



The Official Magazine of The U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations C

PEACEMAKERS

2012 Top Shots

Sandy relief

353rd CACOM helps community rebuild

Mile-High stand-up

440th Civil Affairs Bn. is welcomed by Fort Carson

Anchors away...Soldiers?

Soldiers help djibouti navy get underway

PEACEMAKER



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Public Affairs Team

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Siemion

Staff Sgt. Sharilyn R. Wells

Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres

Staff Sgt. April Evaro

Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski

Pfc. Lalita Guenther

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On the cover: Maj. Michael Ignacio stands alongside Task Force 68 Soldiers in Hermanville, France, on June 6, 2012. Even with pouring down rain, the Soldiers paid their respects to the heroes of WWII.

(U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells)

◀ Sgt. Steven Rhyne, 422nd Civil Affairs Bn., leads the way during the ruck march portion of the 352nds best warrior competition at Fort Meade, Md. on April 2, 2012.

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

Peacemaker is the official publication of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) to provide command information to service members and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the command's Public Affairs Officer, under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of *Peacemaker* are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). *Peacemaker* is published quarterly.



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jacobs

—USACAPOC(A) Commanding General

As I reflect on my first year in command, I can safely say that the year has been a successful one. Our civil affairs and MISO Soldiers have accomplished their missions across the globe, in Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Central and South America, and the Pacific. We have supported some twenty combat training center rotations. We have provided top-notch post-mobilization training not only for our own mobilizing Soldiers, but for Soldiers of the 361st CA Brigade in Germany. We conducted a very successful conference for our battalion, brigade, and group commanders and their command sergeants major.

I have been all over the country, and, indeed, the world, to see the great things our Soldiers do every day, from Kabul and Djibouti to Clackamas, Oregon and Twinsburg, Ohio and Perrine, Florida, and everywhere in between. I've jumped with our airborne units. Everywhere I've gone, I've seen outstanding, motivated, civil affairs and psychological operations Soldiers, ably supported by outstanding, motivated logistics, communications, and human resources Soldiers. I am proud of our Soldiers and all that you have accomplished.

For all the ups, we've had our share of downs, too. Although we haven't lost any Soldiers in combat operations, we have had more than our share of wounded warriors. We have lost five Soldiers to suicide and six Soldiers to motorcycle, automobile, and watercraft accidents. It goes without saying that this is eleven Soldiers too many. We must take care of our battle buddies.

This coming year, I am looking to build on our successes and learn from our mistakes. To do this, we need to focus in a couple of areas.

First, we need engaged first-line leadership. I talk about this everywhere I go, and I've mentioned it here before. Leadership is a 24/7 responsibility; that responsibility doesn't go away when we take the uniform

off after a battle assembly. Leadership responsibility cannot be abdicated, to our UAs or to AGRs or to anyone else.

I tell people that leaders (and everyone from the rank of corporal on up is a leader) need to walk through their barracks during off-duty hours. People look at me quizzically when I say this, but what I mean is that we have to adapt what the active component does to our world. We don't have barracks, but we do have Soldiers for whom we are responsible 24/7, and we have to check on them – in person, by e-mail or text message, on Facebook – and not just during battle assemblies. It's our responsibility as leaders, even when we're absorbed in our civilian jobs. It's the job of the team sergeant to ensure that his or her Soldier gets to WLC, passes the APFT, and is prepared for training. How we do this is different in the Army Reserve than it is in the active component – but it doesn't cease to be our responsibility just because we don't have the luxury of seeing our Soldiers every day.

Second, we must improve how we plan, prepare, and conduct training. Company commanders and first sergeants are the key here, and the process they use to do this is the training meeting. We must conduct training meetings, and we must conduct them right. Once the commander and first sergeant have a plan, our NCOs must execute the plan. What I am looking for when I visit units is a training schedule that reflects a carefully considered training plan, based on a company's mission and its METL, and sergeants training their Soldiers on METL-based tasks (probably individual tasks), to standard, under the proper conditions. Sitting everyone in the drill hall and listening to an officer give a PowerPoint presentation is, generally, not effective training. In our business, ineffective training can be fatal.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you during the coming year.

Continue mission!



Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Bennett

—USACAPOC(A) Command Sgt. Maj.

This past October's commander's Enhancement Course was a success. It was also great to see our Command Sergeants Major and their Commanders here at Fort Bragg. I enjoyed meeting and welcoming the new members of our leadership team, which includes new CSMs for several of our battalions. Many of our leadership teams are changing and this is nothing new. Leaders retire, get promoted, and even move on to other positions. The new leaders that come in are very qualified and bring knowledge and experience with them.

My congratulations go out to our newly selected CSMs, such as CSM Alexis Delarosa (17th POB), CSM Daniel Benedict (403d CA BN), CSM Scott Schultz (414th CA BN), CSM Ryan Bodmer (426th CA BN), CSM Reid Schulz (436th CA BN), CSM Aaron Miller (440th CA BN), and CSM Daniel Stroud (445th CA BN). I'd also like to congratulate CSM Todd Priest on his selection as CSM of the 354th CA BDE.

One change that the CSM "team" is going through is at the 1st Training Brigade. CSM Weltia "Kenny" Hill has served our Army and Nation since 1975 and is now retiring. He has served as a CSM from battalion level up to one star and two star command levels. While in USACAPOC(A), he has been CSM at the 304th CA BDE and at 1st Training Brigade. His most notable assignment was as CSM at the 14,000 member 77th Regional Readiness Command. CSM Hill has been a key member of the senior group of USACAPOC CSMs. During his tenure he has been instrumental in 1st Training Brigades success. He has also provided wise counsel for his commanders, his unit's NCOs and both CSM Blosser and myself. CSM Hill has served our Army and Nation during five decades. That's impressive.

I am thankful for his service and commitment. I wish both Kenny and his wife Jacqueline the best of luck in the future.

CSM Ryan Whitson comes to the top NCO spot at 1st Training Brigade from the 422d CA BN. During his 26 years of Army service, CSM Whitson has been a Command Sargent Major at two separate battalions and has an extensive training background. He is a county manager in North Carolina and was the 108th Division's Drill Sergeant of the Year in 2000. I'd like to welcome him to the CSM "team" here at USACAPOC. I am confident that he will rise to the future challenges that await 1st Training Brigade, USACAPOC(A) and our Army.

We need to continue to build our USACAPOC(A) "team" at all levels. Not just our group of CSMs, but our battalion level command teams, PSYOP companies, civil affairs teams, etc. As the Army goes rolling along we will continue to see leadership changes and watch as Soldiers leave our formations. But we continue to make our adjustments, develop our Soldiers and train to be successful at accomplishing our mission. We must build our bench.

Throughout our Army's history, leaders such as Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, Jimmy Doolittle, Arthur "Bull" Simons and Frank Merrill all built their "teams," and trained them for the successful accomplishment of the unit's missions. Those leaders communicated their vision, goals and objectives to the members of the "team" and ensured they were understood. Although they faced challenges and obstacles along the way, the units' enthusiasm, cohesion, motivation, commitment and willingness to learn, ultimately resulted in their units being trained and capable, thus their successful accomplishment of the mission.

Anchors away...Soldiers?

U.S. soldiers assists Djiboutian sailors in fixing patrol boats

Story by Staff Sgt. R.J. Biermann, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

Djiboutian sailors and American soldiers gathered at the Djibouti Naval Base to share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned in a session the Djiboutians planned to use to repair electrical systems for two Sea Ark, 55-foot patrol boats.

While the vessels add to the Djiboutian fleet, the American-based, 120-volt electrical systems differ from the 220-volt standard in Djibouti. Since receiving the boats, the Djiboutian sailors have undertaken much work to make the boats operational.

“The [sailors] were used to European standards and not U.S. standards,” said Master Sgt. Leslie Martin, 448th Civil Affairs Battalion lead instructor. “My experience is U.S. standard so they were able to teach us European standards also.”

As a way to help the Djiboutians get the boats up and running after the vessels had been dormant for a period, 448th CA BN soldiers facilitated a four-day exchange that included interpreting wire color coding and talking about the differences between 120- and 220-volt electrical systems.

“They didn’t understand what the wires were telling them because our color-coding system, in their knowledge, means something different,” Martin said. “We were able to obtain schematics from the boat manufacturers and partner to show what those colors do.”

The two Reserve soldiers used skills they’ve developed in their civilian careers to help share best practices.

Capt. Travis Perry, 448th CA BN assistant instructor, works as a civilian electronic medical equipment repairs assistant instructor, and Martin works as an electrician for aquatic parks in Florida.

According to Martin, corrosion is a major concern there, and is also a constant concern for Djiboutian sailors here.

“Working in that environment, I’m able to pass along how we control corrosion as best we can and the products we use,” Martin said. “When you battle corrosion well, your maintenance standards are elevated.”

While partnering during the class, the soldiers and sailors had to circumvent an additional barrier.

“Most Djiboutians speak French, but of the American team only Captain Perry can ‘parle francais,’ Martin said. “Add to that, one Djiboutian spoke Somali, so a French/Somali translator was brought in. This meant instruction had to first be presented in English, then translated to French and finally Somali.”

But this small barrier didn’t stop the group from achieving mission success.

Restoring the boats to working order will help the Djiboutian navy patrol their shores, improve the overall safety of their people, and exchange has also strengthened the Djibouti-U.S. relationship, according to Perry.

Master Sgt. Leslie Martin, 448th Civil Affairs Battalion lead instructor, works with Djiboutian Navy Quartermaster 2nd Class Kamil Hamadon Ali, and translator Zakaria Ismael Mohamed, as they troubleshoot a problem with a patrol boat engine’s “kill switch.” Martin and Capt. Travis Perry, 448th CA BN assistant instructor shared best practices during their visit with the Djiboutian Sailors. Martin and Perry are both Army Reserve Soldiers who have experience as electricians in their civilian lives. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Martin Wright)





Mile-high stand-up

440th activates amid mounted cavalry and rugged terrain

Story by Staff Sgt. Felix Fimbres

Four horses and 164 soldiers from the 440th Civil Affairs Command stood side-by-side as they unfurled the 440th's unit colors for the first time at Fort Carson, Sept. 15, 2012. The 440th held its first battle assembly in September of 2011 and has spent the past year filling its ranks with both new and veteran soldiers. This ceremony officially commissions the unit into the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne).

Spc. Matthew Taylor, a former infantryman, has been with the unit since April and is excited to be a part of the unit. "Six months ago I didn't even know civil affairs existed, but now I'm standing one up," he said. "As the Army shifts from war fighting to helping foreign populaces and building relationships, civil affairs will be a big part of that, and I'm really proud to be a part of this."

The 440th plans on conducting a myriad of operations throughout the Pacific Command area of responsibly and has a number of positions available for civil affairs soldiers with Mandarin and Korea language specialties. Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Miller expects the 440th will be augmenting ongoing operations and ongoing unit responsibilities throughout the PACOM, "If you want to see PACOM, 440th is the place to be," said Miller.

There are of course other, more pressing missions, to be tackled

first, according to Miller. "We are working on building our soldiers through Noncommissioned Officer Education system," he said "Then we will begin to build toward team, platoon and then company level training. We have a long way to go."

Lt. Col. Damone Garner, commander of the 440th is well aware of the monumental task ahead of him, but is confident his leadership, especially his NCO Corps, is up to the task. "I'm building this battalion based off the NCO corps, they are the backbone of the Army and this battalion, they are leading the way and the only way to lead is through the NCO corps, we are very much an NCO led battalion," said Garner.

Garner and Miller unfurled the unit colors together, signifying the commissioning of the unit and Garner's assumption of command. "Being a commander is the best job in the army, taking care of troops, ensuring they are trained and ready for war, I can't think of a better job," he said. But perhaps more importantly Garner said that standing up the unit was a unique opportunity to leave his footprint, by setting the standard for the future of the unit.

"Today is an historic day, to stand up a new battalion is a very audacious task, it's challenging but very rewarding," said Garner.





Cpt. Christopher L. Arne stands alongside Soldiers of the 440th Civil Affairs Bn. and Fort Carson's mounted color guard during a historic unit activation at Fort Carson, Colo., on September 15, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

Anything but Mickey Mouse

436th Civil Affairs Battalion stands-up a top notch unit in Orlando

Story by Staff Sgt. Felix Fimbres

U.S. Army Reserve soldiers officially stood up the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)'s newest unit, the 436th Civil Affairs Battalion in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 18th, 2012.

The 436th is the latest in a wave of civil affairs units activated in order to support the Army's missions globally, a need which was identified by the Department of Defense in 2004. The high demand for Army Reserve civil affairs soldiers has been highlighted over the past 10 years; they're among the most deployed soldiers in the Army. The 436th is one of three civil affairs units that have been stood up in the past two years.

The 436th's biggest hurdle has been recruiting both new and experienced soldiers to join its ranks. The unit is currently at 60 percent strength, but the unit's commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Lewis, has been pleased with the high quality soldiers his unit has recruited so far, but still feels his unit's biggest hurdle will continue to be recruiting for the next few months.

"We are close to 60 percent filled, we will continue to recruit and train new soldiers, but we've come this far in the last six months and we expect to continue that pace over the next six months. If you are looking for a challenging career, doing our nation's missions, civil affairs units are doing just that. Civil affairs will be the tip of the spear. If you are young man or woman looking for a challenge, this is where you'll find it," said Lewis.

One of those soldiers the 436th has recruited is Staff Sgt. Wesley Cook, Alpha Company team sergeant and an Orlando police officer. Cook was recruited from a local military intelligence command unit, where he was a human intelligence collector, but will be attending the civil affairs school in January. Cook said HUMINT is similar to civil affairs, but civil affairs have the opportunity to not only identify needs, but also have an impact on local populace.

"I'm looking forward to civil affairs missions, from what I understand there will be a lot of good missions for us in Southern Command area of operations and we are looking forward to getting down there."

Soldiers who join the 436th are being enticed with not only promotions, but schools as well, ranging from airborne and air assault to foreign language schools. In fact, the unit has five companies who will be capable of operating in Spanish speaking environments, and another company capable of operating in French speaking environments.

These language proficiencies will come in handy, as the unit is preparing to support the SOUTHCOM area of operations, which operates in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Army foreign language training is just one of the ways the Army Reserve can not only accomplish its mission, but also have a positive impact on the soldiers' local community and employer. "I work in predominantly Spanish speaking area, so





learning Spanish will certainly help,” said Cook.

Beyond training soldiers, a new unit must also acquire everything a unit needs to run from Humvees to pencils.

“When I got here, I didn’t even have a pencil,” joked Staff Sgt. Danny Goodwin, 436th Battalion communications non-commissioned officer in charge. Goodwin was the very first soldier at the unit and has experienced all the challenges of standing

up a unit. The unit is even borrowing space while a new building in Sanford, Fla., is being built. The building is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013.

“The great thing about standing up a unit is that we are setting the standard for what is to come. If we set forth good goals and tasks, and continue to maintain the high quality soldiers coming in, we feel we can be the best battalion in the command. I’m very happy to working with every single soldier in the battalion.”

Brig. Gen. Mark T. McQueen hands the 436th Civil Affairs Battalion colors to Lt. Col. Christopher Lewis in Orlando, Fla. on Nov. 18, 2012. McQueen is the Commanding General of the 350th Civil Affairs Command and presided over the unit activation ceremony. Lewis is the commander of the 436th Civil Affairs Bn. And has spent the past year helping get the unit ready for battle. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

Picking up the pieces

Army Reserve Soldiers provide fuel, other resources for hurricane relief in New York



Story by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris, 99th Regional Support Command

As gas station lines grew and fuel supplies shrank in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, soldiers with the Army Reserve's 353rd Civil Affairs Command established a fuel-supply point here Nov. 6 to make sure emergency vehicles could continue their relief missions.

This was one of several efforts these Soldiers made to assist local communities in recovering from the effects of the 1,000-mile-wide storm that tore its way across the eastern seaboard of the United States in late October.

"We received contact from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the New York City Office of Emergency Management to request use of our property to set up a fuel point," explained Col. K. E. Kops, deputy commander of the 353rd CACOM. "We coordinated among all the different agencies — the National Park Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, OEM and FEMA — to set that up, and they've been operating a fuel point out of the parking lot of our U.S. Army Reserve property."

In addition to this fuel point, the 353rd CACOM

assisted the National Park Service in establishing a second fuel point on Army Reserve property, as well as helping FEMA set up their shower and food trailers.

The unit also used 2.5-ton Army trucks known as LMTVs (Light Medium Tactical Vehicles) to deliver food, water and other donated items to FEMA distribution points and other locations throughout communities in New York City.

"At the request of New York State Senator Marty Golden, we ran three days of relief pickup and distribution missions," Kops said.

The 353rd CACOM, with support from U.S. Army Reserve Command, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and the 99th Regional Support Command, helped coordinate these relief efforts while they themselves were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

"Immediately following the storm, we had a power



outage on the entire Army Reserve property,” Kops said. “In conjunction with the 8th Medical Brigade, we stood up a 24-hour Emergency Operations Center.

“[Once power was restored] We transferred the EOC over to our building so that we could monitor the emergency supply missions as well as the fuel points,” he said.

As a community-based force, the Army Reserve’s facilities and units are located throughout the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. While this proximity put these assets in harm’s way, it also allowed a quick response by the Army Reserve Soldiers who live, work and train in their communities.

“I serve as a detective with the New York City Police Department, and I’ve been in the military for 27 years,” said Capt. Paul Norden, assistant chief of staff for intelligence with the 353rd CACOM. “We’ve been overseas numerous times helping out other countries in their time of need, and being able to help your own

(Above) Master Sgt. Michael Didonato (right), 353rd Civil Affairs Command, helps distribute Hurricane Sandy emergency relief supplies in the Rockaways, N.Y., Nov. 4. (Opposite) Staff Sgt. Michael Schilling, 353rd Civil Affairs Command, prepares to distribute Hurricane Sandy emergency relief supplies in the Rockaways, N.Y.

community —“ providing fuel to emergency responders, going out into the community and helping out with relief efforts, bringing supplies to people —“ that’s one of the most satisfying things we can ever be called upon to do.”

It’s great knowing that we are contributing,” said Sgt. Tiksehwar Ramrup, human resources specialist with the 353rd CACOM. “We are very proud to know that we are making a big contribution to the hurricane relief effort and assisting the people who really need it.”

Through efforts such as this, the Army Reserve continues to offer aid to its fellow community members as they recover from the effects of Hurricane Sandy, one neighborhood at a time.

YOUR SHOT

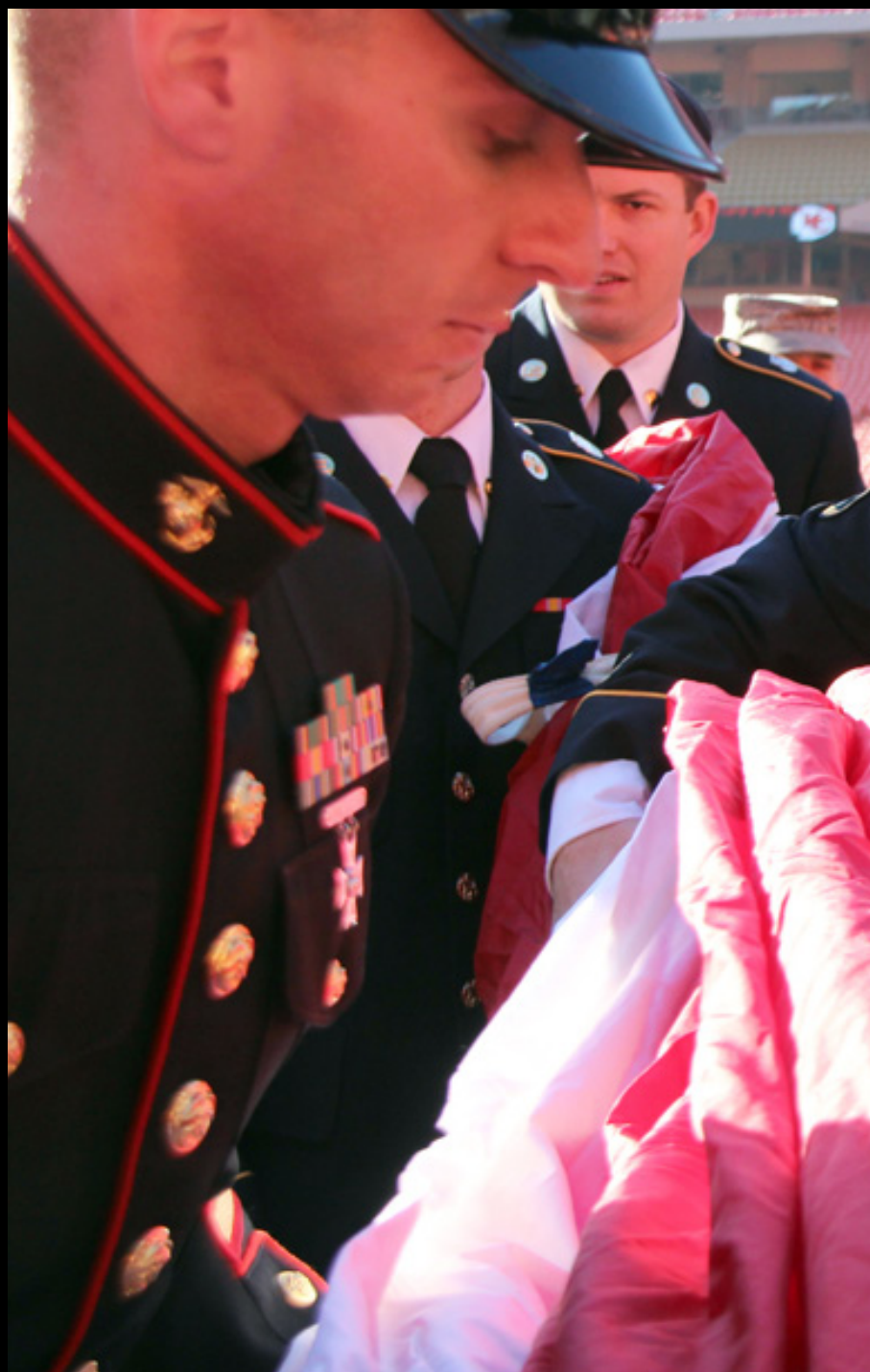
1st Lt. Laura Starin shows digital images her interpreter had taken of the children during a visit to a remote village in the Sangar Valley, Laghman Province, Afghanistan on October 3, 2011. Starin was the first American woman the village had ever seen visit the village. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Hahn)





YOUR SHOT

Staff Sgt. Dan Colvin of the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion assists Marines in folding up the American Flag in Chiefs Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri, November 18th, 2012. Ssg Colvin and other members of the 418th were invited to participate in the Chief's Annual Service Member Appreciation Day. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Loyal Auterson)





TOP SHOT

A Soldier from the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion examines a pomegranate during Afghanistan Pre-Deployment Training (ADAPT) at California State University Fresno on Jan. 25, 2012. Soldiers from the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion and Marines from the 3rd Civil Affairs Group learned methods to help improve Agriculture in Afghanistan prior to deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)



TOP SHOT

Sgt. Nathan Riordan, 412th Civil Affairs Bn. and Sgt. Terrance Carpenter, 352nd CACOM HHC, compete in the Modern Army Combative's tournament at the Gaffney Physical Fitness Center, Fort Meade, Md. on April 3, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)





TOP SHOT

Sgt. Joseph Schrock, 350th Civil Affairs Command, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, plots his points in the dark during the night land navigation portion of the 350th Civil Affairs Command best warrior competition at Camp Bullis, Texas on March 24, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)





TOP SHOT

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 on Staten Island, New York, on June 24, 2012. Van Roosen relinquished command of the 353rd Civil Affairs Command to Brig. Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)





The 437th color guard carries its colors off the parade field for the first time at Joint Expeditionary base Little Creek- Fort Story on Jan. 7, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)







Staff Sgt. Bartholomew Rohde of the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion scale the Confidence Tower during the Obstacle Course portion of the 350th Best Warrior Competition. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura)





Spc. Eric Villalobos, member of the brass quartet of the 82nd Airborne Division, plays the national anthem at the 1st Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Training Brigade change of command ceremony held at the Army Reserve Center at Fort Bragg, N.C. on March 24, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski)

TOP SHOT

*Staff Sgt. Stanley Meyer,
352nd Civil Affairs Command,
gathers his parachute after
hitting the target at Leapfest.
The two-day competition
brought 64 teams from across
the world to Castle Drop Zone
in West Kingston, R.I. (U.S.
Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class
Andy Yoshimura)*





TOP SHOT

Colleen Clancy shows off her father's combat airborne wings while visiting Utah Beach, France, June 2. Clancy's father, John Clancy, was a medic with the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the only unit to participate in four combat jumps during WWII — Sicily Italy, D-Day, Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge. Task Force 68, which is made up of paratroopers from across the U.S. Army, Air Force and The Parachute Regiment's 4th Battalion from London, England, visited Utah Beach, June 2. Task Force 68 is in Normandy, France to commemorate the 68th anniversary of D-Day. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Sharilyn Wells/USACAPOC(A) PAO)





ALLANBY





Sgt. Paul M. Rothfeld, 450th CA Bn., negotiates "The Weaver" obstacle during the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Best Warrior Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C. on May 5, 2012. Rothfeld is representing the 352nd Civil Affairs command from Fort Meade, Md. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

TOP SHOT

Soldiers of the 431st Civil Affairs Battalion, Little Rock Arkansas, listen as WEBCO Mining Division owner Charles Weaver explain the mining operations of WEBCO Mining Quarry on March 3, 2012. The 431st CA Bn. conducts key leader engagement and site assessment of the Quarry located in El Paso Ark. providing soldiers with real world training. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Siemion)









"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 mission." (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski)

TOP SHOT





Pfc. Amber Nolan, 450th Civil Affairs Bn., rucks across Fort Meade, Md. during the 352nd best warrior competition on April 2, 2012. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres)

TOP SHOT

The sunsets at Camp Rilea, Ore on April 13, 2012. Soldiers from the 351st Civil Affairs Command came together at Camp Rilea for the annual Best Warrior Competition which was held April 9 to the 13th. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Amanda Smolinski)



Family Ribbon

350th CACOM prepares families for their Soldiers deployment

Story by Cpt. Christina Kulp, 350th CACOM

350th Civil Affairs Soldiers spent a day with their Family members receiving briefings about military resources ranging from the the American Red Cross to Employer Support. The briefs helped give Families confidence during their Soldier's deployment that the Army was there to help.

Experienced military wife Melissa Salerno provided a demonstration on why Family Readiness Groups host Yellow Ribbon events. She brought up a couple to represent a Soldier and his wife in the "old days". The

Soldier was loaded down with bags, notebooks, and handouts indicating he had received all the necessary information, but when he was pulled away from his wife she was left with nothing.

Yellow Ribbon events ensure everyone with a "need to know" has the proper information on how the Army and Army Reserve supports families.

Some Soldiers and their Families have been through this before so these events sometimes feel repetitive. New Army wife Kirsten Rockwood attended with her husband Cpt. Wyatt Rockwood, who is bound for Afghanistan. The couple married only two months prior and this is Kirsten's first true immersion into her new role. She was grateful for the overview of essential resources. She

commented that even though she was unlikely to remember the specifics it was reassuring to know there was someone to call. Rockwood confirmed that it was important for Soldiers to communicate with their Families, especially when they are new to the military experience.

Brig. Gen. Mark McQueen, 350th CACOM commanding general, felt it was important to support the Soldiers and their Families because without resiliency in families, Soldiers cannot properly do their job overseas. Yellow Ribbon events equip Families to handle the rigors of deployment and reinforce that everyone is part of the Army team. Yellow Ribbon events also address the unique challenges for Army Reserve units and their Families who might not live near active duty installations.

HR Summit

USACAPOC(A) hosts workshop for HR professionals

Story by Lt. Col. Mike Whitescarver, USACAPOC(A)

The focus of the three-day workshop was personnel readiness, unit readiness and leadership development.

Subject matter experts were invited from Human Resources Command, U.S. Army Reserve Command, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and numerous staff members from USACAPOC (A) to provide overviews of their fields.

Hosting a workshop allows G1 and S1 experts at all levels to meet face-to-face, discuss practices and learn from one another.

"I believe every section should get together with their subordinate section. We need to check and see if we are all doing things the same way. Another benefit is being able to put a face to a name," said Becki Caldwell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USACAPOC (A) Unit Administrator.

According to Col. Roger Cotton, Deputy Chief of Staff, G1, the goal of the conference was to bring together key human resource personnel to allow solution development on issues as well as cultivate the HR specialists throughout the command.

"At the core of learning our trade, we have to care," said Cotton. "HR professionals must care about those we help enough to put our best into every action," he said.

"Having the RSCs attend the workshop is a benefit for all. This is an opportunity to meet and greet as well as put faces with names," said Sgt. Maj. Todd Lester, 350th CACOM Chief Human Resources Sergeant.

Col. Barbara Owens, Deputy Chief of Staff, G1 for USARC, spoke to attendees on day three. Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations career managers from HRC discussed the latest trends and developments for 37/38 series Active Guard/Reserve officers.

The workshop yielded a number of ideas including: the need to focus more time with the RSC and Staff Judge Advocate representatives; HRC NCO representatives need to be present next year; and a possible webcast for next year's workshop.

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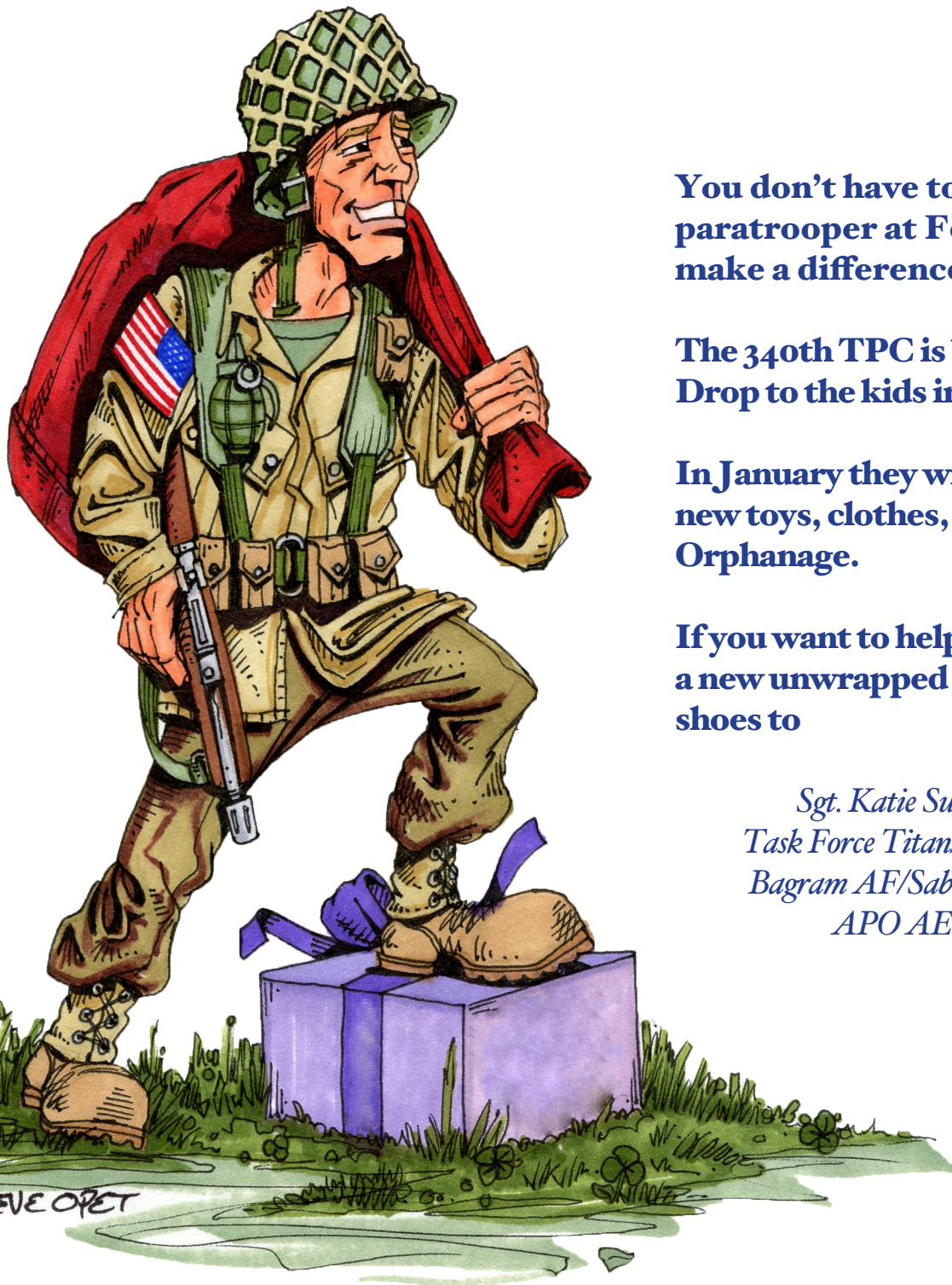
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Operation
Toy Drop
MISSION AFGHANISTAN



You don't have to be a paratrooper at Fort Bragg to make a difference.

The 340th TPC is bringing Toy Drop to the kids in Afghanistan.

In January they will be taking new toys, clothes, and shoes to an Orphanage.

If you want to help, please send a new unwrapped toy, clothes or shoes to

*Sgt. Katie Summerhill
Task Force Titan/333MP BDE
Bagram AF/Sabalu-Harrison
APO AE 09354*

Learn more at
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