



The Official Magazine Of The U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)

PEACEMAKER

Summer 2012

Incoming!

Brig. Gen. Van Roosen hopes to make an impact as he joins UNMIL

Bonjour Parachutiste

Paratroopers commemorate D-day in Normandy

Prepping for Afghanistan

425th Civil Affairs Bn. gets first hand knowledge

A hero's welcome

415th returns home to fanfare



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Sgt. 1st Class Andy N. Yoshimura

Public Affairs Team

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Siemion

Staff Sgt. April Evaro

Staff Sgt. Sharilyn R. Wells

Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres

Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski

Pfc. Lalita Guenther

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◀ Nevina Beck, 5, hugs her dad, Sgt. Justin Beck after a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Ceremony. The 415th CA Bn. came home in March after a year deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn R. Wells)

On the cover: Battery Weed sends off Brig. Gen. Hugh C. Van Roosen with a roaring display of 11 cannon salutes during his change of command ceremony at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY on June 24, 2012. Van Roosen relinquished command to Brig. Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs

—USACAPOC(A) Commanding General

This spring, we released the USACAPOC(A) command training guidance. Every leader in the command – and every noncommissioned officer and officer is a leader – should read it.

Training is the most important thing we do, and we must do it well. Planning, preparing, and executing meaningful, tough, Mission Essential Task List-based training is a challenge in any unit, but for an Army Reserve unit, the challenge is even greater.

As I have traveled around the command and observed training, a few things have become apparent. First, we need to develop a better understanding of Army training doctrine – that is, how the Army expects us to plan, prepare, and execute training. We need to understand and implement this doctrine – because it works. If we use it, we will produce trained Soldiers and units. Every leader should read Field Manual 7-0, Training Units and Developing Leaders for Full Spectrum Operations, and Unit Training Management. Both are available at www.atn.army.mil.

Second, company commanders and 1st sergeants are the key to planning and preparing effective training, and we've got to ensure that they are empowered to manage and direct it. The key to good training at the company level is the company training meeting. Again, the Army has doctrine that tells us what right is supposed to look like; leaders at the company level and below must read Leader's Guide to Company Training Meetings, also available at www.atn.army.mil.

If company commanders are the key to planning and preparing effective training, our NCOs are the key to executing it. The Army trains using the crawl-walk-run method. This means that before units can train on collective tasks, the individual tasks that support those collective tasks must be trained to standard. NCOs train individual Soldiers. Because we are so constrained by time we cannot realistically expect to do a significant amount of collective training during battle assemblies. Therefore, during battle assemblies, the primary trainers must be our NCOs – and they should be training their teams or sections.

Finally, a word (three words, really) about how we should be training, and those words are task, conditions, and standards. Individual tasks are found in the Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks and the Soldier's Manual for each individual MOS. Those manuals contain tasks, conditions, and standards. The specific tasks to be trained must be derived from the unit METL and should show up on the company training schedule (published 120 days out), which is the output of the company training meeting. We've got to train the tasks under the right conditions (for example, it does no good to conduct training on how to obtain a proper M4 sight picture in ACUs without body armor and headgear in a drill hall, when we wear body armor and helmets to qualify on the range). And we've got to train to standard, which means that the trainer must evaluate – that is, the trainer must determine, formally, whether the performance measures specified in the relevant publication have been met.

Every leader in the Army is a trainer, and must understand not only how to conduct training, but how to plan and prepare it. The Army's training management system works. I need your help in implementing it.

Army Strong!



Command Sgt. Maj. Dale R. Blosser

—USACAPOC(A) Command Sgt. Maj.

The warm summer days and weekends naturally beckon for those on “two wheels” to roll out and head for that leisurely ride to the mountains, along the coast, or wherever the freedom to roam takes you.

As a motorcycle enthusiast, I want to take a moment to remind my fellow riders to do the proper preventative maintenance checks and services of their motorcycles as well as prepare for the ride itself. Just like any combat mission, have you taken the time to do the “pre-mission” checks? Before heading out, did you do the walk-around of your bike to check for fluid leaks or previously undetected damage? Have you checked the air pressure and condition of the tires? The air pressure in your tires can and will definitely affect the handling characteristics of your motorcycle.

Have you checked to make sure all your fluids, to include coolant, engine oil, and brake fluids are at the proper level and no leaks are detected? Fluids, possibly from leaking fork seals or other lines can leak down onto your brake rotors and provide for an “exciting ride” at best, or a catastrophic one that you didn’t count on! Be sure to take a moment to check these items before heading out.

Speaking of preparing, if it has been a while since you’ve ridden, have you taken the time to practice those parking lot and low speed maneuvers we learned in the basic rider’s course, such as “the box” (we all loved that one) before heading out? Are you planning on sharing the ride with a special friend or family member? How comfortable and experienced are they on the handling characteristics and what’s expected of them as a passenger? How experienced and well trained are YOU on operating a motorcycle with a passenger? Out on the highway in traffic is not the place to conduct your practice.

Another important thing to remember is personal protective equipment. Often times, we’re just taking that quick trip to the coffee shop or a quick ride to a friend’s house and decide we don’t need all that “extra” gear on. “Be seen, be protected” is something we all need to remember. The dog days of summer often make PPE even more uncomfortable to wear but it does afford that extra level of protection needed in case of an accident. Being a dual-sport and off-road rider, I am keenly aware of the need for PPE and the protection it affords. During one of the recent dual sport events I participated in, I was afforded the opportunity to “test” my equipment and can assure you I was very glad to have had it on! Within the last 3 months, we have had at least 4 incidents involving CAPOC Soldiers involved in motorcycle accidents, with at least one resulting in very serious injuries. In the last 2 years, we have experienced a steady increase in the number of motorcycle accidents Army and USARC wide. Many of these accidents involve Soldiers in their 40’s or older who have been away from motorcycle riding for years for various reasons and decide to return to riding, or those who have decided to start riding now that family priorities have changed. The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration studies have also shown a steady increase in this same age group primarily due to inexperience, but as can be expected, speed and alcohol are two of the leading causes of motorcycle fatalities nationwide.

The simple fact remains that you cannot control the environment or the traffic around you, but you do control the maintenance of your motorcycle, the protective gear you wear, and how you safely operate your motorcycle in traffic. I want each of you to enjoy the summer riding season, and I hope to see and ride with some of you before the summer is gone.

Airborne!

Going green to blue

Brig. Gen. Van Roosen prepares for his tour as UNMIL Chief of Staff

By Staff Sgt. April Evaro, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

For the first time in more than 16 years, a U.S. general officer, Brig. Gen. Hugh C. Van Roosen, will report for duty with the United Nations. Van Roosen has been appointed as the Force Chief of Staff for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). On June 24, 2012 he relinquished command of the 353rd Civil Affairs command on Staten Island, NY. He is a long-time resident of the Fort Bragg area and currently lives in Whispering Pines, N.C.

As a graduate of the UN's Senior Mission Leader's Course for top peacekeeping officials and as a Civil Affairs and Special Forces officer, Van Roosen has an extensive background of service in multinational environments.

"Civil Affairs allows the military to operate with minimal impact on the civilian populous, while allowing those civilians to conduct normal business with minimal influence on military



Brig. Gen. Van Roosen

operations," said Van Roosen, "The nuances of that require good skill in cooperation, coordination, from all sorts of different parties; military, civilian, non-governmental and international."

As commander of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command, an Africa-oriented unit, Van Roosen is uniquely suited to fill a critical leadership position as Chief of Staff of UNMIL. Van Roosen turned over command to Brig Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman, who previously served as deputy commander of the 99th Reserve Support Command.

UNMIL's mission is to help with elections, enable the peaceful return of democracy and civil institutions, protect civilians, and deter sexual and gender-based violence.

"When I first learned as a kid what the U.N. was, I always felt it would be an incredible opportunity to



work for the U.N. and now that I have this opportunity, I couldn't be more pleased," said Van Roosen. "It's the concept of the U.N. that is so great- although there are challenges and difficulties, the underlying concept is truly the future for our planet."

Van Roosen will be the third highest ranking officer in a U.N. mission that currently numbers 9,000 troops and police from 53 nations, including nine U.S. officers. He is the first U.S. general or flag officer to serve in a senior blue-helmet position since 1996.

Van Roosen feels that running a large staff on a daily basis and ensuring the needs of a diverse staff are met will be a good challenge, but not one he hasn't done before.

"I have been a chief of staff before in an organization that was similar in size to UNMIL, but this role is significantly different," said Van Roosen. "With 40 different nations, militaries, cultures, languages, and skills scattered over a large geographic area, I look forward to the complex challenges to operating on a day to day basis."

Van Roosen is committed to continuing the mission of peacekeeping.

"The real issue for UNMIL is to ensure that peace is kept in Liberia. There have been several periods of instability for Liberia in the past, but they have had a decade of peace and stability now with two democratic elections under their belt," said Van Roosen. "They have clearly done a good job with managing what can be a difficult transition. Our goal is to aid in that transition and secure the future of Liberia."

For a decade, the U.S. troop commitments have been dominated by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the drawdown of forces in Afghanistan and the end of the war in Iraq, the U.S. is better able to support challenging U.N. missions around the world.

"The personal challenge for me is going to be working effectively with others from other countries, and to get the mission done," said Van Roosen. "The opportunity to work with Soldiers from other countries is always exciting."

This rare opportunity will also allow Van Roosen, already a war-tested veteran flag officer, the chance to refine and expand his skills as a civil affairs officer. This new found knowledge, he hopes, will have a positive impact on future civil affairs doctrine.

"I look forward to bringing back skills to share with the civil affairs community," said Van Roosen, "and I am delighted to show the Liberian people that a U.S. flag Officer is proud to serve the United Nations in their country."

See more photos on flickr at bit.ly/MdNdkq

Troops from up in Battery Weed below Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, N.Y. on June 24, 2012 for the 353rd change of command.

(U.S. Army Illustration by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)



Bonjour parachutiste

CAPOC paratroopers participate in 68th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy

Story by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

When U.S. paratroopers jumped onto French soil during WWII, they were greeted with gunfire and bombs. 68 years later, they were met with cheers and handshakes.

Task Force 68, which was made up of U.S. service members, British, Dutch, German, and French soldiers, held a commemorative airborne operation in honor of their forefathers who landed on the shores of Normandy and fought their way through Nazi infested France.

Included in the task force were paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne

Division, U.S.

Army Civil Affairs

& Psychological

Operations

Command

(Airborne) and the

824th Quartermaster

Company. The

muddy fields of La

Fiere, outside of Ste.

Mere Eglise, France,

hosted thousands of

on-lookers, June 3,

2012 to ensure that the bravery and heroic acts of WWII and D-Day are never forgotten.

"It feels great," said Capt. Henry Lifton, 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. "To think that I've never jumped anywhere other than Fort Bragg (N.C.) and I'm here where so many great men fought and (conquered). It's a great feeling."

Because of the strategic location of the La Fiere manor house next to the Merderet River, the manor and the bridge immediately below it, were one of the primary D-Day objectives. German infantrymen arrived at the manor June 5, forcing the family who lived there to hide in the cellar as U.S. troops made their way to the area. During the morning of June 6, 1944, three regiments jumped to their objectives, the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment had the best luck landing between Sainte Mere Eglise and the Merderet. The paratroopers engaged the enemy over a four-day battle, successfully capturing and holding the bridge that ultimately helped ensure the D-Day beach landing success.

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion and by the day's end on June 6, the Allies gained a foothold in Normandy. The D-Day cost was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but more than 100,000 Soldiers began the march across Europe to defeat Hitler.

"This is hallowed ground. It's pretty intense being here. I don't know exactly how to explain it. You just have to have respect it for what it is."

- Sgt. Israel Barroso, 301st PSTOP Co.

may have been the jump onto La Fiere, but it wasn't the only event they attended. The Task Force also attended memorial services and historical areas to honor and remember the men who fought and died so many years before.

A stop to Omaha Beach made Sgt. Israel Barroso, 301st Psychological Operations Company out of San Diego, think about the true meaning of being a paratrooper.

"This is hallowed ground. It's pretty intense being here. I don't know exactly how to explain it. You just have to have to respect it for what it is," explained Barroso. "It brings a new vigor of being an airborne soldier. It's not just a maroon beret; or wearing a certain insignia, it makes you think you haven't done enough. Makes you want to wake up and follow in their (WWII paratroopers) footsteps."

See more photos on flickr at bit.ly/PBTGLw

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn R. Wells ►

About 340 U.S. troops were in the Normandy region to commemorate the 68th anniversary of this historic operation June 1 through 7.

The highlight of the Task Force 68's operation



Kayaks for kids

Civil affairs soldier raises more than \$21k to help prevent child abuse

By Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Dominique Vidrine, a civil affairs specialist with U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), had always wanted to take a kayaking trip down a river from start to finish, but never found the time. Vidrine finally fulfilled his dream April 24, 2012.

Starting near the Chatham and Lee county lines, near Raleigh, N.C., Vidrine began his journey down the 202-mile Cape Fear River to raise awareness of the role all adults play in preventing child abuse and neglect, and raise funds for programs that prevent abuse before it occurs. “What better month to do this in than April?” Vidrine said. “Not only is it National Child Abuse Prevention Month, but the weather is not too hot, not too cold. It’s a perfect time to do this,” he said.

“Everyone has a role in helping all children have the safe, stable, nurturing environments they need to thrive,” he continued. “I wanted to do something unique to support this important issue, and it was a natural fit to combine it with another passion of mine — kayaking. To be able to freely travel by one’s own power is a true joy. And, if I can do it for a good cause, that makes it even better.”

On the second day of his six-day journey, Vidrine, made a stop in Fayetteville, to visit with his first sergeant and speak with local media.

Even though he knew the trip would be peaceful, he admitted that he was surprised at how peaceful the river really was.

“I haven’t seen anyone around, it’s been quiet. In fact, the first time I saw anyone was just up the river when I passed a police boat,” he said. “Other than that, nothing. I do, however, think I saw an eagle.”

Due to the seclusive nature of his journey, Vidrine was

fully prepared and self-sufficient. He didn’t plan on making any stops to resupply, and packed enough food to last the trip. He also packed a water filter, a hammock with a bug net attached, a map and a solar charger for his phone and navigation devices.

Vidrine said he always figured he’d try to help out a charity if he ever got the chance to fulfill his goal, and since his fiancée works at the Raleigh-based, nonprofit group, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, he said it was a no brainer. Vidrine’s goal was to raise \$20,000. By late Wednesday afternoon, he was just \$240 shy of that, and by the time he reached Southport, N.C., marking the end of his journey, he had surpassed his goal by \$1,017 for a total of \$21,017.

“I wanted to do something unique to support this important issue, and it was a natural fit to combine it with another passion of mine — kayaking.”

- Master Sgt. Dominique Vidrine, USACAPOC(A)

“I’d like to say thanks to everyone who has donated and supported me throughout this event,” Vidrine said.

Vidrine admitted when he got closer to the ocean, dealing

with the changing currents and the crosswinds were his biggest struggles during his trip.

“I’m really glad I did this and will do it again ... but probably on another river,” he said smiling.

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina works with organizations and agencies to help build safe, stable, nurturing relationships for all children.

“Preventing child abuse and neglect means helping all parents have the information, skills, and support they need to provide the nurturing environments children need to thrive,” said Rosie Allen Ryan, PCANC president and CEO. “Supporters like Master Sergeant Vidrine are critical to our work and we are grateful for his support. He is truly demonstrating how one person can inspire others to help our children and their families.”

See more photos on flickr at bit.ly/RPDfK9

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres ►



Hands on

431st Civil Affairs Battalion goes to University of Arkansas to learn current and relevant agricultural training prior to deployment to Afghanistan.

**By Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres,
USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs**

“Over the course of the next 2 hours I am going to share with you 40 years of experience, so I expect all of you to be experts at the end of this,” joked Craig R. Andersen, Vegetable Specialist at the University of Arkansas.

Andersen is one of more than 20 university professors and local agricultural experts who taught Army Reserve civil affairs Soldiers from the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion in Little Rock, Ark., in the science of agriculture. The hope is that these Soldiers will be able to take their newfound knowledge and apply it in Afghanistan or other contingencies in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to have a direct, positive impact on the Afghan population.

On June 8, 2012 Soldiers were immediately immersed in animal sciences learning about various domesticated animals they would expect to encounter in Afghanistan, as well how to manage the land and plants which the livestock depend on to improve livestock production.

“I wish I would have had this training before I went to Afghanistan the first time because it would have come in very handy,” said Sgt. Chadwick Rhodes, assistant team Sergeant with the 431st A company.

This was followed with hands on training on everything from how to handle sheep, administering vaccines and drawing blood, and even examining cow patties to learn about the diet of livestock and what they might be missing or getting too much of.

But the effects can be even more widespread than the university had expected. Spc. Ethan Haggard works in the cattle industry when he's not with the 431st and even he's learned his share of knowledge which he'll be able to apply stateside, “I've learned a lot about the different feeds today; I'm just starting out in the cattle business, and just learning by mistake. So having a professional teach us things, about the different grasses and how to make grazing pastures better, I think will have an impact for me here at home and downrange,” said Haggard.

Dustin Clark, the extension poultry veterinarian and associate director for poultry science, said that one of the keys was to try and cover as much as they could because of the varying situations these soldiers might encounter in Afghanistan “We tried to put together a well rounded program from animal product to fruit, grains, commercial cow and calf operations, tours of the university farms, and bee keeping,” he said.

Which is one of the reasons there were so many instructors: with so many topics you need as many experts as you can get. One would think rounding up so many subject matters experts to teach the 431st in such a condensed training schedule would be difficult, but Clark said the instructors enthusiastically jumped at the chance to help Soldiers, “Everyone was very enthusiastic to be a part of this. This is what we do, we are in the educational business, and this gives us a chance to serve our country and help the Soldier. When they get over there and see something, they can contact us, send us photos and we can help diagnose any problems they encounter.”

But the training goes far beyond these five days. One of the benefits of having this face to face training is that it helps open lines of communication between the university and Soldiers who will be downrange, allowing the university to help from thousands of miles away, “If you send us a picture we can normally figure out what's going on with the plant,” said Andersen.

Rhodes feels this reach back to subject matter experts at the University of Arkansas, will have a large impact, “I think it's going to be huge, being able to get real world, quick assessments from professionals will help immensely,” said Rhodes.

Many of the Soldiers in the 431st are very appreciative of the training and understand that it will have a direct impact on their next deployment, “Because of the unique nature of civil affairs, we need more than the basic Soldier skills everyone gets, we need this kind of out-of-the-box training,” he said.

See more photos on flickr at bit.ly/Md1BRE



1st Lt. Matthew A. Metz listens to the heartbeat of a horse / U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres

USACAPOC(A) honored at 3rd annual NHRA Nationals

By Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs



For most hot rod fans at the Four-Wide Nationals, it was the thunder of 30,000 horsepower engines in cars like Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher and Antron Brown's U.S. Army Top Fuel dragsters that gained their respect in Charlotte, N.C., on Saturday April 14, 2012. But what Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Jacobs felt was more than just adrenaline, it was the symmetrical feeling of values that Tony Schumacher's Racing team upholds.

"It is more than just seeing the dragster with the U.S. Army Reserve paint scheme," said Jacobs, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological

Operations Command (Airborne). "Tony and his crew use speed, power, teamwork and technology to achieve success, and that is what the Army uses to accomplish its missions."

Schumacher knows the importance of having the highest quality crew team. It takes an entire team to have seven world titles, 67 career wins, 110 final round appearances and 67 career poles since joining the U.S. Army racing team in the fall of 2000. During those years, he also captured six consecutive NHRA Top Fuel titles.

"When units go to Afghanistan, they don't bring their "B" team,

they bring the best; their best equipment, smartest and the most well trained Army and leadership," said Schumacher. "I don't want to show up to a race and be average, I want to win. I need the right people and the right team. That is why I drive for the Army."

Jacobs expressed the parallelism of the physical, emotional, and mental strength that both organizations exude.

"As Tony is about his people, the U.S. Army is about its Soldiers," said Jacobs. "Our Soldiers make the Army-Army Strong, and the Army is the strength of the nation."

We cannot escape history

431st Civil Affairs Battalion digs into history, discovers roots

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Haggard, Spc. Spencer Kennedy, 431st CA BN

Campaign streamers, unit awards, war memorabilia – all icons of a unit's history. Usually displayed in a prominent area, these items instill a sense of pride and belonging. As members of one of only three civil affairs units to operate in all three phases of the first Iraq war, the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion's rich history inspired us to learn more about our forerunner, the 107th Military Government Group.

Beginning with its arrival in Japan in February 1946 the 107th took over the responsibility of civil affairs in the region of Osaka and Gifu from the 98th Infantry Division. General Douglas MacArthur, assigned the unit its tasks, which included overseeing and assisting the local Japanese authorities in the rebuilding of their war torn cities' infrastructure, industry, and economy. One area of focus was the need to increase production of raw materials and foodstuffs in order to improve the health and well-being of the populace. Other tasks included reestablishing responsibility for law and order to the local police and the repatriation of foreign nationals which Japan used for forced labor during the war.

A massive typhus outbreak brought on by poor living conditions compounded by rodent and pest infestation threatened the local populace. Starting with dusting operations, the 107th blanketed Osaka with more than 100,000 tons of DDT while also implementing rodent and pest control measures and various sanitary improvements. The 107th established emergency relief stations for the 170,000 homeless in Osaka alone following a nationwide strategy. These measures along with cholera and typhus vaccinations helped to dramatically improve living conditions.

Due to the Allied occupation and confusion over public safety roles, the 107th conducted large scale conferences with the Osaka police to explain and inform them of their continued civic responsibility in restoring peace and keeping order. Under Order No.1 specified by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, the 107th initiated a procurement process to rearm the local police with more than 3,300 pistols to bolster security efforts.

Along with public safety roles, the 107th became responsible for repatriation of more than 420,000 foreign nationals, the largest group being Korean.

Starting with an average 500 persons per day, foreign repatriates were moved by train to various reception centers and staged for movement home by ship. Military government groups served as sole arbitrators between foreign nationals and local authorities to alleviate any rivalries and disputes.

As campaign planners identify tasks for Phase IV operations, during which civil affairs plays an essential role, they often reflect upon previous operations for past successes and failures. Post-WWII Japan serves as a valuable point of reference. Our predecessor units focused training on a wide variety of subjects to include government, finance, legal affairs and commerce. This was done in cooperation with various universities to ensure that each Soldier became a subject matter expert. Iraq and Afghanistan have proven the need for an increasingly educated force of strategic thinkers with working knowledge in a wide variety of subjects and capable of thinking through second and third order effects.

This rich legacy will certainly be useful as we consider the potential role for civil affairs in military government in a post-Castro Cuba, a Syria without Assad, a Palestinian State, or a reunified Korean peninsula. The 431st Civil Affairs Battalion is proud of its heritage and looks forward to the future.



With Valor

Civil affairs Soldier awarded Bronze Star with Valor

**Story by Master Sgt. Dave Johnson,
412th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne)**

Army Staff Sgt. Chad Clark, a noncommissioned officer in the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, earned the medal Bronze Service Medal with Valor in a ceremony on March 27, for his heroic actions on June 27, 2010, in Afghanistan.

“Our civil affairs team started what was planned as a 24-hour mission into the Ghaki Valley,” said Clark. “The operation lasted three days because of enemy attacks.”

The team was assigned to Second Platoon as part of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

According to Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pelosi, a civil affairs NCO in Alpha Company, the team accompanied an infantry platoon to clear out Anti-Afghan Forces (AAF) who were usually members of the Taliban.

“We expected a lot of resistance,” said Pelosi. “The Ghaki Valley was full of insurgents.”

“The Taliban and AAF had a stronghold there,” said Clark. “The villagers had no choice under the Taliban. We knew we had to clear the threat before we could go into the village to meet with the elders to conduct our civil affairs mission.”

According to 1st Lt. Doug Jones, the platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, intelligence indicated about 150 Taliban fighters were moving equipment and weapons through the valley.

According to Pelosi, soon after arriving in the valley, Clark identified potential ambush points. Clark had his team and interpreter dismount from his vehicle and move along Ghaki Road.

Clark’s efforts to locate fighting positions prepared his team for what would happen soon.

While moving through the village of Sangam, 2nd Platoon came under heavy fire. Clark utilized his interpreter to aid in controlling the embedded Afghan National

Army, and Afghan Border Patrol, who accompanied 2nd Platoon. After 2nd Platoon established a fighting position in a ditch, Clark identified an AAF fighting position and oriented his ANA Soldiers who eliminated the threat with two RPG rounds.

Clark and his team continued to push east through the valley as 2nd Platoon was attacked again. Immediately, Clark established a fighting position and used suppressive fire to allow trapped Soldiers to move back to cover.

Second Platoon then moved onward to continue its mission.

A small contingent of 2nd Platoon Soldiers moved in to clear a building near a compound. A GBU (Guided Bomb) blast injured several 2nd Platoon Soldiers.

Clark then led a group to aid the injured Soldiers and assisted the team in carrying injured Soldiers down four terraces to the MEDEVAC area.

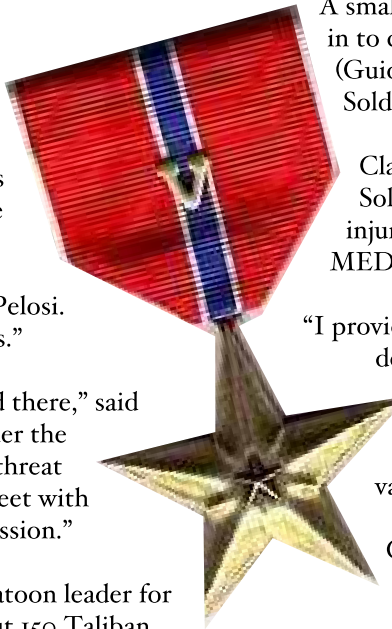
“I provided cover while he carried wounded Soldiers down,” said Pelosi. “Afghanistan is very mountainous. The only landing area where a MEDEVAC helicopter could land was at the bottom of the terraces in an open valley.”

Clark immediately assembled a team to move the Soldiers to the landing zone. As soon as the helicopter lifted off, Clark’s team was attacked by AAF.

Small arms rounds poured on the team, as an RPG round landed a few feet from Clark. Through the gunfire, Clark maneuvered the remainder of the team back to the compound.

In the end 100 AAF were killed and the enemy network defeated in the province. With the threat cleared, the civil affairs teams were able to meet with village elders to assess the community’s primary needs and help repair the infrastructure.

“He stepped up to lead troops in battle,” said Pelosi. “He



Above & Beyond the call

An Afghan boy travels across the globe to receive medical care

Edited by Staff Sgt. April Evaro, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs



Maj. Glenn Battschinger and Muslim call home to Afghanistan / U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres

“We didn’t speak the same language, but I understood just from looking into her eyes that she was asking for help,” said Maj. Glenn Battschinger of the 404th Civil Affairs Batt.

Battschinger was deployed to Afghanistan when he met the mother of Muslim Hagigshah, a 6-year-old Afghan boy who was born with a fatal birth defect called bladder exstrophy, a condition where Muslim’s bladder formed outside his body.

When Muslim’s mother showed Battschinger her son’s defect, Battschinger decided he had to do something to help.

“I thought, ‘Holy smokes, I can’t walk away from this one,’” said Battschinger.

Battschinger began his search to help Muslim in Afghanistan but he soon learned that local doctors had

given up on treating the boy and U.S. Army doctors there were not equipped to perform the surgery to correct the defect.

Battschinger realized that if he was going to help Muslim, he was running out of options.

So he and family members in New Jersey scoured the Internet for places that might be able to help Muslim.

Battschinger located an organization called Healing the Children, a non-profit organization that links children needing medical treatment with care worldwide. Since 1979 the group has organized medical pilgrimages to the U.S. for over 7,000 children from 105 countries.

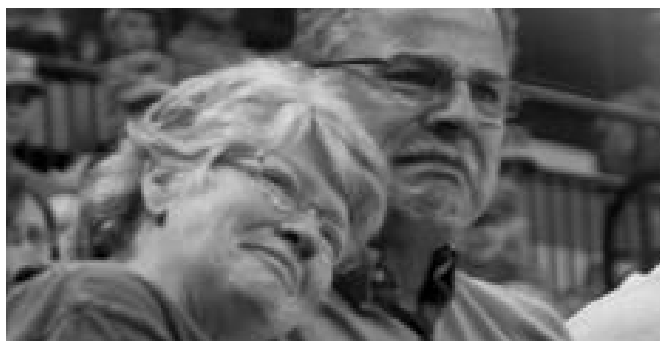
He then contacted Moneer Hanna, a pediatric urologist at St. Barnabas medical center in Livingston, N.J., who has previously worked with Healing the Children.

continued on 30

Warm welcome

Green Bay salutes local Soldiers

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs



The Alexander Family gets emotional during their standing ovation.



Members of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion stand in formation

“Today was very humbling, and marks the first step towards getting back to a normal Army Reserve drill life,” said Staff Sgt. Corey Evenson, member of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, after seeing other deployed unit members for the first time since pre-deployment training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. nearly one year ago.

More than 100 Soldiers were recognized by congressmen, community and family members, at a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Ceremony held at the Kress Center in Green Bay, Wisc. on June 9, 2012.

The unit returned in March from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of 11 Provincial Reconstruction Teams supporting 23 brigade combat teams and foreign militaries such as the Romanian, Polish and French Armies.

“I’m so glad he’s home,” said Noelle Evenson, wife of Staff Sgt. Evenson.

More than half of the Soldiers standing in formation raised their hands when 308th Civil Affairs Brigade Commander, Col. Oliver Lattimore, asked them who had deployed more than twice. Looking toward the audience, Lattimore thanked the families. “Without your support, the Soldiers couldn’t do what we do as an organization, you are as valuable as any member of this team in uniform.”

Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature presented the unit with a plaque commemorating them for their service and mission in Afghanistan.

Reed Ribble, representative of Wisconsin’s eighth congressional district, said that families know sacrifice, and it is a burden that is not taken lightly.

Ribble thanked three groups of people at the ceremony to include the Families, Soldiers, and the Family of wounded veteran Sgt. Adam Alexander. The Alexander family received a roaring applause that ended with a standing ovation. Alexander is undergoing major surgeries and vigorous rehabilitation at a center in Minnesota after being shot in the head by enemy fire last November.

“The injuries and kinetics did wear on the team,” said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Walsh, Khost Province Command Sgt. Maj. “But I always told them, you can’t control things like a grenade coming over a wall, you can only react at that point.

The U.S.-led PRTs are designed to strengthen local governments to allow them the power to deliver security and public services to their communities.

Evenson said that his team endured many base attacks, but what he remembers is the footprint his team left in the Zabul Province, “We started to see the transition before we left.”

Now that the unit has returned, Soldiers and Families have begun to make plans for the future.

“We want to take our first honeymoon vacation,” said Noelle. Summer is already packed with camping trips, and Evenson says it just feels good to be back.

A Hero's welcome

Michigan community salutes its Soldiers after a year in Afghanistan.

By Staff Sgt. Sharilyn R. Wells, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

After a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, Soldiers from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion located in Kalamazoo, Mich., were formally welcomed home and recognized for their service and sacrifices during a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Ceremony, March 25.

Amongst the putting greens of the Prairies Golf Club, 45 Soldiers were honored during the ceremony with an encased American flag, a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen flag, a lapel pin set and a U.S. Army Reserve Commander's coin for excellence.

The unit left Kalamazoo in July 2010 and trained at Camp Atterbury, Ind., on specific cultural, governance, security, and reconstruction efforts in the particular area of Afghanistan in which they would deploy.

Following the training, the group deployed in small teams to different locations spread throughout Afghanistan where they served as members of eight provincial reconstruction teams until July 2011 when they returned to the United States.

U.S. Congressman Fred Upton (R, MI 6th), State Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R, 20th), and State Representatives Sean McCann (D, 60th), Margaret O'Brien (R, 61st), and James "Jase" Bolger (R, 63rd) joined military and community leaders during the ceremony to honor Soldiers and Family members. "We thank you for your service. It's an undeniable sacrifice not only for you, but for your Family, friends, neighbors and your community, who surely missed you while you were gone," said Upton. "You showed a nation what America is all about — a nation willing to put a hand out to help another."

These ceremonies have become a tradition in the Army Reserve after Sept. 11, 2001 and recognize the sacrifices Soldiers and Families make during deployments.

"At first I didn't think we needed this type of recognition because we all are volunteers ... we signed the papers," explained Spc. Alyssa Malott. "But now I see that it's extremely

important. Especially for someone like me, the bottom of the totem pole, to see the type of support we have in the higher ranks and the government officials genuinely thanking me for my service. This gives the Soldiers the motivation and support we need to continue doing what we are doing. It's amazing."

**Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/85804/civil-affairs-battalion-welcomed-home-their-community#>.
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Proactive progress

490th helps prevent infection through cleanliness.

By Tech. Sgt. James Brock
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs
Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti

The 490th conducted a field sanitation training course on March 30, 2012 to “help unit commanders protect their soldiers from food-, water-, air- and insect-borne diseases, as well as noise and inhalation hazards. It also teaches you how to properly apply pesticides and inspect for general food sanitation,” said Staff Sgt. Andre Moxley, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, preventive medicine NCO and lead instructor for the course.

The majority of the 40-hour course took place in the classroom with field

training also performed in the camp galley and water sanitation training. “We (want to educate) Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines on how to properly identify rodent and insect infestations that can cause illness. They (are) also educated on personal protective equipment as well as the proper use of insect repellent,” said Moxley.

See photos on DVIDS at
<http://dvidshub.net/r/dwtrl7>

Taming African wildlife

CJTF-HOA clean up Camp Lemonnier

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Caya
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs

A soldier wiped the perspiration off his face after battling spindly plants that fought back and dodging large fires, all while under the predatory gaze of lions pacing only a few yards away.

It may seem Lt. Col. Mark Vaughn, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa deputy director of civil military operations, was lost in East Africa or enduring survival training, but he was volunteering his time at the Découvrir et Aider la Nature, Animal Refuge in Djibouti, Djibouti.

“It’s a chance to get out and get dirty,” Vaughn said. “I sit in an office all day, but out here I can get out and get my hands into Africa. You get to experience Africa the way it was meant to be, down in the dirt.”

Vaughn and the other volunteers said the work is rewarding, but it comes with some hazards.

“The sun and the heat, of course, but the real nasty things out here are the thorns,” Vaughn said with a laugh. “The Acacia thorns...can be the size of a tooth pick. They’ll go through your combat boots, work gloves and they really go through your skin really easy.”

Vaughn was part of a team that volunteered at the refuge to eradicate the overgrowing prosopis, commonly known

as mesquite, an invasive tree that filches the water source for vegetation animals consume. The team also trimmed trees and cleared brush at the refuge to accommodate a growing pride of lions, which recently had two new cubs.

“We have a good amount of people who come back on a regular basis, but we can always use more,” Vaughn said. “The more people we get, the easier it is to clear (the brush) and the sooner we will be able to get the lion enclosure done.”

During their off-duty time, volunteers come to the refuge to assist with the physical labor.

“I try to come here twice a month,” said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Randy Neihart, CJTF-HOA operations specialist. “I volunteer here to try to make a difference.”

Despite pulling thorns lodged deep in the soles of their boots and heaving plants into the controlled fires set by the groundskeeper, the volunteers seem drawn to the refuge and return whenever they can.

Vaughn and Neihart are always asking fellow service members to come out on the weekends to volunteer with them at the refuge. “Come out and embrace the culture—interact with the people,” said Neihart. “If they get out and see what’s really out there, they will see (Djibouti is) a beautiful country.”

See photos on DVIDS at
<http://dvidshub.net/r/vewedw>

PSYOP Expansion

*Increased capabilities with
unprecedented growth*

**By Lt. Col. Gerald Ostlund,
Chief of Public Affairs USACAPOC(A)**

Editor's note: this is part two of a two part series detailing PSYOP growth in USACAPOC(A). Part one in the Spring Issue detailed the growth and restructuring of Army Reserve PSYOP forces. Part two discusses some of the challenges caused by the expansion and the command's future PSYOP plans. Starting in 2008, USACAPOC(A) saw unprecedented growth in the number of PSYOP Soldiers in the command – increasing 1,200 authorizations – and an expansion of the number of units – from 18 to 32 companies.

“**T**he expansion provided ranks of Spc. to Sgt. 1st Class significant opportunities for growth by adding over 100 critical NCO grades,” remembers Lt. Col. Al Armonda, Deputy Commander of 2d Psychological Operations Group. “Unfortunately, the buck stopped there. Sgt. 1st Class and Master Sgt. opportunities – those positions previously in the Dissemination and enemy prisoners of war Battalions, and crucial to the division planning level – virtually disappeared overnight.” Armonda explained that opportunities for field grade officers, in particular positions for majors, were similarly reduced significantly in the process. “The ratio of Capt. to Maj. used to be 2:1 and Maj. to Lt.Col. 3:1,” said Armonda. “Now the ratio for both transitions is 6:1.” In all, however, Landy noted that number of field grade positions increased during the expansion.

The other significant challenge is in the administrative support to those expanded and new units, according to Armonda. “We experienced a significant reduction in administrative resources (UA’s, UAT’s, personnelists, supply technicians, etc.) from 39 per battalion to six,” he stated.

This concern was echoed by Lt. Col. Robert Sentell, the commander of 17th PSYOP Battalion. “Administratively

it’s been a challenge,” he says. “The increase in personnel and equipment didn’t come with any more full time staff augmentation or room in our facilities.” Due to staffing limitations set by Department of the Army, even with the increased number of personnel within PSYOP companies and battalions no additional full-time support personnel could be authorized.

To overcome some of these challenges, Armonda says that the 2d POG has implemented annual seminars for all key staff sections to ensure the MILTECH administrative personnel and AGRs have the proper tools and knowledge at their disposal. “This has helped us keep everyone on the same page,” he said.

Sentell intimated that as deployments decrease, the PSYOP community is getting some needed breathing room to address these challenges. “With the OPTEMPO decreasing,” he said, “the 17th POB is finally getting a chance to RESET, stabilize and build a foundation for the future.”

Currently underway is an effort to review the force structure concerns across the Army Reserve PSYOP force. A working group has been formed and includes representatives from 2nd Psychological Operations Group, 7th Psychological Operations Group, the J.F.K. Special Warfare Center and School, and USACAPOC(A) Staff.

“The purpose of the working group,” says Fran Landy, USACAPOC(A) PSYOP plans specialist, “is to look at all the options – to try to address the needs of the force and make sure we are meeting the requirements of our customers – the combatant commanders.” In addition, Landy

said that one of the outcomes is to shape the structure to meet the needs of the Army and the force.

Landy says that everything is on the table for the working group and options at this point include the fairly simple option of changing rank and specialty structures to a much more complex option to create a Military Information Support Operations Command to mirror the active component structure. “The group will gather information, debate options, and present a unified set of options for the CG,” said Landy. “This is a pretty interesting time to be involved in this process.”

“The increase in personnel didn’t come with any more full time staff or room in our facilities.”

- Lt. Col. Al Armonda, Deputy Commander of 2nd POG

sMASHing malaria

Civil affairs team fights Malaria in Ethiopia with “Operation: MASH”

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Caya, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs

Three feet of rope, four nails and a blue net all wrapped inside a plastic bag may not seem like they can save lives. However, these tools – along with the partnership between members of Civil Affairs Team 4905, government and non-government organizations – can impede the spread of malaria in Ethiopia.

CAT 4905, part of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, Grand Prairie, Texas, assigned to Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, distributed 18,000 packs of insecticide-treated bed nets, rope and nails to Ethiopians in Samaro and Debaka, Deboresa, Mar. 15 and 16.

“We are in the Abaya Wordea, which is one of the most [malaria-infected] regions during this time of year in the country of Ethiopia, so obviously there is a great need to fight malaria in this area,” said U.S. Army Cpl. Benjamin Whiddon, a Houston, Texas, native and CAT 4905 team medic. “One of the primary ways to fight malaria is prevention. One great way to prevent malaria is the use of bed nets, which we are distributing here.”

The rainy season causes a mixed reaction among many Ethiopians, said Gobena Guye, local health office worker and malaria prevention coordinator, from Guanga, Ethiopia. Farmers appreciate rain, as it nourishes crops and provides the harvest, but for other Ethiopians, the rain signifies a larger mosquito population near bodies of water, said Guye.

CAT 4905 team leader U.S. Army Capt. Charles Varner of Los Angeles said irregular weather patterns delayed the rains this year. When the rains do come, people in this region expect a “gigantic spike in the cases of malaria,” he said. To quell this spike, members of the 4905 CAT worked with Ethiopians, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the organization Communication for Change to execute Operation: MASH.



Cpl. Benjamin Whiddon, and Spc. Cody Clayton unpack mosquito nets.

“Operation: MASH stands for ‘Malaria in Abaya Stops Here.’ When you call this a ‘bed net distribution,’ you are really over-simplifying what we’re doing,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Melissa McGaughey, CAT 4905 team sergeant of Fort Worth, Texas.

According to Ethiopian government studies, people do have insecticide-treated bed nets, yet they are still contracting malaria.

“The problem is they don’t know how to properly employ those nets or how to avoid the disease,” said McGaughey.

Programs, such as the U.S.-funded president’s malaria initiative, provide bed nets to Ethiopia. However, some of the austere locations have no way of receiving these supplies. This is where the civil affairs team comes in.

“[We transport the nets] the last mile and into the hands of people who really need them,” said Varner. “This is something that only CJTF-HOA is able to do in southern Ethiopia.”

“Without the non-governmental organization community, we wouldn’t have the Communication for Change piece,” said McGaughey. “Without the government of Ethiopia, the people wouldn’t know we’re coming. Without us, the nets would never get there. The partnership is the best take-away from this. We can fully address the problem instead of giving a partial answer.”

Ethiopians involved in the program said the training, coupled with distribution, creates a positive outcome for the Ethiopian people.

“I enjoy my work,” said Azenegash Haire, a veteran health station worker from Hageramariam, Ethiopia, who trained hundreds of Ethiopians on bed net employment. “I believe it is working and it is effective.”

“If we’re able to give the Ethiopians a means to protect themselves from getting sick, it’s a good thing,” said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris Smith CAT 4905.

A call to action

CA/MISO school house looking for instructors

By Col. John F. Hussey,
Cdr. 3rd Brig. CA/MISO, 100th Division

At the 3rd Brigade Civil Affairs & Military Information Support Operations our mission is to train quality Soldiers. Our goal is to provide the highest quality instructors and programs.

When I stand in front of students, I thank them for their service. The Soldiers and Marines I speak to are a part of the most overused force in the military inventory. I fully realize that I am speaking to individuals who will be boarding a plane and defending our nation in a combat zone. I take their training seriously and strive to provide the best.

We need our best Soldiers as instructors in order to groom the next generation. We must get back to basics: improving Soldier education and leadership.

There are many Soldiers who have the potential to be great instructors. I would simply ask senior level leaders in the CAPOC community and in particular the Command Sergeants Major to recommend the most experienced, highest quality NCOs who have the potential to thrive as instructors to be referred to 3rd BDE CA/MISO.

I encourage and invite any senior leader to visit the schoolhouse during any of our missions. We welcome any input or support that you would like to provide.

In closing, please know that my five Battalion Commanders and I are all USACAPOC(A) officers who have mobilized and served. Most of our Soldiers and staff members are former USACAPOC(A) Soldiers and combat veterans. We have a vested interest in getting this mission right. When I meet senior leaders in our community, I remind them that many of us serving in 3rd BDE CA/MISO will be returning to a line USACAPOC(A) unit and will possibly deploy again. In that regard, we are packing our own parachutes. We are training our future Soldiers. We simply cannot fail; nor will we. We need your help to succeed.

If you are interested in learning about instructor opportunities, contact Master Sgt. Willian Weck at (718) 325-7457, or email at william.wecksr@usar.army.mil

Making a difference



Andrews

difference.

He did so with the 345th Tactical Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Co. (ABN). While there, Andrews participated in seven overseas missions, including deployments to Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Andrews was approached by the commander of the 12-100th BN (CA/MISO),

3rd BDE, 100th DIV, Ltc. Frisone. He was aware of Andrew's civilian background in education and asked if SSG Andrews would be interested in using his teaching skills to train the next generation of 37F soldiers.

"As NCOs, we train and lead Soldiers, it was a great opportunity," said Andrews. "I was able to remain relevant to the fight - while simultaneously offering my family and employer a more predictable training schedule."

Andrews shares a flexible training schedule with his fellow Texas-based instructors.

Broadening experiences



Kelley

superiors encouraged her to complete her Sgt. 1st Class packet. But Kelley wanted to broaden her experience.

"I felt my experience within the military was prohibitively narrow. When I found out I could remain involved with civil affairs while applying my civilian skills as a teacher, I quickly put my packet together," said Kelley.

Kelley has enjoyed putting her military and civilian skills to work to prepare the civil affairs Soldiers of tomorrow.

"From town mayors to self proclaimed trophy husbands, Soldiers from a wide variety of backgrounds come through our civil affairs courses here at Fort Dix," said Kelley. "Interfacing and learning from these diverse groups is one of the many enjoyable aspects of instructing."

Kelley has enjoyed the challenges that come with instructing and has developed unique ways to instruct.

First term Soldier and seasoned NCO win CAPOC best warrior

After a long series of competitions, two winners advance to U.S. Army Reserve Best Warrior

By Staff Sgt. April Evaro, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

Top competitors gathered from all corners of the country to participate in the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Command (Airborne) Best Warrior Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 4-8. The competition was a grueling 5-day event that not only tested the tactical and technical skill of the 16 competitors but also tested their mental fortitude and physical strength.

The competition began as a race against the clock during an Army physical fitness test and continued with a written test, day and night orienteering, an obstacle course, a 10k ruck-march as well as weapons familiarization. Soldiers were also tested on their Army knowledge and warrior tasks at an appearance board where they stood in front of the command's most senior enlisted leaders.

"This year, we built the schedule of events to be extremely challenging compared to the previous years," said Master Sgt. Brooks, the USACAPOC(A) competition coordinator. "The land navigation portion of the event topped off a day that started at 3:30 a.m. and the schedule of events was not going to end until 2:30 a.m. the following morning."

Soldiers are renowned for their preparation and training. Staff Sgt. Derek Hahn and his sponsor Sgt. Roland Pena of the 341st Psychological Operations Co. trained in their off-time.

"We trained at Camp Bullis for ruck-marching, combatives, the obstacle course and we ran through a lot of mock-boards to get Hahn ready," said Pena.

"I enjoy challenge and competition," said Hahn. "If you are not pushing yourself every day; I think you are wasting the time that you are given. There is no reason to do something if you are going to do it halfway; you've got to do it full-on."

First term Soldier and police officer cadet Spc. Adam Engel of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command not only

embraced the hectic schedule and atmosphere of the BWC, but excelled.

"I like to think that the more you put into something, the more you'll get out of it. I put in a lot, and I feel like I really got a lot out of it," said Engel. "I think that the training we receive at our battle assemblies is good, but there is nothing like the opportunity to be a part of this."

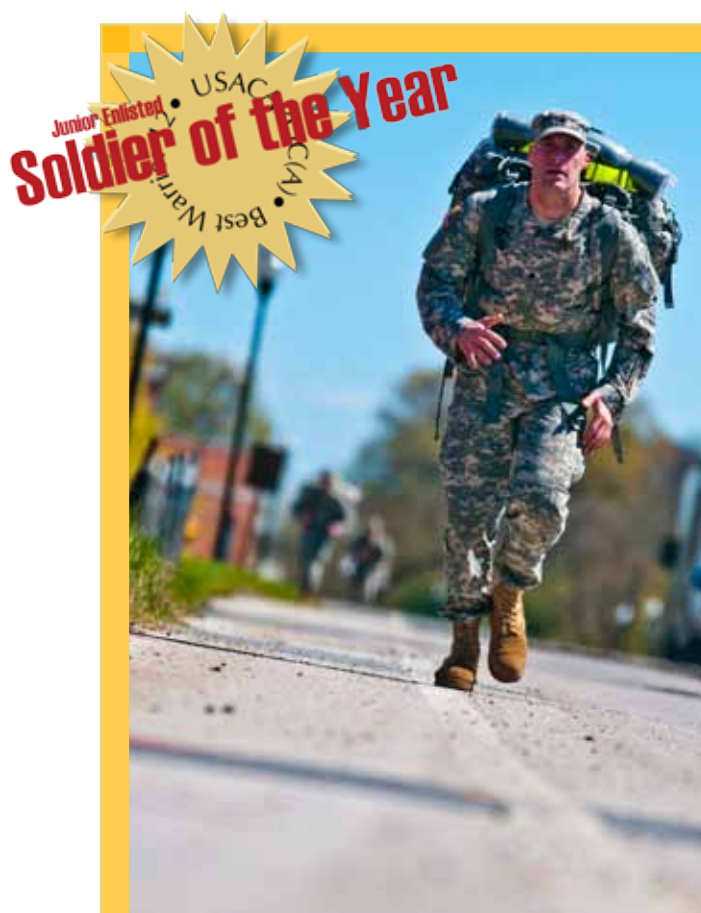
Engel went on to say that his philosophy is to always do his best. "Throughout this whole competition, my mantra was 'win or lose'; as long as you give it your all you don't regret anything," he stated. "Every single event, I gave it 100 percent. If someone is going to beat you, they are going to have to earn it."

Along with friendly competition, the Soldiers of the BWC gained a new respect for fellow comrades.

"I've learned a lot about the way that USACAPOC(A) functions as a whole," said Hahn. "I learned how all the components such as civil affairs, military intelligence and supply work together for USACAPOC(A); we are all Soldiers and we all share the same mission."

Both Engel and Hahn took home top BWC honors and were named USACAPOC(A) Soldier of the Year and non commissioned Officer of the Year. Both will immediately begin preparing for the Army Reserve Command Best Warrior Competition this summer at Fort McCoy, Wisc. where they will represent all of USACAPOC(A). But first, Hahn will have to get over the immediate shock of victory.

"You've got to be kidding me," said Hahn. "The guys here are really competent, proficient, and professional. I am really honored to be a part of this."



Spc. Adam Engel

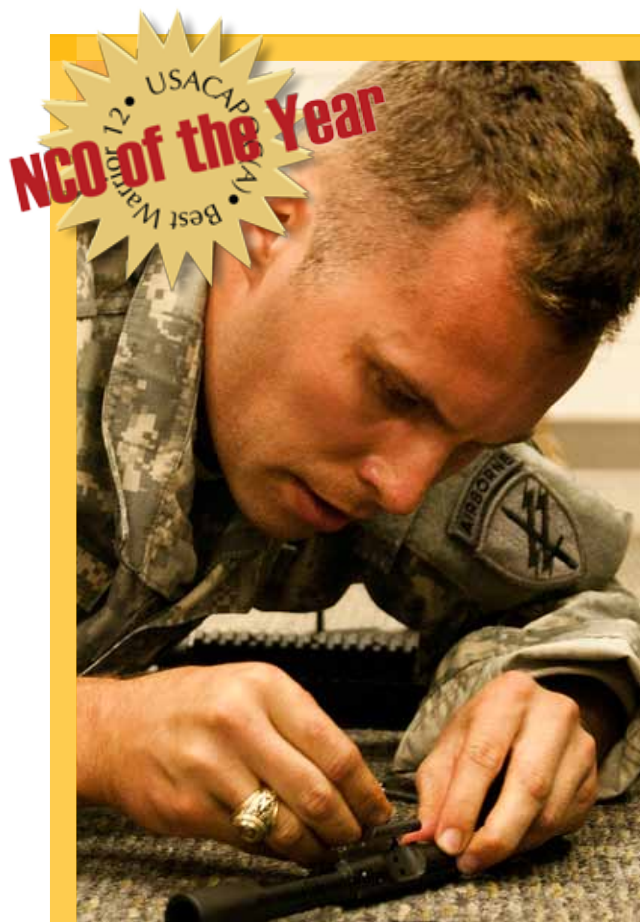
352nd Best Warrior, USACAPOC(A) Soldier of the Year

"I came out here with the plan to not embarrass my unit, they took very good care of me, and they made sure I had everything I needed.

I trained on warrior tasks for a few days before coming out here; we took out that WWT level 1 book and just trained like crazy.

I like to think that the more you put into something, the more you'll get out of it. I put in a lot, and I feel like I really got a lot out of it. I think that the training we receive at our battle assemblies is good, but there is nothing like the opportunity to be a part of this, cramming all the activities in and getting stressed tested.

Throughout this whole competition, I felt that win or lose; as long as I give it my all- when it was over I wouldn't regret anything. I think that is huge. Every single event, I gave it 100%, if someone is going to beat you, they are going to have to earn it."



Staff Sgt. Derek Hahn

7th POG Best Warrior, USACAPOC(A) NCO of the Year

"While preparing for the competition, my sponsor and I got the WTT from of the book and we went line by line until I was proficient at it. Spc. Taylor (the representative at the POG level) was there as well as Sgt. Pena to push me to continue to train in different ways. "This time we're gonna do it backwards, or blindfolded, until you get it down," they told me.

I enjoy challenge competitions and believe that if you are not pushing yourself every day; I think you are wasting the time that you are given. There is no reason to do something if you are going to do it halfway, you've gotta do it full-on.

The best part of the competition was the combatives tournament. Since it was the last event, no one was holding back or trying to negotiate, it was just try until you were done."

Preparing for the worst

By Lt. Col. Rodney W. Fant, 350th CACOM, Unit Public Affairs Representative

Brig. Gen. Mark T. McQueen's first order of business for the new year was to train the 350th CACOM by inviting a team from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), to the command's first battle assembly of 2012. The

two instructors, Thomas Frey and William Laspina, both Disaster Assistant Response Team members, were on station to instruct the Joint Humanitarian Operations Course.

The 350th CACOM Soldiers in attendance met all the set training objectives and became familiar with the USG

international disaster response structures, relevant offices, policies, roles and responsibilities. Members in attendance were divided into small work groups to identify key factors, determine appropriate responses using OFDA toolkits brief courses of action for a regional case study.

305th PSYOP pulls a plane

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. April Evaro, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

A team of 305th Psychological Operations Company Soldiers put their training to use in support of the Hampton Roads Plane Pull, a local charity event, April 21, 2012 in Virginia Beach, Va.

The main event was to pull the 35,000 pound World War II B-17 Flying Fortress known as "Chuckie."

The event benefited the building of Promise Places' Assisi House, which provides appropriate, non-institutional housing

for adults with mild to moderate mental challenges.

The Soldiers of the 305th volunteered their time, donated personal funds and effort to support the cause.

Outside of regular Army physical training, the 305th Soldiers admit they did not perform any special physical training in preparation for the event; they looked at this event as more of a way to give back to the community in a fun way and an excellent opportunity for PSYOP

training.

"A big part of our job is being able to step out of our shell and talk to people to make a positive influence," said Springer.

"This type of community involvement fosters esprit de corps and boosts morale while showing Army Reserve pride and positivity of PSYOP to the local community," said Springer.

The Virginia Beach community really came together to support the cause for the inaugural event. There were seven teams all together, including one local Navy team. Friendly competition was in the air as each team

awaited its turn to grab the rope and pull the plane.

The crowd cheered in support of each team as competitors tightened their grip on the rope, steadied their foothold on the runway and pulled with all their might.

With a team of Soldiers and Family members, the 305th dug deep and pulled "Chuckie" to win with a lightning-fast speed of 6.2 seconds. "We had no intentions of winning today," said Springer. "We just wanted to come out and show our support and donate to the cause."



Shade and comfort

By Capt. Saska Ball, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs

Early Saturday morning, before the normal duty day began here at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, 18 volunteers gathered, coffee in hand and work gloves in pockets.

This was the first day of a month-long project to provide shade for patients of the Paul Faure Tuberculosis Hospital, a project that originated through a civil affairs team of Delta Company, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit based in Grand Prairie,

Texas.

"The normal role of civil affairs is to work the local population and the force commander, but since I'm here as part of the headquarters staff and not on a civil affairs team, I wanted to make sure I kept doing the job I love and give back to the community to which I'm deployed," said Staff Sgt. Kerry Gillock of Portland, Ore., 448th Civil Affairs Battalion plans noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

Gillock did not waste

any time getting involved with the local community. They've been boots-on-ground here for only five weeks, yet have already made a difference.

"Many of our projects in civil affairs, and volunteering in general, are doing things that fill a need. We rarely get the chance to make life more comfortable," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Wilkins of Pullman, Wash., 448th CA Bn., civil information management NCOIC. "They've been without shade at this hospital for years. The patients would continue to manage if we didn't do this project but it feels great to provide something that just

makes life better."

This particular CAV project involves assembling two tents, creating a shaded walkway, adding concertina wire around the hospital perimeter and removing old shade posts.

"A lot of sick people sit in the sun waiting for their consultation with the doctor or to get their medicine, around 150 people a day. The sun shade means a lot to these people, allowing them to rest and wait in comfort," said Dr. Mohammed Osman, Paul Faure Tuberculosis Hospital assistant director.

Face to Face

Photos and story by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephen Linch CJTF-HOA Public Affairs

Djiboutian and U.S. Army Soldiers participated in a language class led by the 4902 Civil Affairs Team.

The class was part of an ongoing program between the Djiboutian Special Forces, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, and the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. Soldiers of both nations learn and practice conversing in English, Afar and Somali. We are at the first phase,"



Djiboutian soldiers participate in a language class with Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Scally

said Djiboutian Special Forces Captain Arayta Houmed Ebile, "I hope that my soldiers will be able to speak English in a few months time."

The class covers words and phrases used in day-to-day conversation such as 'good morning' and 'how are you,' said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Scally, CAT 4902 team sergeant.

Although both the U.S. and Djiboutian soldiers look forward to learning new languages, it's not the only reason they attend the class.



"The program gives us a chance to bond and strengthen our relationship. The Djiboutians are our allies and we want to build a lasting relationship with these soldiers," said Scally.

The class is just one of the many ways Djiboutian soldiers and the U.S. military interact, said Scally. The soldiers have patrolled together, worked together and shared meals every chance they get.

The fact that the soldiers are from different countries has little bearing on their relationship, Scally added.



"These are fellow soldiers," he said. "We live amongst them. We train with them. We interact with them. We have befriended each other."

According to Ebile, the feeling is mutual.

"Ever since we met the CA team, we have developed a good relationship," Ebile said. "We are very grateful to have the CA team as friends."

Learning from those who are there

425th Civil Affairs Battalion prepares for Afghanistan in the Hoosier State

Photo and story by Pfc. Lalita Guenther, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

Soldiers and Afghan key leaders spent hours sipping chai and discussing current and future plans for joint missions and projects. While this is a common scene in Afghanistan, this meeting is actually a carefully designed and simulated exercise for a provincial reconstruction team (PRT) during training at Camp Atterbury, Ind on Feb. 15, 2012.

Soldiers from the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion trained here for their deployment to the Kapisa Province of Afghanistan. Soldiers learned how to work with not only each other, but with their sister services as well, which resulted in a more intense approach compared to regular civil affairs training.

"The training is more involved than it used to be, because we are integrating with the Air Force and Navy," said Staff Sgt. David Reid, a civil affairs specialist with the 425th CA Bn from Encino, CA. "It's sort of like going through basic training with them before we leave."

PRT missions are unique because the civil affairs Soldiers' main goal is to create unity and teamwork between local and national governments as well as with the coalition forces. According to Reid, the military recognizes the importance of provincial reconstruction and has devoted significant resources. "The training is very good," he said. To make this training as realistic as possible, Afghan natives act as government authorities and as interpreters, adding a layer of realism unheard of in previous generations of military training.

Provincial reconstruction team training is not just for the older, more experienced Soldiers, like Reid, but also for the Soldiers deploying for the first time.

"This is very important to the new Soldiers. You're life is on the line," stressed Reid. "These guys will definitely benefit. The better the training, the more they will be prepared."

To ensure quality training is taking place, it is especially

important that the training comes from someone who is experienced and has actually been down range and made a difference.

"To be able to talk to people who have deployed, and spend months with them, they [Soldiers who have never been deployed] are starting to learn and realize that this is not a video game, and are starting to really take it seriously," said Reid. "This is very advantageous because these instructors can walk the walk and talk the talk."

One of those instructors was Cpt. Rene Zubik, who just a few days earlier was in Kapisa.

"12 hours before my flight left, I was told, 'Pack your stuff, you're going back to Camp Atterbury,'" said Zubik. As she had the unique opportunity to help train the Soldiers who replaced her and her PRT in Afghanistan.

Zubik was not only up to date on what was going on in her region of Afghanistan, but she was a valuable instructor because of the many hats she wore. Her primary job was as a reintegration specialist in Afghanistan, but also handled a Commander's Emergency Response Program manager alongside several other job titles.

"They [the Soldiers here] had no idea what's going on in Kapisa right now," stressed Zubik. "But thanks to this training they have the tools they need to move forward and make a real impact as they get boots on the ground."

Zubik, who returned to Afghanistan after the 425th CA Bn finished training at Camp Atterbury, said she is looking forward to transitioning responsibilities to the new team and redeploying.

Note: If you are a currently deployed or recently returned Civil Affairs and PSYOP Soldier and are interested in full time (one year tour) positions with 1TB at Camp Atterbury, Fort Dix, or Fort Bragg, call 910-432-5941 or email dlmobcell@cie.army.mil



Soldiers from 425th share chai tea with role players.

PSYOP heads to Africa

345th PSYOP Company prepares for an uncertain mission in the horn of Africa.

Photo and story by Lt. Col. Gerald Ostlund, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs

More than 20 Soldiers of the 345th Psychological Operations Company started pre-deployment training, March 26, 2012 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Lewisville, Texas.

The training is in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Horn of Africa. The unit will go to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., early this summer for ten days of additional theater-required training and PSYOP collective exercises, then will deploy to the Horn of Africa for roughly nine months.

“Our team is triple the size of the PSYOP team we are replacing,” said Maj. Matt Perritte, the detachment’s commander and an Austin, Texas police officer who deployed with the 344th PSYOP Company to Afghanistan in 2011. “Our mission will expand and morph once we get there, but we’ll conduct atmospherics, analysis of local attitudes – pulse of the people, so to speak – and assist in communicating as appropriate with the local population.”

Perritte explained that because of the increased size of the team and the fact that the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa hasn’t had large PSYOP assets in the past, the mission will have to grow to allow for fully functional tactical PSYOP teams.

“We may have to take comfort in knowing that we are setting up the next group for success,” he quipped. In the past, much of the 345th’s deployment training would have taken place at a Regional Training Center away from home. But now most of the training will be conducted home station training at the Reserve center just prior to deployment. By conducting the training at a unit’s “home” location, the Army saves costs as well as allows soldiers to spend more time with their Families and preparing to be away from home.

This is the new deployment training model now that

regional training centers have been closed. Like any deployment, there will be periods of downtime.

“Keeping everyone busy and focused is the key,” said Staff Sgt. Reginald Pinkney, the detachment’s tactical PSYOP detachment non commissioned officer in charge. Pinkney, who deployed with the unit to Afghanistan a couple of years ago, is a former active and reserve Marine who transitioned to the Army Reserve to take advantage of greater opportunities to expand into new career fields.

“The Army Reserve had a lot more MOS [military occupation specialties], and I chose PSYOP because of the unique mission. Our mission in HOA is unique in that everyone is really working under the State Department,” noted Pinkney. “So, how do we integrate PSYOP? It will be a challenge and at times we may have to find stuff to keep our soldiers busy.”

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Lankford, product development detachment non commissioned officer in charge agreed, “We’ll have to continue to train, study the area, do physical training maybe twice a day, brainstorm projects, and do schoolwork.”

In the meantime, the detachment’s Soldiers are taking full advantage of the training being offered close to home.

On March 29th, the agenda included tips and tricks for maintaining the Psychological Operations Print System- Light – the workhorse of the PSYOP product detachment – and how to properly setup, operate, and store the Product Distribution System – a satellite communications system used by PSYOP teams to transmit and receive communications products.

This training was aided by ‘exceptional’ support from both the 4th Military Information Support Group and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)’s 10th PSYOP Battalion, according to Lt. Col. Robert Sentell, the commander of 17th PSYOP Battalion – the higher headquarters of 345th PSYOP Company.



Pvt. Steven Bunch, a PSYOP specialist with the 345th Tactical Psychological Operations Company, disassembles a Product Distribution System – Light during pre-deployment training in Dallas, Texas, March 29, 2012.

Badge of Honor

7th POG Competes for the German Armed Forces Badge

**Story by Pfc. Lalita Guenther
USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs**

Earning a German Armed Forces Badge for Proficiency is a hard task. Competing in a Best Warrior Competition can be even tougher. Soldiers from the 7th Psychological Operations Group did both, as they held a combined BWC and GAFB March 25 to 29 in the humid San Antonio weather at Camp Bullis, Texas.



Competing for the GAFB is not an everyday occurrence in the Army Reserve, but the two competitions coincided, and some of the events in the GAFB counted for points or were given a “go or no go” toward the BWC.

The events included a 7.5-mile ruck march, M9 pistol qualification, day and night land navigation, and track and field events making it a very rigorous week during the combined four-day competition.

“Combining the GAFB with the Best Warrior Competition is very exhausting,” said Spc. Justin Taylor, a PSYOP specialist in the 341st PSYOP Company, out of San Antonio.

The skills, whether it be the 200-meter swim for the GAFB or how to evaluate a casualty during the BWC, will be valuable at any time during a Soldier’s life. Knowing these skills before hand is preferred. However, some competitors are simply learning as they go.

“I’m excited to just be able to learn what I can about everything here so I can take it all back to my unit and teach them,” said Spc. Sally Roberts, a PSYOP specialist in the 324th PSYOP Co., out of Aurora, Col.

“Looking to your battle buddies for motivation has helped in the competition,” stated Cpl. Matthew Fish, a PSYOP specialist from the 318th PSYOP Co., out of St. Louis. “Helping them get motivated just makes it more of a competition for myself against the other Soldiers.”

Muslam

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Hanna and St. Barnabas agreed to treat Muslam free of charge.

With the approval of Muslam’s family, Airline Ambassadors, another non-profit group, flew Muslam to the U.S. where he has lived with a host family.

Muslam underwent his first surgery in October to put his bladder back inside his body. A second surgery, to reconstruct his genitals and other parts of his body, was performed April 29.

At Saint Barnabas, Muslam greeted a host of visitors with a shy but impish grin following his first surgery. Battschinger, a father of two, greeted the boy with a kiss on his head, and questions about how he was feeling and how his American life was going.

Missy Oplinger, Muslam’s host mother, said that Muslam adapted well to life in the U.S.

“He’s fluent in English, he attended kindergarten and he loves sports, especially lacrosse,” Said Oplinger. “He’s become an avid fan of host brother Matthew’s high school freshman lacrosse team and knows every player’s number.”

The next step in Muslam’s journey will be to return to Jalalabad, Muslam’s home in Afghanistan, where he’ll be reunited with his mother and the rest of his family.

Battschinger says he will make the trip as a civilian and help drill two water wells — one at the family’s home and another to serve the rest of the village.

Battschinger recalled the day Muslam’s mother had to sign the waiver that would allow her son to come to the United States. After an interpreter explained the consent form to the woman, she spoke just one word, common in the Muslim world, as she affixed her thumbprint signature to the paper.

“Inshallah,” the mother said. In English: “It is God’s will.”

Season of change

CAPOC sees new leadership take command

306th Civil Affairs brigade (Airborne)

By Sgt. Erick Yates

A civil affairs officer from Birmingham, Ala., took the reins of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) on May 20, at the South Carolina State House in Columbia, S.C.

Col. Woodard Nunis accepted the unit's colors from Col. Jeffrey Coggin during the change of command ceremony and said the unit he took over has a reputation for quality training and an high operational tempo.

"First off I'd like to thank Brig. Gen. Burley for the opportunity to command. It's an outstanding unit," said Nunis.

Nunis comes to the 360th CA Bde. from the 350th CACOM, where he served as the operations officer. He previously commanded the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion, and he was deployed to Iraq with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion in April 2003.

Coggin, who took over the 360th in November 2011, returns to the 352nd CACOM, where he will take over one of its functional specialty teams.

"It was a great experience," he said. "Every day was a new challenge, but I was surrounded by highly motivated soldiers."

351st Civil Affairs Command

By 1st Lt. Ray Ragan

Thirteen thunderous blank volleys from howitzer cannons shook historic Moffett Field, California, May 6, as nearly 1,000 civilians and service members honored the outgoing commander of the 351st Civil Affairs Command during a relinquishment of command ceremony.

Medvigy, said a heart-felt farewell to his soldiers during the ceremony, which transferred command temporarily to his deputy commander, Col. Jimmy Rankin.

Medvigy's long tenure as a figure in USACAPOC(A) was honored by the attendance of dozens of prominent figures from those communities and more.

Medvigy said he is proud of many of his accomplishments as the commander. He said he is proud of providing trained and qualified civil affairs operators for the theaters of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, as well as to military exercises.

"I feel honored," said Rankin after the ceremony. "It's great to lead troops and it's a great command."

1st Training Brigade

By Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski

Rain did not dampen spirits when the change of command ceremony was moved from the XVIII Airborne Corps Non-Commissioned Officer parade field to inside the Army Reserve Center March 24. A historic day took place when the 1st Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Training Brigade changed command and received its first-ever PSYOP commander.

Col. Joyce Busch assumed command from Lt. Col. Eric Haaland, who is transferring to the Pentagon.

Busch's assumption of command marks two firsts: she is the first female and the first PSYOP officer to fill the command billet at the brigade. She was commissioned in 1987 and branched as a Field Artillery Officer for eight years on active duty before transferring in the reserve component. As a PSYOP officer, she has deployed with the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad, Iraq and with NAVCENT in Manama, Bahrain.

"I am honored and humbled to be part of this tremendous organization," said Busch. "I commit myself to the Brigade."

Today's Lesson

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