanding general for her volunteer service.

Family Readiness Group volunteers from across the 377th Theater Sustainment Command attended development training in Dallas, TX., April 12-14.

The event took place during national volunteer month when thousands of volunteers across the U.S. were recognized for their service. The volunteers received intermediate level training to better serve their units and the Army Reserve as a whole. The increased effectiveness of a unit's FRG contributes to unit morale and enhances the unit's ability to complete assigned missions. 377th TSC Family Programs staff placed special emphasis on the legal aspects of FRG operations, fund raising and spending with respect to the FRG Informal Funds. Participants also learned about new guidelines for reimbursement with FS-NAF monies for travel and expenses, which has become more restrictive in recent years. FRG success is not possible without the volunteers that sustain it. Brigadier General Jonathan Ives, deputy-commanding general of the 377th TSC, and Col. Maxine Girard, 377th TSC chief of staff, presented volunteers with certificates of appreciation.



Officials from across the command attended the 3-day FRG training event in Dallas, Tx. in part to collect feedback from volunteers that will ultimately help improve FRGs. Seated from left to right, Col. Michael Dillard, 310th ESC; Col. Maxine Girard, 377th TSC Chief of Staff; Col. Jackson Graham, III, ARSC; and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Arthur Leake, 103rd ESC.

377th TSC Family Programs staff members from left to right, Toni Robinson, Jiles Jackson and Lateefah Blackman.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Sean Dunn



Think Safety In the Spring and Summer

The long days and warm temperatures of spring and summer are finally here, and Soldiers throughout your formations will be eager to take advantage of their downtime by heading outdoors. As Leaders and safety professionals, it should never be far from your minds that this time of year is historically the most risky for our Soldiers off duty. Off-duty fatalities between the months of April and September have risen nearly 20 percent during the past three fiscal years--a trend that can't be curbed without your help. That's why the 377th TSC Safety Office is asking all leaders in the command to raise awareness of common seasonal hazards within their formations.

Motorcycle and Vehicle Safety

Everyone needs to ensure their vehicles or motorcycles are road worthy and practice safe driving habits:

- Don't engage in distracted driving, especially texting behind the wheel
- Don't speed
- Don't drink and drive
- Always use seat belts and personal protective equipment
- Taking a trip? Check out: <https://safety.army.mil/trips>

Boating Safety

The use of alcohol is involved in about a third of all recreational boating fatalities. Every boat operator needs to understand the risks of boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI). According to the United States Coast Guard 53rd Annual Report, Recreational Boating Statistics 2011, recreational boating fatality rates were up 12% from 2010 and at the highest levels since the 1990s. Other Top factors:

- Operator inattention
- Improper lookout
- Don't overload electrical outlets, fuse boxes or extension cords
- Excessive speed
- Machinery failure

Annual Training

This time of year our Army Reserve units are preparing for Annual Training. Moving large pieces of equipment in tight spaces requires a properly trained and positioned ground guide. However, it only takes a split second to lose sight of your ground guide, or for him or her to make a wrong move that could result in major damage to a piece of equipment or, even worse, a fatal injury. The Army's equipment is often large and can be awkward to move into position, and rough terrain and adverse weather create extra hazards. Keep these tips in mind:

- Ensure drivers understand they must immediately stop if they lose sight of the ground guide or don't understand a signal.
- Make sure everyone understands the basic signals to control vehicle drivers (don't forget about flashlight signals) from Field Manual 21-60, Visual Signs.
- Ensure the ground guide, not the vehicle commander, is in charge of the vehicle. Whenever the vehicle is under the control of a ground guide, the only command the vehicle commander should issue to the driver is "stop."

SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.



377th Theater Sustainment Command

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377TH TSC CAN DO

May 2013

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