Issue 6, Fall/Winter 2011

News and Information from the 412th Theater Engineer Command

New job search features on Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces' web portal Pg 32 94th MP Soldiers help families of their deseased lragi counterparts Pg 14

412th & 416th TEC engineers challenge

The swiftness of the Arkansas River



## ATTENTION AR SOLDIERS!

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

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CLASS 2 FREE EXAM





### CLASS 3 FREE DENTAL TREATMENT

CLASS 4 FREE DENTAL EXAM

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

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

#### Standardized Dental Fitness Classifications\*

Worldwide Deployment with no further treatment required. Class 1:

Class 2: Worldwide Deployment with need for non-urgent routine treatment.

Nondeployable without treatment for urgent conditions that likely will cause a dental emergency within 12 months. Class 3:

Nondeployable with no examination documented within the past 12 months. Class 4:

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



## "Dental Ready=Mission Ready"

Check in at www.USARDentalBytes.com and get your FREE—oral health e-newsletters.

www.USARDentalBytes.com. Log in with Secret Password: AR2009

Soldiers with Dental Class 3 and Class 4 conditions can now get FREE CARE to become dental ready. See your Unit Administrator today, or call 1-800-666-2833.



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#### Fall/Winter 2011

Commander Maj. Gen. Paul F. Hamm

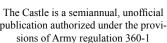
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#### Photo by, Pfc, Devin Wood, 412th TEC PAO

**Cover photo**-As the sun rises above the Arkansas River, Soldiers of the 671st Engineer Company piece together their section of an improved ribbon bridge. The 341st Engineer Company constructed the other half working from the opposite side of the river during Operation "River Assault" on July 21, 2010. River Assault is an engineer training exercise conducted annually by the 412th and 416th Theater Engineer Commands. (Story, page 18)





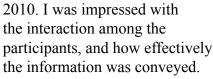


## A Word from the Commander

would like to wish you and your family a very happy new year with much success in all your endeavours. I would also like to

thank you and your loved ones for your service to our country especially in this time of crisis.

As we move forward into the new year, let me say how please I am with the Commanders Conference we conducted in Nov.,



Maj. Gen. Paul F. Hamm

I look forward to positive results, because commanders, staff members, command sergeants major, and first sergeants were well armed with useful information to help them

manage their units. We invited battalion staff members for the first time, and I think this will pay off for the battalions. Typically, we invite brigade and battalion

commanders plus their staff members and command sergeants major. Beginning with the last conference, I asked each battalion to bring one company commander along with the first sergeant and command team. Some of the information may not have been applicable at

the company level, but it was good professional development. The attendees got to see the magnitude and complexity of the decisionmaking processes at the brigade and Command levels.

We have made significant progress in the area of safety, which is one of my top priorities. Everything that we do, on and

off duty, needs to be done safely. I tell Commanders and NCOs to be ruthless about safety, and to demand that Soldiers meet the standards. The metrics on safety training continue to improve throughout the Command, and I am proud of that accomplishment. We need to increase our young Soldiers' safety awareness during training.

The TEC Headquarters recently underwent a United States Army Reserve Command safety inspection, and I was pleased with the results. The TEC improved considerably since the prior inspection, and the USARC team made positive observations about the Command's direction regarding safety. I encourage everyone to continue with the progress we have made, and make sure that all Soldiers adhere to safety procedures. Be ruthless about safety!



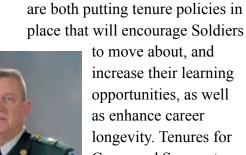
## Command Sergeant Major's Corner

412th Theater Engineer Command

fter spending nearly a year in Afghanistan Deployable Command Post One, it's great to be back at home in the States.

Many things have changed in the Army Reserve since we deployed in Sept., 2009. The Reserve

has reached its end strength, so the next step is restructuring the force. The Noncommissioned Officer Education System for enlisted Soldiers is in the process of changing, and it is a careerchanging event. United States Army Reserve Command and the



Command Sgt. Maj. Guy Taylor

increase their learning opportunities, as well as enhance career longevity. Tenures for **Command Sergeants** Major are changing also from a four-year tour to a three-year tour.

In 2011, there will be many changes within

the command. For example, both Maj. Gen. Paul Hamm and I will retire. The new TEC commander. who has not yet been identified, will also pick his new Command Sergeant Major. With the new tenure policies and retirements,

the TEC Headquarters will see many new faces.

There are opportunities for advancement and promotion within the Army Reserve for qualified Soldiers. Everyone must prepare to take advantage of these opportunities through training.

The Army as a force is changing quickly, and we (Soldiers) must change and adapt to fit into the new force. We must help our Soldiers get the training needed to fit into this force. We have to start now. The new NCOES system is a career event, and we can't allow our Soldiers to fall behind. Get a head start on your career with your military education.



# One of us





Cpl. James Chad Young, May 1985 -Nov. 2010

Contributed photo

pl. James Chad Young, 323rd Engineer Company, Spartanburg, S.C. was killed when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, Nov. 2, 2010.

The 25-year-old combat engineer from Rochester Ill., joined the active Army in 2004. He served in Afghanistan from March 2007-May 2008, then he went into the Individual Ready Reserve in September that same

year. While in the IRR, Young received mobilization orders recalling him to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Feb. 2010-March 2011.

He reported to Fort Benning Ga., where he joined the Reserve Component's 323rd Engineer Company. The unit reported to Fort McCoy Wisc., on April 13, 2010 to train with the 823rd Engineer Battalion before deploying to Afghanistan as part of Task Force Linebacker.

#### Photo by, Spc. Adam Fischman, Illinois Army National Guard

(L) Members of the Illinois Army National Guard's ceremonial unit honorably transfer the body of Army Reserve Cpl. James Chad Young, of Rochester, Ill, at the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield, Nov. 11, 2010.



Soldiers of 1st Detachment, 94th Military Police Company, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, pull a trailer filled with bags of supplies for family members of fallen Iraqi Policemen Sept. 14 before a ceremony in Baghdad.

## 94th MP Soldiers coordinate aid for families of fallen Iraqi Policemen

Story and photos by Pfc. Emily Knitter, 1st AAB, 3rd Inf. Div., USD-C

Women and children sat on a long row of black couches as Iraqi Police officers and Soldiers of 1st Detachment, 94th Military Police Company, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, carried overflowing white plastic bags into the room. Some of the children stared at the bags from across the long wooden table in the middle of the room, hoping to get a glance inside.

But a few children with sad eyes sat next to their mothers, uninterested in the commotion. The children were a solemn reminder of why everyone was gathered.

These women and children are the widows and orphans of fallen Iraqi Policemen of the Baghdad Police Headquarters, killed in the line of duty.

Soldiers with 1st Det., 94th MP Co. partnered with the Baghdad Police Headquarters to give the victims' family members bags of clothes and toys Sept. 14 during a ceremony in Baghdad.

The officers of the Baghdad Police Headquarters, also known as the Patrol Police, are stationed around the city to provide security near highly congested areas, businesses and mosques.

"(The Iraqi Police officers) have an extremely dangerous job," said 1st Lt. Eric Giles, assistant operations officer of the Baghdad Police Advisory Team and a team leader with 1st Det., 94th Military Police Co., based out of Saco, Maine. "When (the BPAT was) talking to the Iraqi Police, we learned that they have a number of officers killed in the line of duty who left widows behind. One of the things the



Pfc. Wayne Ham 94th Military Police Company hands a bag of supplies intended for widows of fallen Iraqi policemen to Spc. Theresa Bowne also of the 94th Military Police Company.

(Patrol Police) do is pay that officer's salary to the family."

To augment the salary the widowed family receives, the BPAT arranged the delivery of bags full of clothes, toys and personal hygiene supplies.

"When they bring the families in to give them their paychecks, we thought it would be a great time to give the families a little something extra from the people back (in the U.S.)," Giles said. "We have built such a good relationship with the IP command that we can make this happen."

When the BPAT approached Patrol Police officers about donating the supplies, the idea was immediately approved and organization began.

"In every occasion, we try to find an opportunity to appreciate our (fallen) and what they gave up in order to provide security for Baghdad and to protect our citizens," said Maj. Gen. Sabah Hassan Al-Shelby, commander of the Patrol Police. "We also try to follow up with the families to make sure they get all the benefits."

The items given to the families were collected through donations from people back in the U.S., and Soldiers here in Iraq.

"Especially now that we have progressed to Operation New Dawn, this mission offers us a purpose for being here," said Capt. Page Brooks, a chaplain with the Louisiana National Guard, and one of the key organizers of the event. "Now that we have ended combat operations, we are getting down to the very personal needs of the Iraqi people in order to encourage them."

For the Soldiers of 1st Det., 94th MP Co., this was the first time they have had the opportunity to participate in an event like this.

One Soldier said he felt a little like Santa Claus during the drive to deliver the supplies.

"This puts faces with the operations we are doing," Brooks said. "It gives the Soldiers a sense of purpose, (because they are) touching people on a personal level rather than just doing operational missions or combat operations. It allows us to see the joy on the kids' faces as they pick up a toy, or the families when they see the things we have collected for them."

Once all the bags were carried into the room, some of the Soldiers were asked by Al-Shelby to personally hand the bags to the widows and orphans.

Capt. Armando Carbajal, the BPAT operations officer, was called forward as a young boy and girl walked forward timidly. Al-Shelby explained that their father had been the same rank as Carbajal when he was killed. A police officer back in the U.S., Carbajal also has three children of his own.

"(When I walked up there) I immediately thought of my own son and what he would have felt," Carbajal said. "I had no idea that the general was going to call me up there, but I wanted to give those kids something tangible, because I know if someone did that for my own son, it would have made a huge difference."

So Carbajal took the rank off the front of his uniform and handed it to the boy.

"Being a police officer, I have attended many memorial services like that, and I know how important for those kids it is so have something to hold onto and remember their father," he said. "Since



Spc. Theresa Bowne, 94th Military Police Company, hands a bag of supplies donated by the U.S. military the widow of a fallen Iraqi police officer at a Baghdad Police Headquarters on September14, 2010

I am also a captain, I wanted the boy to know the mutual respect that is held between two cops, and also that the U.S. forces and his father were on the same team."

Fifteen families were presented gift bags during the ceremony. Each time a widow or orphan came forward to receive their bag, the appreciation in their faces was shadowed with sadness.

"As a police headquarters, we have 750 fallen policemen whose blood has been shed to show the stability and security (of Iraq) and to protect the citizens," Al-Shelby said. "We remember them all the time."

As U.S. forces step back and now advise and assist the Iraqi government and Iraqi Security Forces with taking control of the daily operations of their country, it is events like this that keep the two countries intertwined.

Giles said when he deployed to Iraq for the first time in 2003, there were little amenities for Soldiers, so family members had to send care packages full of shaving cream and other toiletry items. Now that

the military forces are drawing down, well-stocked exchange stores meet the need for basic supplies, and family members no longer need to send similar items.

"A lot of people back home know that today, so they are looking for something to do," Giles said. "I think they know that by (donating supplies for the Iraqi people), it helps us in our jobs and in everything we are doing with the Iraqi people."

Al-Shelby agreed, saying, "We thank you and appreciate all the teams' efforts. What you did was a beautiful humanitarian effort which is really truly appreciated."

The event also made an impact on the Soldiers.

"This has really been a great event bringing everyone together," Brooks said. "It gives us a sense of helping the Iraqi people, and I think it also lets the Iraqi people know that we are not just (handing) everything over to them, but that we also care about them personally after these tragedies happen. It is a great partnership between our units here, the Iraqi Police and our families back home."



## 2011 Schedule



4-6 FEB married Only and 15-17 JUL Families Only

Feb 4-6	Hilton Head S.C
Feb 25-27	Orlando Fl
Mar 4-6	Savannah Ga.
Mar 25-27	Orlando Fla,
Apr 1-3	Orlando Fla.
Apr 29-May 1	Orlando Fla.
May 13-15	Savannah Ga.
Jun 3-5	New Orleans
Jul 15-17	Orlando Fla.
Jul 29-31	Orlando Fla.
Aug 5-7	Savannah Ga.

Questions? Contact SSG Jeremy Glasco at RSC081 STRONGBONDS@usar.army.mil or call 803-751-3230



## 99th Regional Support Command AOR

February 25-27	Poconos, Pa.	Singles
March 4-6	Washington, DC	Marriage
March 11-13	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Singles
March 25-27	Gettysburg, Pa.	Family
April 1-3	New Hampshire	Singles
April 8-10	Poconos, Pa.	Marriage
May 20-22	Lake George, N.Y.	Marriage
June 3-5	Washington, DC	Family
June 10-12	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Family
June 10-12	Niagara Falls, N.Y.	Marriage
June 24-26	Virginia Beach, Va.	Advanced Marriage
June 24-26	New Hampshire	Marriage
July 8-10	Poconos, Pa.	Singles
July 15-17	Washington, DC	Singles
July 15-17	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Marriage
July 22-24	Boston, Md.	Singles
July 29-31	Gettysburg, Pa.	Marriage
July 29-31	New Hampshire	Family
August 5-7	Charleston, W.Va.	Marriage
August 5-7	Poconos, Pa.	Family
August 12-14	Virginia Beach, Va.	Marriage
August 19-21	New Hampshire	Marriage
August 19-21	New Hampshire	Marriage

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Inside the Castle \_\_\_\_\_\_ Inside the Castle

## **Double TEC'** at Operation River Assault 2010

Boats dashed in all directions across the river to retrieve bridge sections that dropped from CH-47 Chinook helicopters above, and trucks positioned on the river banks.

"You have to control all the work boats and make sure they are all in the right order and make sure the safety boat does its drills as well," said Sgt. Pierre Dubois of the 671st Engineer Company. The Soldiers assembled the 320 meter temporary bridge in approximately 90 minutes; 30 minutes ahead of schedule.

"The Arkansas River offers the bridging units a realistic training opportunity," said Sgt. 1st Class William Richards, the 412th Theater Engineer Command's training non-commissioned officer. "Not only do they have to deal with the distance of the crossing, but the river flow as well."

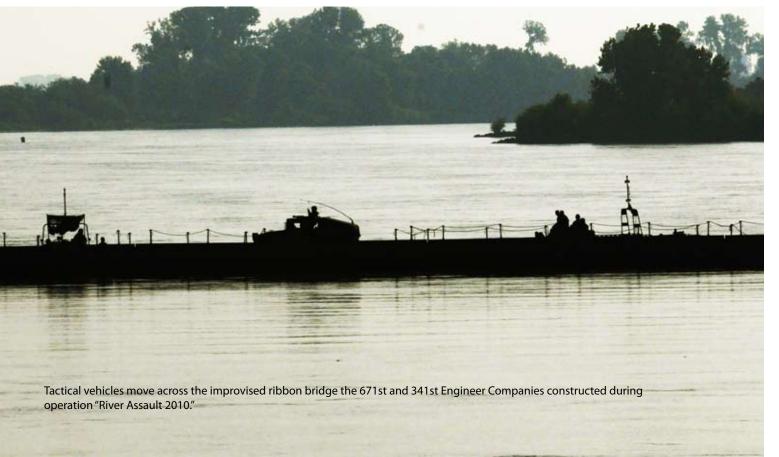
Once completed, the company commanders known as "Bridge Masters" inspected the structure for completeness and safety. The bridge was then cleared for traffic, and Brig. Gen. Jimmy Fowler, the 412th's deputy commander, led a convoy of 27 tactical vehicles across the span.

"My younger soldiers learned so much I have no doubt in my mind, after this exercise, that these guys can now operate any of this equipment perfectly," said Sgt. Jacob Hibbeln of the 671st Engineer Company.

"I was with the "build" crew and they showed me how the bridge works, which latches to throw, and how to put it together properly," said Pfc. Corey Williams, a 671st Engineer Company Soldier taking part in his first Extended Combat Training. "I'm enjoying it, except I don't really like the heat."

The Arkansas River tested the engineers, and earlier that week United States Army Reserve Command ran an informal test of its own. Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz. the USARC commander, visited River Assault and observed the 412th and the 416th TECs working together. Both two star commands changed from engineer commands to theater engineer commands when the Army Reserve transformed from the Regional Support Structure to the current Functional Command Structure in Oct. 2009.

"I said I want two engineer commands that are responsible for the engineer assets I got in the





Soldiers of the 671st Engineer Company use boats to steady part of an improved ribbon bridge prior to disassembly. The Soldiers constructed the bridge across the Arkansas River with the 341st Engineer Company during Operation "River Assault" 2010. River Assault is an engineer training exercise conducted annually by the 412th and 416th Theater Engineer Commands.

Army Reserve," Stultz said. "And I want them in various stages of readiness, year one, two, three, four and deployed."

The 412th inherited all the engineer units east of the Mississippi River, and the 416th got the ones to the west, according to Maj. Gen. Paul F. Hamm, the 412th commander.

"Amazingly it divided up evenly," Hamm said. "We each got approximately 12,000 Soldiers...we each have three brigades; two engineer brigades and one Maneuver Enhancement Brigade."

During River Assault, the 412th was the executive agent, and one its subsidiaries, the 926th Engineer Battalion, maintained command

and control of the subordinate units, most of which came from the 416th.

"We've all gelled together and things have worked out," Hamm said. "As we know, units will go into theater and they'll work with other units they're not necessarily accustomed to."

"I'm impressed," Stultz said, after spending two days at River Assault.

He witnessed, and in some cases participated in, training that ranged from a demolition range, to bridging operations.

Stultz said the different types of training he saw at River Assault are examples of what Soldiers want.

"Don't waste my time," Stultz

said. "If you're gonna train me, train me. And make it realistic. Don't make it...sitting in the class room listening to somebody talk. Put me out here on the water, let me put a bridge together, let me get hot and sweaty and dehydrated."

The fact that the Soldiers built the bridge and were able to get the vehicles across represents the true test of the training, according to Hamm.

"We spanned the river," Hamm said, from his vantage point on a nearby barge. "It's not often they get the opportunity to bridge a river with the size and velocity of the Arkansas."

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura 416th TEC PAO

Spc. Melquiades Perez, 358th Engineer Company prepares stud ends for the construction of a Southwest Asia Hut during Operation Essayons 2010 at Fort McCoy, Wis., June 21..

Engineers from the 412th and 416th Theater Engineer Commands help renovate training areas at Fort McCoy, Wisc., during...

## **Operation Essayons 2010**

Story by Staff Sgt. Marla Keown 207th PAD

he saws roared, the hammers pounded and heavy equipment engines were so loud that they vibrated the core of anyone who happened to be near a work site during

Operation Essayons 2010 at Fort McCoy, Wisc., June
12 – 26. It was hard to miss the hustle and bustle of the exercise with the multitude of Army Reservists taking part in their two-week annual training.

The engineer Soldiers honed their technical skills and some of Fort McCoy's training areas got a facelift.

"Think of how much money we are saving the base commander by having our soldiers doing work out here," said Maj. Anthony B. Puckett, the exercise's operations officer.

Eleven subordinate units from the 467th and 489th Engineer Battalions worked on 15 different projects. The Soldiers built training classrooms known as South West Asia Huts, berms, and gravel roads for a new privately owned weapon range.

"Operation Essayons is the biggest construction exercise out here," said Sgt. Scott Larock, the troop project non-commissioned officer in charge. "All the construction is technical and all the Soldiers train on the technical aspects of their Military Occupational Specialties."

Motivation was contagious, according to Sgt.

Daniel Buchholtz, a carpentry, and masonry specialist

with the 672nd Engineer Company.

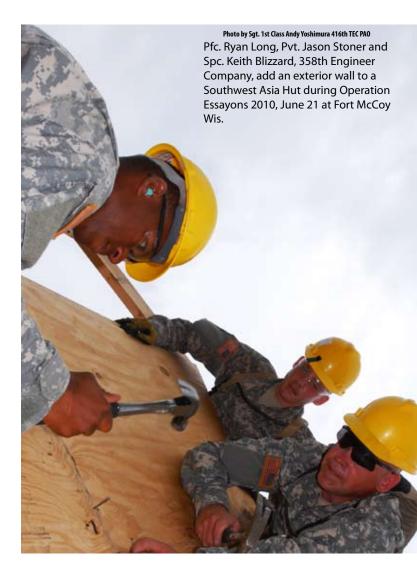
"We have been out here for two days just busting tail, in the heat, nonstop just to get the job done," said Buchholtz. "There wasn't one person complaining and to top it off we had our chief and first sergeant out here. They took their blouses off and went right to work."

"Engineers are a totally different breed than anyone else in the military," said Spc. Steven J. Lueloff, a heavy equipment operator for the 327th Engineer Company. "You have your group of people that work hard, and then you have your group of people that work harder. I'd like to think that we are the people that work harder."

"When you go to the construction sites and see everyone is gainfully employed and you see one on one interaction...teaching the troops how to correct what they are doing and getting thorough explanations...that is the key for Operation Essayons, that the troops get training," said Larock.

Soldiers who trained at Operation Essayons this year will be able to move on to the next level of training next year at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

**Below**Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andy Yoshimura 416th TECPA
Soldiers of the 358th Engineer Company build their final Southwest
Asia Hut during Operation Essayons 2010 at Fort McCoy, Wis., June
21. The Reservists constructed six huts during their two-week
annual training.







Story & photos by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

natural disaster similar in magnitude to Hurricane Katrina, or a terrorist attack like Sept. 11, are both examples of incidents that could cause the Department of Defense to activate The 369th Fire Fighter Detachment.

The unit, from Norristown, Pa., has a two-year commitment with U.S. Army Northern Command, a subordinate of the Department of Homeland Security. The Reservists are now part of a task force that specializes in the search and extraction of victims from urban areas after major disasters.

The task force is commonly known by the acronym that bears its name, CCMRF, which is pronounced, "see-smurf." The first C in the acronym stands for CBRNE or "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives." The other four letters stand for Consequence Management Response Force.

The CCMRF mission includes supporting civilian authorities when disasters overwhelm state and local responders.

"The disaster can be natural or man made, within 24 to 72 hours, we have to be on the ground," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy McCool, the unit's fire chief.

The 369th can operate independently, or they can augment a team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We're also trained to operate in Level-B protective clothing, which is essentially those big white suits you see HAZMAT teams wearing," said Spc. Christopher Feder, a 369th fire fighter.

To prepare for their new role, the Soldiers trained on Urban Search and Rescue techniques for 70 days

Inside the Castle \_\_\_\_\_\_ Inside the Castle



Photo by Sgt. 1st Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

Staff Sgt. Christopher Perry, repels from a building during Urban Search and Rescue refresher training at the Montgomery County Fire Academy in Norristown, Pa., on Oct. 24, 2010.

at The Florida State Fire College in Ocala. The Directorate of

Homeland Operations mandated the training to elevate the firefighters' capabilities to FEMA standards.

"They worked six days a week, 12-hour days," McCool said. "Ninety-two degree heat, 70 percent humidity they were in level-B suits training."

The Soldiers graduated from the fire college with certifications in all levels of the Urban Search and Rescue Technical Program on Aug. 18, 2010.

"They're now the first military organization to graduate Soldiers from the entire search and rescue

series," said Lillian DeIorio, an office assistant at the College's Urban Search and Rescue department.

"They're also the first Army Reservists to be CCMRF qualified," McCool saild. In an ongoing effort to stay proficient, they practiced rope rescue techniques from tall buildings at the Montgomery County Fire Academy in Norristown, Pa., on Oct. 24-25, 2010.

"The Soldiers are involved; they're motivated, and they're very astute to the learning techniques being provided to them," said Jeff Harris, a USNORTHCOM official who observed the training.

Harris said the Soldiers impressed him with their



Photo by Sgt. 1st Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

Pfc. Justin Holtzman practices knot-tying techniques during Urban Search and Rescue training at the Montgomery County Fire Academy in Norristown, Pa., Oct. 24, 2010.

ability to retain the different rope tying techniques, as well as the other skills that made up the curriculum.

"Depending upon each incident there's a different technique, or tactic," Harris said. "It's pretty difficult to remember all those skills because they're perishable."

McCool says the unit's effectiveness is due to proper training, and competent Soldiers with positive attitudes.

"I've always had good numbers, good people, and good drill attendance," McCool said.

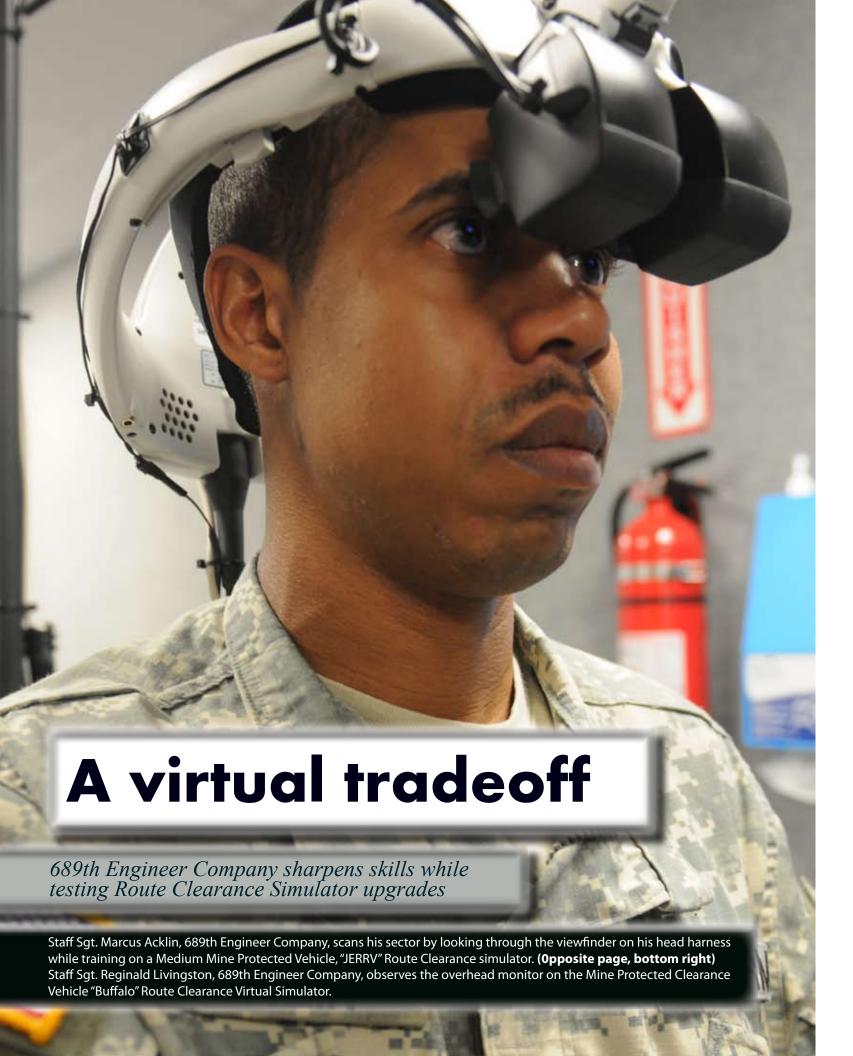
Harris says he has no problem reporting to his superiors that the 369th is prepared to execute if there's ever a need to activate the unit.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

Sgt. Seth Berman (L) and Spc. Christopher Feder, (R) 369th Fire Fighter Detachment, use the buddy system to check each others equipment before repelling from a building during Urban Search and Rescue refresher training at the Montgomery County Fire Academy in Norristown, Pa., on Oct. 24, 2010.

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Story by Pfc. Devin M. Wood, 412th TEC PAO

olling out on mounted patrols, engaging enemy insurgents, and interrogating roadside bombs from a semi-trailer in Daytona Beach?

Fifteen Soldiers from the 689th Engineer Company validated upgrades to the Army's route clearance simulator, Aug. 16-20, 2010. Program administrators selected the 689th because the Reservists conducted route clearance operations in Iraq from 2007-2008.

"Most of these guys have more than 200 route clearance missions under their belts," said Captain Shawn McKinney, Commander of the 689th Engineer Company.

Simulator upgrades include a "seat shaker" and a vibrating steering column on the "Buffalo" Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle, the "Husky" Vehicular Mounted Mine Detector, and the Medium Mine Protected Vehicles "JERRV" and "RG31."

"With the vibrations in the steering column and seat, depending on speed, you actually feel like you are driving off road and your controls reflect that," said Maj. Timothy McGrew, assistant product manager, Ground Tactical Combat Trainers.

"It's like I'm driving my Buffalo back in country again," said Staff Sgt. Reginald Livingston. "There are instances where I forget and have to remind myself I'm in a simulator."

The Man Transportable Robotic Systems "Talon" got a detonation cord, and the entire system now has an Afghanistan database.

The Soldiers got an opportunity to sharpen their skills on the equipment, then they provided feedback to the programmers during an After Action Review.

"The opportunities to get on real equipment and train are minimal when you're stateside," said McKinney. "To keep their abilities and muscle memory, it's good to go out and exercise it from time to time."

"This program has trained more than 22,000 Soldiers, and the feedback we get is 'Hey, this is just like the equipment I sat in when I deployed last year," said McGrew.

Route Clearance simulator training was not available when the 689th deployed. Livingston says he's certain that Soldiers who train on the simulator will be better prepared

than he was.
"Simply knowing
how to turn a corner
and knowing that the
Buffalo does not turn
like a car. Knowing
that if I turn this corner
without hitting the dirt,
because that's where
they put the bombs."
Livingston said. "I
have no doubt in my
mind that this is going
to save someone's
life."



Fall/Winter 11



Photo by Sgt. 1st Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PA

Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Tony Knecht addresses employees, family members and customers of a furniture store in Pearl Miss., prior to showing the employees the proper way to fold the U.S. flag on Nov. 11, 2010.

Story by, Maj. Jesse Stalder, & Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Eugene, 412th TEC PAO

gt. Maj. Tony Knecht met Maj. Greg Morris for their carpool in front of a furniture store in Pearl, Miss., one morning in March 2010. Knecht noticed that the giant American flag that normally waves from a pole in front of the store was on the ground.

He told Morris that leaving the flag was like leaving a fallen Soldier.

"I immediately felt a sense of responsibility to do the right thing," Morris said.

No one was around to see what followed, but in the early-morning darkness, the two Army Reservists folded the flag into a triangle symbolic of the hats worn by colonial Soldiers during the war of independence.

"There was a real bad storm the night before...it was heavy, it was wet, it was large, we couldn't get it off the ground to fold it, so we folded it like we would an Army tent," Knecht said. "The cable was broken, that's why it was on the ground."

The time was approximately 6:30 a.m. and the store was closed, so the Soldiers laid the folded flag on a bench at the base of the pole where someone from the store could find it.

Morris and Knecht then headed off to work at the 412th Theater Engineer Command in Vicksburg, Miss.

Later that morning, Doug McNeily, a store employee, found the folded flag where the Reservists had left it. He immediately called Mark Waters, the distribution manager.

"I told Mark, 'you're not gonna believe this, someone folded our flag military style," McNeily said.

"It was unbelievable... they folded a flag that was 50 feet by 30 feet into a perfect triangle," Waters said when he saw the flag.

Waters and McNeily reviewed the video tape from the stores parking lot surveillance camera, but the video was dark.

"It could've been gremlins that did it for all we knew," McNeily said. "We couldn't see anything."

Nearly six months later, the 412th TEC's deputy public affairs officer learned of what the Soldiers had done, and he called the furniture store to find out if they had found the flag.

"We definitely appreciated their efforts and would like them to come by the store and show us how to



oto by Sgt. 1st Phillip Eugene 412th TEC PAO

Mark Waters, (L) distribution manager of a furniture store in Pearl Miss., and Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Tony Knecht (R) raise a U.S. flag, 50 feet by 30 feet, at the store's location on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2010.

fold the flag the proper military way," Waters said via telephone.

Morris, who has since transferred from the 412th TEC, was unavailable and couldn't accept the invitation, but Knecht who retired on Sept. 1, lives in Brandon Miss., so he took Waters up on the offer.

On Veterans Day Nov. 11, Sgt. Wilnessial Kingdom, also of the 412th TEC, joined Knecht outside the furniture store at the flagpole to show more than 10 store employees how to fold the flag correctly.

In a ceremonial atmosphere, in front of family members, customers, and the media, the store managers and the employees thanked the Soldiers for their service to the country, and Knecht for recovering the flag back in March.

The Soldiers and the employees lowered the flag; then Knecht guided them through the painstaking process of folding the oversized fabric.

When it was over, they posed for pictures holding the tightly folded star spangled triangle with the red and white stripes tucked neatly inside.

"This is how we're going to handle the flag from now on," Waters said. "In the past we'd just put it in a box."

Knecht said there's nothing special about what he and Morris did that morning in March, and he'd like to think that anyone in the same situation would do the same thing.



Inside the Castle Fall/Winter 11



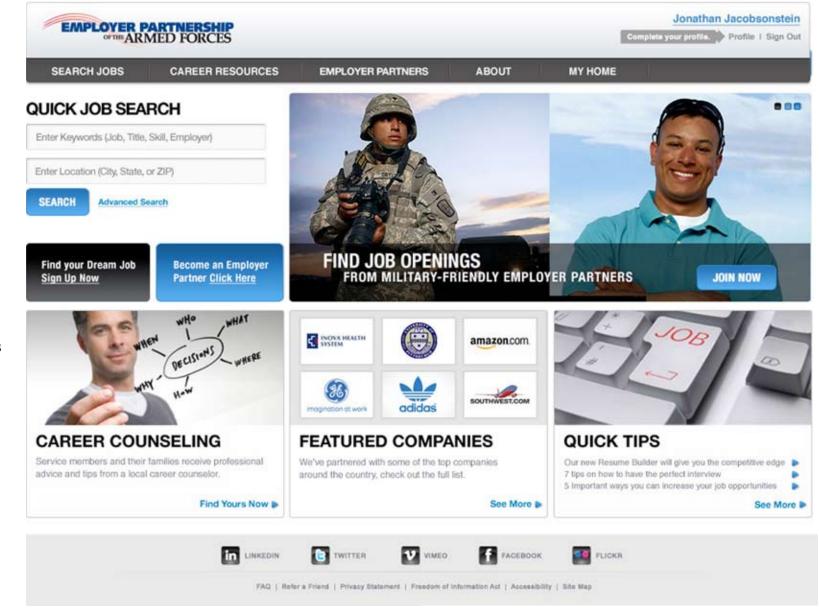
## launches powerful job search tool

Story by Lt. Col. Matt Leonard, Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces

he Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces launched its new web portal on November 12. This new portal offers Army Reserve Soldiers, their Family members, Wounded Warriors, and veterans increased capabilities when seeking employment opportunities. The portal vastly improves Employer Partner's access to talent as well.

No longer does a job seeker have to re-enter basic personal information every time a search is launched. Instead, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity. A user may now set-up a personal profile so that he or she is able to save searches, search parameters and individual job announcements within their own "dashboard". By activating the alert option, seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers other useful features as well. The Resume Builder allows users to create and keep their resume available within the system. Soldiers



have an additional feature available to them: access to the Program Support Manager network for career counseling and resume assistance. The new portal's functionality improvements make the search and application process much more efficient, saving Soldiers and other job seekers time.

But the improvements don't stop there. Employers will find the new portal more useful as well. They are now able to enter position vacancies directly into the system and track those jobs, applications and views through their company dashboard. Employers may also reach in to the system and locate the resumes of qualified candidates who may not have had the chance to apply themselves. So just by posting your resume you may be contacted by an employer who needs your skills.

If you had previously used the old job search tool, you should definitely check out the new portal. Although the web link, www.EmployerPartnership. org is the same, you are now in the driver's seat and this definitely is not your father's Oldsmobile.



## Safe AMV operations key to mission success

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

properly maintained and safely operated
Army Motor Vehicle is a critical component
of a larger task: mission accomplishment.
Winter or summer, Soldiers and leaders
must focus on keeping AMVs in service and ensuring
safe operations to complete the mission, said Richard
Scott, a safety and occupational health specialist with
the Ground Task Force at the U.S. Army Combat
Readiness/Safety Center.

"Getting to the fight with all your equipment is critical. If some combat forces can't get to the fight, the unit becomes less capable of achieving their mission, and it puts the remaining forces at increased risk," he explained. "The same is true with maintenance and support personnel who may not be available to support the warfighter because their vehicle became disabled over a maintenance issue or was damaged in a non-combat related driving accident and they didn't make it to the fight."

While not making it to the fight is a serious problem, dealing with malfunctioning or wrecked vehicles becomes more dangerous during contact with the enemy.

"There's no good time for a vehicle to malfunction," Scott said. "If it breaks down while you're in contact, Soldiers may have to exit the vehicle to effect repairs and that increases their exposure to enemy fire."

During the fall and winter months, it becomes increasingly important to ensure tires, brakes, windshield wipers and headlights are in good working order on all AMVs. Additionally, leaders must make

sure all operators read their AMV manuals and have the appropriate training, time and equipment to set the conditions for AMV mission success.

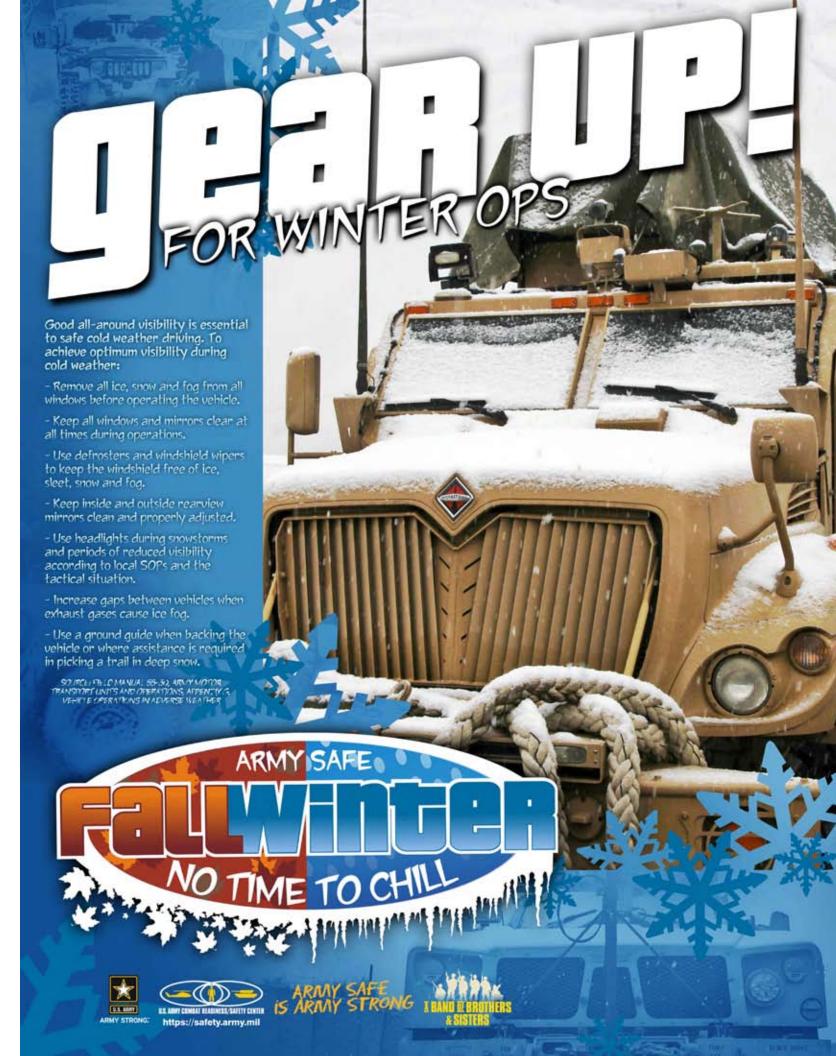
"Leaders must ensure each vehicle has the emergency equipment and basic issue items for cold weather," Scott said. "Technical manuals provide specific guidance for each type of vehicle, telling the leader and operator what equipment is required, and what to do and check before, during and after cold weather operations. Not knowing the vehicle and exceeding the AMV's limitation is an open invitation for an accident."

Knowing the vehicle and having the right equipment are only part of the risk management solution for keeping AMV operators safe during cold weather driving. Safe operations while moving are also important.

Maintenance issues in theater benefit from modern practices and a mature maintenance system. However, an AMV out of service because of a maintenance issue or one that's wrecked due to unsafe driving are both out of the fight.

"Over the past few years, the Army has received new test equipment that helps mechanics troubleshoot problems quickly and efficiently, which leads to fewer mechanical problems. But unsafe driving habits that cause a wreck and take an AMV out of the fight will hurt the best maintenance program in the world," Scott said.

More information on AMV safety and many other fall and winter safety topics is available online at https://safety.army.mil under the Fall/Winter Safety Campaign tab.



Inside the Castle

## EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES



Army Reserve Soldiers gain highly sought after, civilian-ready skills. The Employer Partnership Office will help you use these skills to enhance both your military and civilian careers. For more information, visit www.employerpartnership.org or call 1-877-450-HIRE (4473).

