

# The Pulse

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 807TH MDSC  
SUMMER/FALL 2012, VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



## **Global Impact**

**807th Units Aid Foreign Nations Through Training and Humanitarian Assistance**

## **Changing of the Guard**

**Maj. Gen. Craig Bugno Takes Command From Maj. Gen. Chang**

## **Honoring an American Hero**

**Capt. John P. Gaffaney Memorialized in California**

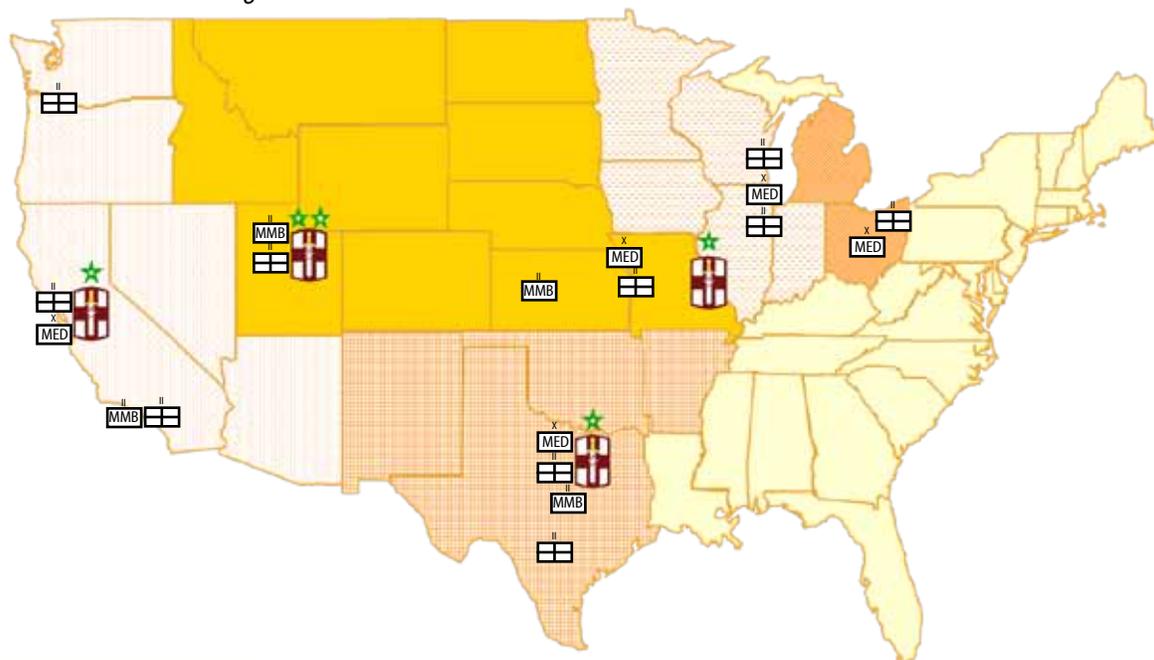
# About the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support)

The 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) consists of over 11,000 Soldiers and 116 units from Ohio to California. The command was established as a Medical Detachment during World War II in 1944 in England, and has evolved over the years into one of the three major medical commands in the U.S. Army Reserve. The command is headquartered in Salt Lake City and has five brigades responsible for command and control (located in Blacklick, Ohio, Independence, Mo., Seagoville, Texas, Fort Sheridan, Ill., and San Pablo, Calif.)

The command offers full-spectrum medical capabilities to U.S. military forces on deployment and to civilians during humanitarian support missions.

According to the Army Campaign Plan, the 807th is the theater medical command aligned with U.S. Southern Command, which covers Central and South America as well as the Caribbean nations. In addition, 807th Soldiers and units deploy worldwide in support of global medical theater operations.

This publication is the official magazine of the command, dedicated to showcase the capabilities and the actions of the command as its Soldiers perform their duties throughout the world.



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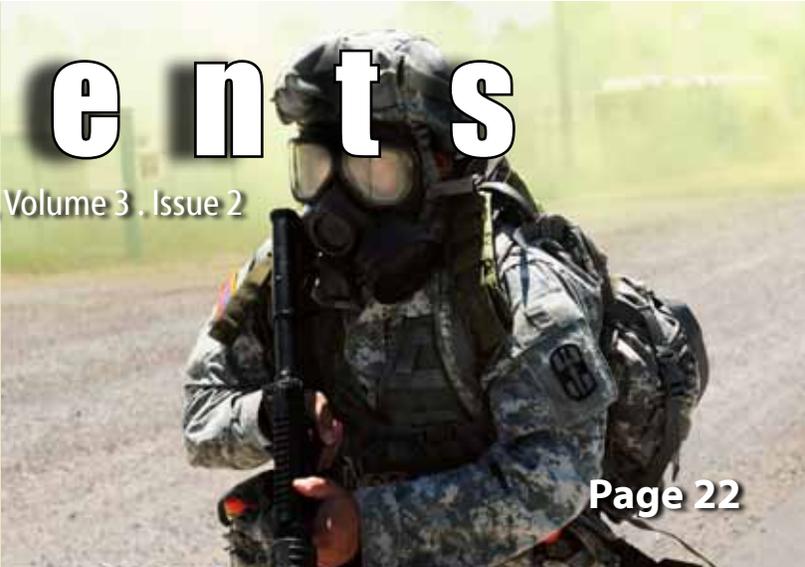
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# Contents

Summer/Fall 2012 / Volume 3 . Issue 2



Page 8



Page 22

## Leadership

- 4 Farewell to Maj. Gen. Chang
- 5 A New Boss in Town - Maj. Gen. Bugno

## Operations

- 6 A Foreign Engagement
- 8 Beyond the Horizon Continues in Peru
- 10 Jungle Rescue Training in Belize
- 12 Keeping Troops Ready in American Samoa
- 14 Care and Service in Guatemala
- 16 Importance in Keeping Medical Equipment Ready

## Training

- 18 Army Reserve Field Blood Draw - A Rarity
- 20 The Can-Am Collaboration
- 22 Behind the Scenes at the Best Warrior Competition

## Soldiers

- 25 Gaffaney Memorial - Honoring an American Hero
- 26 More Than a Soldier - Spc. Manny Thompson Story

## Submissions:

*The Pulse* invites articles, story ideas, photographs, or other materials of interest to members of the 807th MDSC. Manuscripts and other comments to the editor should be addressed to Commander, 807th MDSC, ATTN: Public Affairs (*The Pulse*), 105 Soldier's Circle, Fort Douglas, UT 84113. All articles must be submitted electronically or on CD. Electronic submissions should be sent to [brent.j.campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:brent.j.campbell@us.army.mil). Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Comments to the editor should also be sent to that e-mail address.

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## Credits:

**Cover:** Maj. Jennifer Filiatreau, a Soldier supporting 228th Combat Support Hospital during Operation Beyond the Horizon performs a basic eye exam for a little girl in Guatemala. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Sarah Doyle, 352nd Combat Support Hospital)

**Above Left:** Lt. Col. David Jones (left), a dentist with 228th Combat Support Hospital, performs dental care for a villager from Chincha, Peru. Soldiers performed humanitarian service like this during Operation Beyond the Horizon. (Photo by Veronica D Perez, 228th Combat Support Hospital)

**Above Right:** Spc. Joshua Lewis, with Alpha Co., 94th CSH, 176th Brigade, marches along with protective gas mask and all during a ruck march event at the 807th MDSC Best Warrior Competition. (Photo by Spc. William Hatton, 807th MDSC Public Affairs.)

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# End of an Era

Story and photos by Spc. William Hatton

### SALT LAKE CITY

Soldiers with the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) gathered for a change of command ceremony May 20 at Fort Douglas, Utah, during which Maj. Gen. Lie-Ping Chang relinquished control of the command to Brig. Gen. Craig A. Bugno.

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, Jr., Commander, Army Reserve, presided over the ceremony.

Chang commanded the 807th MDSC since it was reorganized in October 2008. He commanded the 807th Medical Command for the three years before that as a brigadier general. During this time, Chang oversaw the activation the 807th MDSC as the theater medical command to support United States Southern Command.

Chang sought for essential medical care for both Soldiers and civilians alike. Under his command, the 807th continually provided

general, surgical, dental, ambulance, behavioral health, preventive maintenance, and veterinary support to Army units and to civilian populations across the globe. His work with the Department of State and military organizations in the new concept of “medical diplomacy” has improved the lives of thousands in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia while helping achieve U.S. diplomatic goals.

Chang received numerous gifts and awards during a banquet held the night before for both his retirement and change of command. During the banquet, Chang was honored by Soldiers in the 807th MDSC for his continual dedication towards excellence and moving the unit in great directions.

“Most people have said that I’ve been a visionary in my commanding the 807th,” said Chang. “I

would say I was more of a dreamer.”

One of the greatest attributes Chang possessed during his command was the continual effort of doing things outside of the box, said Stultz. Chang not only viewed things outside of the box, he simply didn’t see a box.

When Chang wanted to put Soldiers on Navy ships in order to provide better and continual medical service to people around the world, he never let red tape or bureaucracy interfere, said Stultz.

“He simply did what was needed to get the mission done, and later people would say ‘why didn’t we think of that,’” said Stultz.

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*Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz receives the flag of the 807th MDSC from Maj. Gen. L.P. Chang, symbolizing the transfer of authority over the command in a ceremony on May 20 at Fort Douglas, Utah.*



# A New Boss in Town

Story and photos by Spc. William Hatton

## SALT LAKE CITY

As the incoming commander to the 807th MDSC, Maj. Gen. Craig A. Bugno began his service with the Army in 1981 and has served in multiple units, including service with four of the five brigades of the 807th. Bugno has been in the Army for 30 years and has served on deployments to both Iraq and Kuwait.

A resident of Fulton, Ind., Bugno takes the helm of the 807th and its 11,500 medical Soldiers. The 807th has 116 units located in 26 states from Ohio to California, and is headquartered in Salt Lake City with an operational command post in Seagoville, Texas.

The former commander of the 2nd Medical Brigade in San Pablo, Calif., Bugno is not a stranger to the command.

“Even as I look out in this small formation, I see people with whom I’ve shared hard places, people that have helped me and my family, and people I’ve learned from, and people I have been able to mentor,” said Bugno.

Bugno’s challenge will be to maintain the aggressive posture and global reach of the 807th while managing the impending budgetary restrictions that threaten to restrict the military’s abilities.

Soldier standards and budget control will undoubtedly receive more attention as well as the Army looks to reduce the number of Soldiers serving in the force and control budgets that have grown substantially since 2001.

In his civilian capacity, Bugno is a family practice doctor in Fulton.



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*Brig. Gen. (promotable) Craig A. Bugno assumed command of the 807th MDSC on May 20, 2012. He was promoted to the rank of major general three days later. Bugno comes to the 807th from his position as the Deputy Commanding General for the 3rd MDSC in Forest Park, Ga..*



# Foreign Engagement

*This year, Soldiers of the 807th MDSC visited 45 different countries on six continents. The global involvement of the command is a key element of our Armed Forces' relationships with foreign militaries and also our nation's diplomatic efforts. It is a key element of maintaining an Operational Reserve and keeping the Reserve force relevant as our nation winds down the war in Afghanistan. The following is a sample of some of those missions.*



*Sgt. Valorie Pinkney-Worthington from the 94th Combat Support Hospital plays "patient" as medical Soldiers from Gabon practice evaluating and stabilizing a patient. Pinkney-Worthington was part of an 807th MDSC two-week military training mission in Libreville, Gabon, in March 2012.*



### Peru



**Population:** 29,549,517(2012 est.)

**Per Capita GDP:** \$10,000 per capita  
(U.S. \$48,100 per capita)

**Population Below Poverty Line:**  
31.3%

**Physician Density:**  
0.92/1,000 population  
(U.S. 2.67/1,000 population)

**Hospital Bed Density:**  
1.5 beds/1,000 population  
(U.S. 3.10 beds/1,000 pop.)

**Life Expectancy at Birth:**  
72.73 years  
(U.S. 78.49 years)

# Beyond the Horizon Soldiers Provide Aid in Peru

*Story by Spc. William Hatton*

## CHINCHA, Peru

In the dusty village of Chinchá, Peru, poverty is more than just a word. With very few luxuries and amenities, life seems pretty grim. For most villagers, the days seem without sunlight.

With such bleak elements of daily life, the sun shown clear on the day Soldiers from the 228th Combat Support Hospital arrived, providing medical attention and brightening the lives of everyone they saw.

During Operation Beyond the Horizon, the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) annual mission, Soldiers visited many villages throughout Peru providing health care and preventative care education.

Each day of the operation started with Soldiers convoying out to various schools and clinics throughout Peru. On this particular day, Soldiers loaded up and headed out to greet the villagers in Chinchá.

During the mission, Peruvian police provided escort and security services. This protection allowed the Americans visiting to focus on helping the people of Chinchá, said Spc. Thomas Horne, a Texas native and Soldier with 228th. This was an important measure because it provided safety for the visiting American Soldiers.

One of the reasons villagers of Chinchá deal with such difficulties in life is because of the earthquake that hit in Peru a few years ago.

Photo by Veronica D Perez, 228th Combat Support Hospital



"You can definitely tell the country is still affected by the earthquake that hit in 2007," said Spc. Roger Tijerina, a biomedical equipment technician with the 228th. "There is a lot of debris in certain areas where buildings have collapsed, which is why it has taken the people a long time to rebuild."

Basic needs in life are very important, and the services provided by the Army are exceptionally important, said 2nd Lt. Veronica Perez, an executive officer for the mission and Soldier with the 228th. The work done for the villagers of Chinchá are seen by the happy faces and improved health conditions.

"The people in Peru are very grateful to have us here and by helping these people, it has truly humbled me," said Perez, a native of San Antonio, Texas.

Throughout the mission, Soldiers visited a number of schools in the village and provided aid to more than 4,000 villagers. Each villager was seen free of charge and helped with any of their health problems.

In one specific case, a woman was seen who was having sharp pain in her right ear. After closer investigation, it was discovered that she had an insect burrowed into her skin.

"After the doctor checked out the old lady, they found a bug living in her ear," said Perez. "The lady said she had been feeling pain in her ear for over a month."

This is just one of many cases where Soldiers helping in the village of Chinchá were able to provide immediate aid and support for the people.

"These missions are a great experience because they allow us to serve and interact with people who are in great need," said Maj. Michael Cole, a Soldier that provided dental care for the mission in Chinchá. "This mission also al-

lowed me to improve my Spanish and experience new cultures."

"This mission is great in that it shows that people are good and do care about one another, as well as their health and living situations," said Horne.

As Soldiers completed their mission in Chinchá, villagers were left with a bit of light they hadn't seen before that day. By providing the much-needed medical care, the people of Chinchá are now able to do more to improve their situations in life and improve their surroundings because of better health.

"We do our mission, going non-stop from village to village, and it can be quite tiring," said Tijerina, a native of San Antonio. "As tiring as it can be, the struggles we face are minimal compared to the ongoing struggle these people have to endure."

Because of this notion of struggle the people of Peru face, it is a true enjoyment to help their communities, especially the ones who really need it, Tijerina added.



Photo by Veronica D Perez, 228th Combat Support Hospital

(TOP) Lt. Col. David Jones, a dentist with the 228th performs dental care on a child from Chinchá, Peru. Villagers were greeted by Soldiers in Operation Beyond the Horizon, which provided medical support to villagers around Peru. (BOTTOM) Maj. Marvelene Casner, a general practitioner with the 228th, conducts a general physical for a child from Chinchá.



Photo by Veronica D Perez, 228th Combat Support Hospital



# Jungle Rescue Training in Belize

Story and photos by Eric Lucero,  
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 228th Combat Support Hospital and U.S. Army South trained with the Belize Defense Force and the Belize Coast Guard Service near Belmopan, Belize, Feb. 6-17. During the two-week exchange, the Belizeans trained the Soldiers in patient evacuation techniques in a jungle environment such as high angle evacuations using rappelling techniques, confined space evacuations in caves and swift water river evacuations. The U.S. Soldiers reciprocated the training by educating the Belizeans in trauma casualty care to boost the BDF's knowledge and ability to effectively treat combat related casualties in a hostile environment.

### **BELMOPAN, Belize**

**D**eep in the jungle of Belize, five U.S. Army Soldiers, accompanied by soldiers from the Belize Defense Force, moved through unfamiliar terrain with their casualty. The ability to move their casualty more than 200 yards was strenuous due to the climate and terrain. Time was a factor for their casualty, and they knew it.

Sensing they were running out of time, the medics chopped their way through thick vegetation, rappelled down steep cliffs, crossed rapid rivers, and made their way through dark caves. Once they reached their objective, the unusual happened. Their patient stood up, smiled and praised

them on a job well done.

The Army medics were participating in a two-week, U.S. Army South-sponsored Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) with the Belize Defense Force and the Belize Coast Guard Service. The exchange required the U.S. Soldiers to step outside their comfort zones and slither through the jungle and rivers of Belize, all while staying focused on properly executing their skills.

With the stability and security of the U.S. and partner nations dependent upon our ability to work together to detect, deter and disrupt common security challenges, conducting exchanges with partner nations ensures the Army's regional partners are ready and able to meet potential threats.

During the two-week exchange, the Belizeans trained the U.S. Soldiers in various elements of high-difficulty casualty evacuations. Whether it was rappelling down sheer cliffs, using ropes to cross swift rivers, or crawling into confined spaces during cave rescues, the scenarios and terrain provided by the Belizean soldiers offered their U.S. counterparts an unparalleled training opportunity.

Being able to treat a wound in a brick building with sound security and a working air conditioner may seem ideal, but being able to overcome exhaustion, sweltering heat and unfavorable terrain can quickly turn the situation from ideal to deadly if unprepared.

"As medics, we may find ourselves in a jungle or cave environment and it's our duty to be able to go in there and extract that patient safely," said Sgt. Eric Chappell, a medic from the 228th Combat Support Hospital in San Antonio. "Any U.S. Soldier that comes through this program will be able to take this training back with them and use it effectively. There's



## Belize

★  
Belmopan

**Population:** 327,719 (2012 est.)

**Life Expectancy:** 68.28 years  
(U.S. 78.49 years)

**Belizian Defence Force:**

**Size:** 1,000 active, 700 reserve

**Budget:** 1.4% of GDP  
(about \$21 million)

**Recruiting:** The Belizian Defence Force is an all-volunteer force. While the constitution allows for conscriptions, there are currently three applicants for each available spot.

no question in my mind that this course has been tough.”

Sgt. Matthew Archilla, a medic assigned to the 228th Combat Support Hospital, believes the training he received in Belize has the ability to pay immediate dividends.

“A lot of the rappel training they gave us is really relevant,” said Archilla. “Our current situation in Afghanistan has us operating in a lot of mountainous terrain. Allowing a medic to get in there and learn how to package a patient in that type of terrain is extremely beneficial.”

After successfully making their way through the jungle, the U.S. Soldiers reciprocated the training by providing the Belizeans with medical care classes designed to improve the host nation’s ability to effectively treat casualties in hostile situations.



Since the Belizean soldiers participating already had basic medical skills, the U.S. medics provided medical training to the host nation soldiers in how to treat casualties under fire.

“The majority of the rescuers and military here already have the rescue side down,” said Cpl. Wendy Garcia, a combat medic with the Belize Defense Force. “The medical training is what we really needed to help us expand more on our medical knowledge. An exchange like this really helps us stay up-to-date on real-world changes in the medical world.”

“This is very important for us,” said Capt. Elfryn Reyes, the force medical officer for the Belize Defense Force. “We are always very happy when we get support from partner countries like the U.S. It is very important to keep this relationship because we complement each other. We hope this relationship can continue and grow.”

In addition to the formal training, both groups spent some time enjoying the intricacies of the jungle during a 24-hour jungle immersion exercise.

“It was awesome living off the

*Sgt. Matthew Archilla (center) of the 228th Combat Support Hospital prepares to evacuate a simulated patient over a jungle cliff with members of the Belizian Defense Force near Belmopan, Belize. Archilla and the Belizians trained each other over a two week period on special skills they each routinely use.*

jungle,” said Chappell. “You just had to go into the jungle, chop your way in and build a hut and live in that with absolutely nothing except some bread and water. We even ate termites.”

While the U.S. medics and their Belizean counterparts parted ways, the experience and training each group received will prove to be crucial toward building partner nation capacity and improving abilities to successfully work side-by-side on any future operations or exercises.

“If I’m out there working on a rescue and there is a Belizean soldier working alongside me, we both know the same information,” said Archilla. “We’re both tying the same knots; we’re doing the same battlefield tactical combat casualty care. It just allows for continuity and better cohesion.”



# Keeping the troops ready in American Samoa

Photo by Staff Sgt. William Denison, 185th Dental Company



by Maj. Matt Lawrence

### **PAGO PAGO, American Samoa**

The remote location of soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion in American Samoa have always presented a readiness challenge to the Army. While there have usually been plenty of volunteers to serve in the Army Reserve there, keeping them medically ready for deployment is a challenge. Yearly dental exams are required by the Army, and there is already a shortage of qualified dentists on the island.

This March, for the second straight year, the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) was able to fulfill the needs of this part of the Army Reserve's only remaining Infantry unit. A team of seven dental professionals from the 185th Dental Company from Garden Grove, Calif., traveled to American Samoa in March for two weeks to clean, fill, and pull teeth and get the unit combat ready.

"It is apparent that funding is

limited an American Samoa as far as infrastructure goes. However, the people are amazing despite the challenges they live with," said Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Elton of Aiea, Hawaii.

Pago Pago is a typical tropical city, reminiscent of Honolulu 50 years ago, and houses nearly 90 percent of the residents of American Samoa. Limited access to dental care is a major issue on the island. There are only 11 dentists for nearly 70,000 residents of

**Opposite Page:** Dental equipment is prepared for shipping to American Samoa for the 10-day mission to improve dental readiness of the Soldiers in the Army Reserve's 100th Infantry Battalion. The 807th MDSC sent seven Soldiers to American Samoa to establish a dental clinic and screen and treat 266 Soldiers on the island.

the island, one-fourth the density of dentists in the continental United States. Training and equipment is also a persistent issue. Only one of the 11 dentists on the island was trained at a U.S. medical school, which have higher standards than schools in the South Pacific, where the others attended. As a result, care for their teeth takes a back seat.

"The basic problem is not enough dental hygiene," said Spc. Kelly Yi from Victorville, Calif. "There were a lot of patients with heavy calculus.

"There is a serious lack of flossing here on the island," said Staff Sgt. Laura Cox from Houston, Alaska.

Elton said that cases of gingivitis and periodontitis were also frequent due to the lack of general medical education and the limited capacity of the local hospital.

Normally, the Army contracts out dental support to civilian dentists or a local military dental unit could take care of the screening of patients in a unit like this. However, the civilian system is unavailable and the nearest dental unit is an active duty unit in Hawaii. The 185th

is the closest Reserve dental unit to the island. By sending the 185th to American Samoa, the Army saves the cost of transporting all the Samoan Soldiers to Hawaii for the same services. It also saves training time since the 100th now does not have to take time from their annual training for medical maintenance.

The team screened all 266 soldiers that were in American Samoa during their visit. At the end of the mission, all but two were deployable – two soldiers who could not complete their restorative care due to pregnancies.

The 185th team performed 21 extractions, 166 fillings, 60 cleanings, seven root canals, and one crown. Despite the pain involved in several of these procedures, the Samoan soldiers were happy that the dentists were there.

"We worked on one soldier that we extracted root tips from in the first week. He came back the next week to have the rest of his fillings taken care of," said Cox. "He was very thankful for our work."

## American Samoa



**Population:** 68,061 (2012 est.)

**Per Capita GDP:** \$8,000 per capita  
(U.S. \$48,100 per capita)

**Dentists:** 11 for the entire country, only 1 of which is U.S. trained.

**Unit History:** The 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment is the only combat arms unit remaining in the Army Reserve today. It is headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and includes Soldiers from Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan.

The 442nd was created in World War II of primarily Japanese-American Soldiers, and saw extensive action in Italy from 1943-1945. The 442nd earned 21 Medals of Honor fighting in Italy, but also suffered severe discrimination from American Soldiers and officers for their ethnicity.

*Lt. Col. Donald Moody of the 185th Dental Company examines the teeth of a Samoan Soldier as Spc. Kelly Yi of the 185th takes notes on March 14, 2012. Moody and Yi were part of a 10-day mission to Pago Pago, American Samoa, to improve the dental readiness of the 266 Soldiers on the island.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Denison, 185th Dental Company



## Care and Service Like No Other Soldiers Visit Remote Villages, Provide Medical Care

Photos and Story by  
2nd Lt. Sarah Doyle

### *SAN MARCOS, Guatemala*

**D**eep in the interior of Guatemala, Soldiers of the 352nd Combat Support Hospital provided much needed health care to about 30,000 people and their animals throughout the summer.

As part of Southern Command's Operation Beyond the Horizons 2012, the 352nd was on site in the villages of San Marcos, Pocola Aldea, Viguerron, and Tecum-uman with general medical assistance, dentists, optometrists, dermatologists, OB-GYN specialists, and veterinary technicians.

In these remote villages, several hours drive from Guatemala City, most of the problems people face stem from the abject poverty in

this nation. In addition, the lack of public health education, lack of available facilities, and remoteness of rural Guatemala makes healthy living difficult for locals.

"We made a difference by relieving pain and infection," said Col. Jeffrey Young of Denver, Colo. "However, dental decay is so rampant and extensive that only partial care was able to be provided for most patients."

While many were thankful for the relief, several children were shocked by the procedures they underwent.

"Despite best efforts, procedures were traumatic for children as well as the provider," said Maj. Ricky Harrell of Denver. "Under better

circumstances the patients would be sedated and further hospitalized."

Beyond the Horizons has changed the way these medical training engagements have operated in Central America over the past several years. The U.S. military presence in the area was not the standard two week medical readiness exercise of years past, but involved medical professionals spending time with the local population and trying to educate them better about how they can improve their medical conditions themselves.

"We encouraged parents to be role models to their children by washing their hands, brushing

## Guatemala



**Population:** 14,099,032 (2011 est.)

**Per Capita GDP:** \$5,100 per capita  
(U.S. \$48,100 per capita)

**Population Below Poverty Line:**  
54%

**Physician Density:**  
0.9/1,000 population  
(U.S. 2.67/1,000 population)

**Hospital Bed Density:**  
0.6 beds/1,000 population  
(U.S. 3.10 beds/1,000 pop.)

**Life Expectancy at Birth:**  
71.17 years  
(U.S. 78.49 years)



their teeth, handling food, and so forth," said Capt. Gloria Graham of Gilroy, Calif.

In addition to general hygiene care, one of the big issues seen was the poor use of contraception, said Graham. To try and improve the basic understanding of contraception, Soldiers used posters from the local health centers and gave direct demonstrations.

The old proverb of giving a man

a fish and feed him for a day; or teach a man to fish and feed him for a life time holds true for the people who come in for general care and come to learn of better preventative education. Most of the locals who come in have never had the education opportunity in hygiene, proper food and water handling. Because of this lack of education, providing preventative education becomes essential for a safer future for the people.

For the Soldiers who visited the villages of San Marcos, Pocola Aldea, Viguerron, and Tecum-uman, a sense of gratitude was felt. Not only were they able to help thousands of villagers who were in true need of assistance, but they were able to come away with memories from a beautiful place.



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*Capt. Gloria Graham, a Soldier with the 352nd from Gilroy, Calif., teaches Guatemalan children about proper hygiene in the village of Pocola Aldea on Jun 27. Basic hygiene training was an important part of the U.S. medical mission to Guatemala as part of Beyond the Horizons 2012.*

# New maintenance site keeps medical equipment ready

## Story and photos by Maj. Matt Lawrence

**OGDEN, Utah**

Okay, maintenance doesn't get many people excited - unless if it's not done and equipment breaks down.

Maintaining the equipment of a Reserve military force has always been a key vulnerability inherent in the system. The part time Soldiers just do not have enough time to maintain the equipment they need to go to war with and have a hard time training on all that equipment.

The U.S. Army Reserve established a system for vehicles that sufficiently addressed this issue long ago. The Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) program

has worked effectively for decades to keep vehicles and motorized equipment serviced and operational so that Army Reserve units are ready to roll at any time they are called.

But what about medical equipment? Monitors, defibrulators, compressors, chairs, dentists' equipment, x-rays, and much more needs the same care that a vehicle does. And if a piece of equipment is inoperable, it can result in serious consequences for the patients.

In a repurposed Army warehouse in Ogden, Utah, the 807th MDSC will establish one of the

first two of the Army Reserve's Medical ECS (MECS) sites (the 3rd MDSC is in the process of establishing one at Fort Dix, N.J.).

Equipment began arriving from all the command's 118 units in April and will be complete by January. All the command's equipment not required for training will be there, receiving the maintenance attention it needs.

Ease of maintaining the equipment is the core benefit of the MECS for medical units.

"Now we have an organized, deliberate process to maintain all of our medical equipment," said Master Sgt. Carmella Wong of



*Medical equipment from several units in the 807th MDSC stands on storage racks in the MECS in Ogden, Utah. This facility will hold nearly all of the command's medical equipment by January in this 40,000 square foot maintenance facility.*

Layton, Utah. "We have historically been at 50 percent strength for biomedical maintenance personnel."

Each unit with medical equipment would traditionally request a biomedical equipment specialist (68A) to maintain their equipment as that Soldier's summer annual training, if they were able to get them.

And since the majority of 68A Soldiers in the 807th are part of deployable units, doing this sort of training would keep them from working with their home units or other 68As.

Wong added that timing of maintenance should no longer be an issue for units who routinely take their equipment on missions, training, or deployment. Instead of scrambling for maintenance resources prior to an event, the unit can be assured that their equipment is already being maintained.

There are no certainties in how much money will be saved by operating the MECS, or how many people will be required to maintain the equipment full time, but Supervisory Equipment Specialist, Mr. Jared Smith, is comfortable with starting with seven contractors.

"We have to show the need before we can get the full authorization," said Smith. "It will definitely be more as the mission increases in size."

The MECS will also help the

Army Reserve in fielding its new medical equipment more efficiently by having a dedicated facility with standard fielding procedures.

The site will also offer routine automation and logistics training in the future for biomedical equipment specialists, and interface with the Army Reserve/General Electric partnership training program that began in 2011.

The MECS may also aid the

Army Reserve in retaining more 68A Soldiers. While upward mobility is still an issue for this specialty, which is heavy with Soldiers with college experience, being exposed to a wider array of equipment may keep the job challenging for them.

"If I can come here and see the full spectrum of equipment that the Army has to maintain, that makes my job more interesting," said Wong.



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*Spc. Stephanie Drake from West Valley City, Utah, performs maintenance on a mobile surgical light set at the MECS in Ogden, Utah, on July 16. The 807th MDSC hopes to cycle all of its biomedical equipment specialists through the MECS for their annual training to maintain their proficiency on the wide array of equipment the Army owns.*



# Needles in the Field:

## Army Reserve Conducts First Blood Draw in More Than a Decade

Story and Photos by  
Spc. William Hatton

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### **FORT HUNTER LIGGETT, Calif.**

**B**lood is the one of the most essential parts of life. A normal person's body will produce two million blood cells per second to replace the old, dying cells. However, when something catastrophic happens, a transfusion is needed to replace blood and keep the patient alive.

On the battlefield, wounded Soldiers can lose a lot of blood, and replacing that blood is vital. "Bleeding out" is one of the top two reasons Soldiers die due to combat injuries. Combat Support Hospitals in the fight constantly prepare themselves for

situations where blood transfusions are needed. However, in the case where there is no more blood to give, the Army has prepared a contingency for such a situation. They draw blood in combat.

For the Soldiers of the 987th Blood Support Detachment from Ogden, Utah, preparing for such an event starts with realistic training. At Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., the 987th is attempting the first field blood draw in over a decade performed by an Army Reserve unit.

"We work and fight in harsh

environments. With the temperature and dust one might see in a combat environment, creating conditions safe enough to do a blood draw is crucial." said Sgt. 1st Class Leonard Miller of Ogden, Utah. "To ensure the right environment for a blood draw, we need to have a clean room with regulated temperatures. This can be a challenge, both here in California and overseas."

The donation station was located in a two-sided, expandable shelter, about 12 by 15 feet, with a seven foot roof. There was no climate control in the shelter.



During this large-scale medical exercise, Soldiers of all different job skills performed various missions oriented to provide real life combat experience. Here, the 987th performed the Army Reserve's first ever blood draw in a field environment. This blood draw helped Soldiers prepare for the possibility of drawing blood in a combat environment, in a short amount of time.

"Part of our mission is to perform an emergency blood draw, if we run out of blood in a theater of operation," said Miller. "The important part of this exercise, is that a blood draw has never been done before in a training exercise, which better prepares us for combat situations."

The blood drawn during the exercise was flown from Fort Hunter Liggett to San Diego for processing, where it was added to San Diego's blood reserves. The 987th added 26 units of blood to San Deigo's supply in the one day draw.

The 987th is a unique unit within the medical section of the Army. Having been organized in October of 2011, the 987th is one of only two blood support de-

tachments in the Army Reserve. They provide both the Army and the Army Reserve with the needed boost of support by providing blood in both areas of combat and back at home.

Part of the success that the 987th BSD had while conducting their blood draw in a training environment is from the support they have received.

"We have received a lot of support from other units that are a part of this exercise," said Spc. Katelyn Davis, a lab technician from West Jordan, Utah. "We really wouldn't have been able to get as much done for this blood draw without the help we received."

For Soldiers with the 987th BSD, conducting the first blood draw in a field-training environment is just another first step in helping save lives in the future. Ideally, a field blood transfusion will not be necessary. However this tough, realistic training helps the Soldiers of the 987th be ready if it does.



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*Spc. William Casperson (left), a lab technician with the 987th Blood Support Detachment, prepares to draw blood from Col. Walter Franz (right), commander of the 945th Forward Surgical Team from Rochester, Minn. Casperson, a native of Wendel, Idaho, along with other Soldiers from the 987th BSD, conducted several blood draws during an effort to prepare Soldiers for combat situations where a blood draw might be needed.*



## CAN-AM Collaboration by Lt. Col. Brent Campbell

### **PETAWAWA, Ontario**

**T**he United States and Canada, close allies and geographic neighbors, have enjoyed a long a productive history of cooperation between their respective military and medical communities. That continues today in the 807th MDSC and remains an integral component to our support of crisis and operations worldwide.

“The benefits of this cooperation include both forces being familiar with the way each side conducts staff processes,” said Lt. Col. Douglas Owens, Operations Officer with the 176th Medical Brigade in Seagoville, Texas. “I have always had a strong belief that it is vitally important that we train with our allies as opportunities present themselves.”

Owens said that his experience

working with many international units over the past 18 years inspired him to actively pursue these training opportunities.

“Our goal is to enhance our interoperability between our respective medical and dental services to facilitate future combined operation anywhere in the world,” said Col. Kristiana Stevens, Director, Health Service Reserves based in Ottawa. “We have confirmed and highlighted the similarities and differences between our medical and dental operations based on the characteristics of our respective forces.

“We are better prepared to deploy together in support of operations around the world,” said Stevens.

Owens said that Col. Stevens’ staff, at the National Defense

Headquarters in Ottawa had been fantastic in facilitating this cooperative training.

“Canadian officers have embedded into our staff bringing their experience resulting in great training for both us and the Canadians,” said Owens. “Recently we sent Maj. Sarolyn Morgan to the Canadian Forces Health Services headquarters for “Road to Mental Health Training”. The Canadians are in the forefront in treating post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other deployment related issues based on their experience in Afghanistan and numerous United Nations Peacekeeping missions.”

Stevens said that other benefits come from working with U.S. forces including the existing cooperative agreements in the interna-

tional community.

"These working relationships with nations around the world provide us with the inroads to several training venues," said Stevens. "These short duration medical and dental readiness and humanitarian exercises allow our reserve (part time) the opportunity to enhance their deployment readiness and receive much needed international exposure to the military medical operations of several other nations. Concurrently our reserve forces benefit from this intense training opportunity while still meeting their commitment to their civilian employers."

Owens said some benefits of working with the Canadian forces include learning staff processes and gaining innovations from different perspectives.

"Wherever the U.S. goes, Canada is likely to go also," said Owens. There are many instances where Canadian soldiers have integrated in U.S. staffs in Afghanistan and Desert Shield.

"We've learned that the Canadians bring a lot of innovative ideas, as they normally have to do their work with much less," said Owens. "They have been force multipliers bringing great ideas and insight."

Another benefit for the U.S. Soldiers working with the Canadians is that they learn how to do more with less.

"They just don't have the resources that we do," said Staff Sgt. Joseph James from Syracuse, Utah, who traveled to Ottawa in March to participate in a Canadian field exercise.

The Canadians, understandably, are very well versed in northern warfare. Cold weather survival is central to all of their training.

"They drove us out to the field,

and everything from that point on was snowshoes and toboggans," said James.

Stevens points out that although there are many similarities between each country's health care systems and providers, the key differences are size, scale and capacity of the two systems as the U.S. system is more extensive and the supported force is greater.

"One difference that I would like to highlight is the Canada's integrated Health Service," said Stevens. "The provision of care to the Canadian Soldier is provided through one health care system known as the Canadian Forces Health Services Group integrating both the Medical and Dental components as well the three environments."

Stevens said that this group is made up of Canadian Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen. These personnel can be deployed in support of any environment regardless of the what uniform they wear.

James says they operated to-

gether smoothly since they have always trained in a joint environment.

Canadian forces have integrated with the 807th MDSC in several exercises and have also trained directly with Southern Command, Pacific Command and Army South, sending medical personnel on several missions to places like Haiti.

"These opportunities very much enhance understanding and cultural awareness of our two nations, said Owens. "Our training together has demonstrated that the Canadians can easily adapt to our ways of doing business and vice versa."

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*U.S. and Canadian medical Soldiers haul a winter toboggan through the woods with snowshoes near Petawawa, Ontario, during a Canadian field training exercise. The Canadian forces have partnered with the U.S. Army Reserve for several humanitarian and training missions to increase the forces' understanding of each other.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph James, 807th MDSC



**Setting up the Best Warrior Competition is a lot of work. The entire week of events has to appear seamless to the competitors. And as everyone knows, even the best plans never survive first contact.**

# A WELL-OILED MACHINE

## BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION



*A competitor in the 807th MDSC's "Best Warrior" Competition heads into a field during the land navigation event of the competition on May 9 in Greenville, Ky.*

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. WILLIAM HATTON**

### GREENVILLE, Ky.

In the early hours of the night in western Kentucky, Soldiers competing in the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) "Best Warrior" Competition head off to bed after a long day of competing. Throughout the day, Soldiers were pushed to the limit both physically and mentally while competing in a physical fitness test and board of review.

Throughout the week, various events of the competition were oriented at determining if the competitors had the physical and mental ability to stand as "Best Warrior" of the command.

As each Soldier laid their head

for the night, both their physical and mental capabilities would only be further tested that night. Once sleep had greeted each competitor, the cadre, instructors, or 'ones in charge,' would rush in and wake the competitors for another, late night competition.

Although the Soldiers would spend the week proving their worth as "Best Warrior" among the competition, it was the behind the scenes people, the cadre for the competition, who would make this contest not only thrive, but produce a truly worthy victor.

This competition would have been nothing without the hard

work and dedication of the small group of Soldiers who operated each individual challenge for the Best Warrior Competition. Throughout the week of competing, Soldiers with various units within the 807th MDSC, were either assigned to help in the competition, or volunteered because of the great work that was at hand.

The support of both volunteers and assigned Soldiers were crucial in providing the command with the top Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer to compete at the United States Army Reserve Command's (USARC) competition in July at Fort McCoy, Wis.



*Sgt. Marc Bautista, a Soldier with the 2nd Medical Brig., leads a group of Soldiers through simulated combat drills during the Best Warrior Competition. Bautista competed against six other competitors in multiple events oriented to test their physical and mental skills.*

The night that the Soldiers competing were woken for a late night competition, special staff members rushed into their billeting while banging against pots and pans, screaming loudly, and blowing air horns to awaken each soldier from their momentary sleep.

During both the late night event and other events in the week, each member of the special staff, who ran the competition, were instructed to interact with the competitors much like drill sergeants at basic training, said Staff Sgt. Robert Hennings, a Soldier with the 256th Combat Support Hospital.

"We used tactics from basic training to keep each Soldier on their toes throughout the competition," said Hennings, a native of Twinsburg, Ohio. "We would scream at them, keep them up late at night, and wait until the very last minute

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*Competitors of the 807th MDSC's Best Warrior competition rush to the aid of a casualty requiring medical assistance in Greenville, Ky., on May 8. Ten Soldiers competed for the 807th MDSC's title of "Best Warrior" and the opportunity to represent the command at the U.S. Army Reserve competition in July.*

to inform them of what was coming next for their competition"

In order to have a successful competition, Soldiers who would step up as cadre for the competition conducted a long and strenuous process of planning and preparing.

For almost a year before the event, staff members of the cadre would meet together, talk over conference calls, and plan out each little detail of the competition.

The high level of planning was to ensure that each area of competition was not only successful, but to

ensure that the Soldiers competing would truly present themselves as the best once the competition was over.

"Using information and planning from the brigade level of competing, we were able to put together a more sophisticated and evolved competition for the division," said Sgt. Maj. John Milburn, a Soldier with the 307th Medical Brigade.

"Each Soldier would be required to show skills in combat scenarios, weapons qualifications, land navigation, and NBC training," said Milburn, a native of Blacklick, Ohio. "They would show the graders of the competition that they were both physically capable and possessing the essential Soldier skills needed in combat."

The focus of each competition scenario was to test the Soldiers knowledge of basic Army skills, as well as test them physically. Whether it was the physical fitness test, a board of review, medical lane training, each scenario would prove that the Soldiers knew the required information needed at each scenario.

Leading up to the competition, members of the staff arrived early to help set up the area of each event, as well as work out the little details. On Sunday evening, when





each Soldier arrived, staff members embraced them, much the same way drill sergeants embrace their new recruits.

Every second of every day during the competition, Soldiers in the staff worked hard to push each competitor. Their hard work and continual pushing of the competitors would influence how each candidate would be able to handle the stress and prove that they were the best warrior.

"From the minute we arrived, I knew this was going to be a hard challenge," said Spc. Chris Salemka, a competitor from 322nd Medical Company, 307th Med Brigade. "As we were greeted by yelling faces, I had flashbacks of basic training. I knew right then and there, this was going to be serious."

Although each day was geared to push the competitors to the limits and ensure that they were the best through rigorous stress conditions, the objectives of the competition remained the same throughout.

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*A "Best Warrior" competitor searches a house engulfed in tear gas and red smoke during the 807th MDSC's Best Warrior Competition on May 7 in Greenville, Ky. The lead planners of the competition added two unannounced events designed to test the competitors' mental and physical toughness as well as their military skills.*

The goal was to identify the best warriors from the command, who would be able to compete at the next level of competition at US-ARC. The staff behind the scene of the competition ensured that each event was conducted perfectly.

"It is truly because of the staff who worked the events that this competition was a success," said Milburn. "It was due to the staff and their eagerness to work these events that everything went as well as it did."

In discussing the good and bad of the competition, one of the competitors addressed the hard work and continual efficiency in executing the competition.

"If there was anything wrong with the competition, if anything was off step, if there was ever a mistake, we never knew it," said Spc. Salemka. "Everything the staff did for this competition was done in amazing effort. We never knew once if something was off."

It was because of the hard work and dedication by the staff that the competition was able to be a success. As each staff member worked hard, they helped build what would become the best warrior Soldier and Non-Commissioned Officer. Because of the hard work of the staff, the 807th would be sending their best and brightest on to the next level of competition.

# Honoring

## **GARDEN GROVE, Calif.**

The Army Reserve Center in Garden Grove, Calif., was dedicated to the memory of Fort Hood, Texas, shooting victim Capt. John P. Gaffaney on July 21.

Gaffaney was killed while trying to subdue the gunman in the Nov. 5, 2009 attack that killed a total of 13 people, including five Army Reserve Soldiers from the 807th Medical Command.

Gaffaney was posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal for his actions by Secretary of the Army John McHugh, at a ceremony at Fort Hood one year after the attack. But this honor is something more permanent and visible, reminding Soldiers and the public alike that the cost of freedom is often the lives of some of its citizens.

For the members of the Gaffaney family, this was a fitting tribute to an outstanding person.

"I am so honored for my brother," said Mrs. Michelle Bannot of West Fargo, N.D., Gaffaney's sister. "This building just means so much, and I hope that the men and women who come through those doors really get the sense of his duty and honor and respect, and I hope they can carry that forward with them to serve their country."

Gaffaney's widow, Christine, agreed, "I am very honored, and I know John would be, too," she said. "The whole Army family has been just wonderful, and I am really appreciative."

The memorial was the result of several months of work by Gaffaney's former command, the 2nd Medical Brigade.



# an American Hero

Story and photos by Maj. Matt Lawrence

Gaffaney's service to the country is inspiring. He had retired from military service in 1999 after serving in the U.S. Navy and the California National Guard. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, he waged a three year campaign to rejoin the military as a psychiatric nurse. While he had done that job for the California Department of Corrections for 23 years, the military did not consider him educationally qualified to perform the job.

Finally, in 2006, the Army Reserve relented and assigned him to the 113th Combat Stress Control Company in Garden Grove.

Gaffaney never thought his service was about himself, and rarely

called attention to his inspiring past.

For members of the 807th MDSC, Gaffaney's sacrifice had larger effects than mere inspiration.

"The Fort Hood incident on Nov. 5, 2009 was the defining moment of a newly transformed 807th and made us a cohesive team," said Maj. Gen. (ret.) L.P. Chang, former commander of the 807th. "After today, this Army Reserve center in Garden Grove has a life story as its legacy. Capt. Gaffaney's patriotism, character, bravery, and service above himself will pass on to future generations of Soldiers. It is a fitting tribute to a true hero."

Now, hundreds of Army Reserve Soldiers will serve in a new Reserve center that bears the name of one of their own, and help them never forget what their service to the nation truly means.

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*Maj. Gen. (ret.) L.P. Chang, former Commander, 807th MDSC, and Mrs. Christine Gaffaney, wife of Capt. John Gaffaney, unveil the bronze plaque that will adorn the walls of the Capt. John P. Gaffaney Memorial Reserve Center in Garden Grove, Calif., on July 21. Also present from left to right are Col. Odis Blueitt, Commander, 2nd Medical Brigade, Brig. Gen. David Smalley, Deputy Commanding General, 807th MDSC, Mrs. Michelle Bannot, and Mrs. Joan Williams. Vannote and Williams are both Gaffaney's surviving siblings.*





### *Spc. Manny*

#### **WICHITA, Kans.**

**S**oldiers are strong. They are disciplined, mentally and physically tough. Soldiers are many things, but nowhere in the Soldier's Creed does it mention multitasking to the tune of three jobs all while juggling a master's education. That's exactly what Spc. Immanuel "Manny" Arnez Thompson is doing, and successfully as well. Thompson earned a 4.00 GPA during his first semester at Wichita State University where he's working toward a master's degree in criminal justice.

The Signal Support Systems Specialist recently completed his internship with the Drug Enforcement Administration, a job he's had since his junior year in college. He credits the Army with making his resume stand out above the other students.

"The Army helped propel me above all other students for this highly competitive internship position," Thompson said.

Immediately following his internship, he began a new position as a graduate teaching assistant and has already applied to more internships with federal agencies.

Thompson has come a long way from his grade school days, when he began boxing in backyards to stay out of trouble. He donned the gloves at age 11 after seeing his fu-

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*Spc. Manny Thompson at his graduation from Wichita State University on December 11, 2011, where he earned a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice, graduating with honors. Thompson is currently completing a Master's in Criminal Justice at Wichita State, where he has a perfect 4.0 grade point average.*

# Thompson - Living Life to its Fullest

by Staff Sgt. Kristen King

ture coach, Coach Johnny, training other boys in his backyard.

"I found interest in it and started training the next day," he said.

Thompson says boxing was an escape during his adolescence and he'd commit three hours every evening after school.

The Wichita, Kansas native stuck with the sport and traveled to New Mexico in 2010 for his first pro fight, winning in just 58 seconds with a TKO (technical knockout). His victory was won with a "98," a left hook and right hand combination. He's since had a break from the ring, due to cancelled fights and scheduling conflicts. In the absence of boxing, Thompson has still managed to keep a full calendar.

Without the threat of black eyes and swollen lips, the Soldier has been able to focus on modeling. He's appeared in a regional commercial for Kansas Health Foundation aired during Super Bowl VI in 2011, Cosmopolitan Magazine, and an ad for the popular outdoors equipment company, Coleman.

Thompson is also a scholastic superstar that can boast of his Outstanding Student of the Year award, Undergraduate Criminal Justice Student of the Year award and his solid spot on the Dean's List.

Although his gloves are getting

a break, he wants to return to the sport.

"I would like to professionally fight at least a dozen more times before I call it," said Thompson.

The 23 year old has plenty of time to get back in the fight, but is focusing on school for now.

Thompson credits his mother for his discipline, and the Army for helping him harness his strengths and build upon his weaknesses.

"I always had it in me to finish whatever I start to the best of my ability," he said. "The Army helped me realize that ability in which I possessed."

Thompson joined the Army in 2007, but says the calling was there as a child.

"I always had it in my heart to experience what our nation's heroes experience through their service," he said.

Upon the completion of his master's degree, Thompson plans to return for a bachelor's degree in international studies, which will take him only one additional

year. He is interested in working with the State Department and hopes the additional degree will help him become more fluent in Spanish and prepare him for a diplomatic career with the State Department.

Though it may seem otherwise, Thompson isn't setting out to be a career student. Education is a way for him to both achieve his goals and keep his future options open.

"Five to ten years from now, I want to have school completed and be in a career," he said. "All of these future possibilities keep me motivated."

Thompson said he looks at life as a novel someone is writing, by living.

"When it's all said and done, I ask myself 'Would by novel be interesting enough to read?'" he said.

Right now, he says he's taking life in stride and enjoying the ride.

"I'll have to take whatever life throws at me, whether it be a right-cross or a left-hook."



*Sp. Manny Thompson (right) squares off against Christian Bruffy-Holmes at the weigh-in for his first professional fight in Albuquerque, N.M., in December 2010. Thompson won the fight by TKO in the first minute.*

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