

# ESG TODAY



## Rock 'n for our Heroes

# January

# 2013

VOL. 7, ISSUE 1



## << On the Front Cover

Col. Edith Greene, commander of the 641st Regional Sustainment Group, throws a souvenir hat into the crowd during the "Rock'n for our Heroes" concert held Dec. 14 at Capt. Hiram's beach resort in Sebastian, Fla. Soldiers from the 143d ESC joined forces with several heavy metal bands to raise money and awareness for the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports service members who specialized in explosive ordnance and disposal, and their families.

Photo illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn, 143d ESC

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## ESCTODAY



Commander  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)  
Col. James H. Griffiths

Command Executive Officer  
143d ESC  
Mr. Fred Guzman

Command Sergeant Major  
143d ESC  
Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey E. Uhlig

Public Affairs Officer/Editor  
143d ESC  
Maj. John Adams

Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV  
"ESC Today" Layout & Graphic Designer

### CONTRIBUTORS:

Lt. Col. Terence P. Murphy  
143d ESC Staff Judge Advocate

Lt. Col. Brian Ray  
143d ESC Chaplain

Capt. Sharif Faruque  
912th Adjutant General Company

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Lawn  
143d ESC Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Raul Tirado  
204th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Shannon Stewart  
912th Adjutant General Company

Spc. Michael Davis  
444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Aaron Ellerman  
414th Transportation Company UPAR

Spc. Adrienne Vinson  
421st Quartermaster Company (DET 4)

Olivia L. Carkeet  
Historian

Mikie Perkins  
U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy

Gilbert Rivera  
143d ESC Alcohol and Drug Coordinator



# The Command Post



Col. James H. Griffiths  
*Commander*  
*143d Sustainment Command*  
*(Expeditionary)*

Greetings and welcome to 2013! I trust all of you had a wonderful holiday and were able to spend quality time with family and friends. 2013 is going to be an exciting and busy year. The 143d ESC continues to lead as an operational command capable of providing 21st century-war fighter solutions on today's modern battlefield. We continue to deploy and welcome home units in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and across the globe. This year I expect that fewer Soldiers will participate in support of overseas missions such as Operation Enduring Freedom and other contingency operations. However, the readiness of our Soldiers and families will continue to be the cornerstone for our success.

Closer to home, we'll find ourselves training, supporting various exercises, working with our local communities, and deploying to support crisis-based events such as hurricane and flood relief. Wherever 143d ESC units find themselves, your high level of professionalism and competence continue to distinguish us as the organization to call to get the job done right. One reason we've reached this level of competence is by focusing on the basics. Continue to plan your work and then work your plan. Plan training accurately and thoroughly, ensuring all logistics and support mechanisms

are in place to maximize the limited training time we have with our Soldiers. Be creative and bring solutions to complete training requirements. For many years leaders have become complacent with preparing units to deploy to a mobilization center where all the training is prepared and planned out for you. Now, we must empower junior leaders to plan the entire training exercise without the aid of training personnel doing all the logistics for them. They will make tough decisions thus enhancing an operational mindset. Ultimately, we must provide realistic and challenging training to make our Soldiers better and motivate them to continuously improve.

New Year's resolutions sometime start out with great intent but die out quickly. I'm confident you have it in yourself to maintain our level of professionalism and continuously improve yourself in areas you find need the work. If you've made a commitment to

yourself or others, stick to it this year! I ask that each of you to work with me to ensure that our Soldiers and families are physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and financially ready and resilient. Together we'll maintain the 143d ESC's standards of excellence and reputation while we remain the best ESC in the Army Reserve.

Army Strong!

Sustaining Victory! 🇺🇸



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman / 414th TC

## DID YOU KNOW?

Members of the military and their families can get free tax preparation assistance and electronic tax return filing worldwide through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Some military families may also qualify for free tax filing with TurboTax through the Intuit Tax Freedom Project, a national program offering free online tax preparation and electronic filing to families that meet annual eligibility requirements. Learn more about the VITA program and find the nearest site to you via this [link](#), then visit the Tax Freedom Project's [official website](#) for more information.

# The Bottom Line

## *Remain resolute to your resolutions*

Each year millions of Americans mark January 1 as the first day toward stimulating their lifestyle. Most of these eager citizens keep their eyes on the prize—a target weight, a desired salary, a dream vacation—for a few weeks. Six months later, more than half of these same individuals dump their commitments and flock back to their usual (and sometimes destructive) routines. By year's end, less than one in 10 individuals can claim success in their quest to revitalize their lives.\*

Simply put, New Year resolutions often meet their demise as soon as the people who created them conclude that no one except themselves are held accountable. The consequences from failure are restricted to a single individual, and even then that person may go about his or her life as if nothing happened in the first place . . . not so in the Army.

### NEW YEAR RESOLUTION STATISTICS

- ❑ 49 percent of Americans **usually** make New Year's resolutions.
- ❑ 17 percent of Americans **infrequently** make New Year's resolutions.
- ❑ 38 percent of Americans **never** make new year resolutions.
- ❑ 8 percent of Americans are successful in achieving their new year resolutions.
- ❑ 49 percent have infrequent success.
- ❑ 24 percent never succeed.
- ❑ People who explicitly make resolutions are 10 times more likely to attain their goals than people who don't explicitly make resolutions.

\*These statistics derive from a 2002 study conducted by the University of Scranton and published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* (vol. 58, issue 4).

The success of organizations hinges on seamless teamwork. That's why the Army emphasizes cooperation in a training and operational environment. Though it applauds individual accomplishments, America's Army accomplishes its missions primarily through the collaborative tenacity of thousands of Soldiers striving to achieve specific goals. Noncommissioned officers must implement the most effective methods to meet these goals, so it's imperative that we develop objectives that sharpen your troops' skills and bolster their morale. Why not welcome this challenge by creating selfless—rather than selfish—resolutions?

It's nearly impossible to change peoples' behavior without understanding their attitudes, beliefs and ambitions. A resolution as a simple as, "I will speak with every Soldier in my section before each battle assembly," can provide incredible insight on what these Warrior Citizens do while not wearing the uniform. This information can help you tailor your section's objectives in a way that maximizes your Soldiers' skills and interests. Is one of your Soldiers a high school teacher? Have that person conduct your most important briefings. Does one of them compete in triathlons? Assign him or her to develop your section's physical training sessions. Do several Warrior Citizens spend their free weekends hiking, camping and hunting? Maybe they're prime candidates for your unit's Best Warrior Competition. These simple assignments can galvanize your troops to go beyond the bare minimum and move up the ranks.

You can even integrate your personal New Year



Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey E. Uhlig  
Command Sergeant Major  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

resolutions to improve performance throughout your unit. If you plan to shed a few pounds next year, for instance, you can also aim to earn a perfect score on your next Army Physical Fitness Test while encouraging your troops to follow your lead. If your resolutions include career advancement, then take advantage of the dozens of schools offered by the military. The additional training will not only support you on your next promotion board, but also grant the skills and knowledge necessary to better lead Soldiers.

For those who resolve to spend more time with their friends and loved ones, upgrade your time management skills at the office. Create a leader's book and keep it current. Delegate tasks to your troops and monitor their progress. A few minutes of planning and preparation can spare you and your section from hours of frustration—hours better spent with your family.

Regardless where your resolutions lie, promise yourself you'll see them through, and then extend that promise to the welfare of your Soldiers. By remaining resolute with your resolutions, you will inevitably become a stronger person, and that's what keeps us . . .

. . . Army Strong! ❑

## DID YOU KNOW?

The organizers of the 2013 GI Film Festival want to put your movie on the big screen May 6-12 in Washington, D.C.! Whether you're a legendary producer or a budding director, GIFF welcomes any entry that includes at least one major armed forces character (real or fictitious) portrayed in a respectful manner. The entry fee is waived for active duty service members, while students and veterans receive a special discount. The entry fee for all other filmmakers ranges from \$35 to \$60 depending on how soon they ship their cinematic masterpieces to GIFF. All submissions must be received by March 1, 2013, so visit <http://gifilmfestival.com/> today to learn more on how you can make reel stories about real heroes.



# Don't be roadkill.

*Be aware of your  
surroundings!*



**The signs are all around.**  
It's up to **YOU** to recognize  
and act on them.



ARMY STRONG:



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER

<https://safety.army.mil>





Lt. Col. Brian Ray  
Command Chaplain  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

# Reflections by the Chaplain:

## Welcoming a New Year . . . Embracing New Beginnings

Soldiers and families of the 143d ESC, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. As we begin a new year, it's an appropriate time to stop for a moment and think about the value of new beginnings. For many of us, the start of a new year is a time for setting goals and making resolutions. A new year also gives us a

chance to put frustrations, failures and setbacks in the past. But for some, it can be tough to move beyond life's disappointments. If you had some setbacks last year that still have you feeling down, don't fret! Instead take comfort—and get a few laughs—from these images of folks who had a really bad day. >>>



<<< The following quote by Blessed Pope John XXIII provides each of us with the perspective we should embrace when beginning any new endeavor.

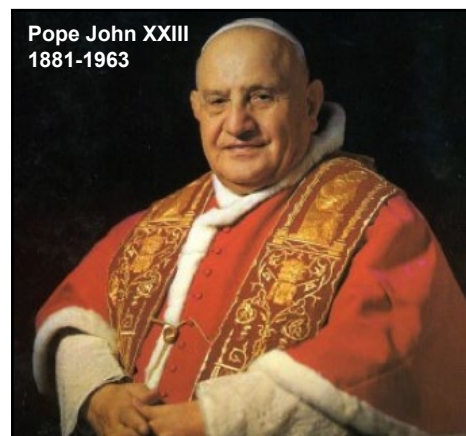
***“Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”***

Soldiers of the 143d ESC, we shouldn't wait for January 1 to roll around each year to “nudge” us to take on new challenges. Don't forget . . . each

and every day you and I have the opportunity to embrace new goals . . . goals that can positively change the path of our lives and those around us for years to come. Fellow soldiers, I encourage you to take the chance to tackle new and exciting opportunities as they present themselves this year. Never forget, you are ARMY STRONG! The fact that you are a Soldier in the greatest army the world has ever known will make all the difference.

Sustaining Victory!

“Pro Deo et Patria . . . For God and Country!” ☒



## DID YOU KNOW?

The 81st Regional Support Command invites Soldiers and their spouses who work within the unit to a Strong Bonds event Feb. 8-10 in Orlando, Fla. Married couples will rediscover one another all over again by strengthening friendships, improving intimacy and solving problems in a positive manner. Meals and lodging are covered pending approval from the Defense Travel System's local command, so couples need only to pay for travel to and from the event. Soldiers who participate in this Strong Bonds session earn duty pay and points toward their retirement. Registration ends Feb. 8, so visit <http://www.strobonbonds.com> and register today!



# The Legal Corner

## *Your rights under SCRA*

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA), formerly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (SSCRA), is a federal law that gives all military members several important rights as they enter active duty. It covers such issues as rental agreements, security deposits, prepaid rent, eviction, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgage interest rates, mortgage foreclosure, civil judicial proceedings and income tax payments. It also provides many important protections to military members while on active duty.

The SCRA protects active duty service members as well as Reserve and National Guard service members called to active duty (starting on the date active duty orders are received) and, in limited situations, dependents of military members.

To receive protection under some parts of the SCRA, the member must be prepared to show that military service has had a "material effect" on the legal or financial matter involved. Protection under the SCRA must be requested

during the member's military duty or within 30 to 180 days after military service ends, depending on the protection being requested.

The following are some of the protections the SCRA provides:

1. The ability to reduce pre-service consumer debt and mortgage interest rates to 6 percent under certain circumstances.
2. The ability to postpone a court proceeding for a mandatory minimum of 90 days upon the service member's request. The request must be in writing and (1) explain why the current military duty materially effects the servicemembers ability to appear, (2) provide a date when the servicemember can appear, and (3) include a letter from the commander stating that the service member's duties preclude his or her appearance, and that he is not authorized leave at the time of the hearing.
3. The ability to terminate both residential and automobile leases under certain circumstances
4. The ability to set aside default judgements against the service member.
5. The SCRA also permits the service member



Lt. Col. Terrence P. Murphy  
Staff Judge Advocate  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

to request deferment of certain commercial life insurance premiums and other payments for the period of military service and two years thereafter.

6. The SCRA provides that a nonresident service member's military income and personal property are not subject to state taxation if the service member is present in the state only due to military orders. The state is also prohibited from using the military pay of these nonresident service members to increase the state income tax of the spouse.

7. The SCRA further provides for the reinstatement of any health insurance upon termination or release from service. The insurance must have been in effect before such service commenced and terminated during the period of military service.

In many situations, the SCRA protections are not automatic, but require some action to invoke the Act.

If you think that you have rights under the SCRA that may have been violated, or that you are entitled to be shielded from a legal proceeding or financial obligation by the SCRA protections, you should discuss the matter with a legal assistant from the judge advocate general or a civilian lawyer as soon as possible.

Learn more about all your rights as a service member at the U.S. Department of Justice's website at [http://www.justice.gov/crt/spec\\_topics/military/scra.php](http://www.justice.gov/crt/spec_topics/military/scra.php).



# HORSEPOWER HEROES

## D7 Series Bulldozer

■ BY SPC. MICHAEL DAVIS

444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Time in service:* 1938 to present  
*Missions:* clear and fill terrain; tow equipment; remove mines and unexploded ordinance  
*Length:* 22.75 feet (6.93 meters)\*  
*Width:* 12 feet (3.66 meters)\*  
*Height:* 11 feet (3.35 meters)\*  
*Weight:* 50,000 pounds (22,679 kilograms)\*  
*Crew:* 1  
*Engine:* Caterpillar 3306T diesel, 200 hp\*  
*Max speed (forward):* 6 mph (9.66 kph)\*  
*Max speed (reverse):* 7.1 mph (11.43 kph)\*  
*Fuel Tank:* 120 gallons (454.25 liters)\*  
*Fuel Consumption:* 6 gallons/hr (23.7 liters/hr)\*



Photo by Sgt. Sandra Fariss | Kentucky Army National Guard

### Background

Myriad weaponry and gear are issued to Soldiers to help them adapt to varied battlefield terrains, but only one piece of equipment is employed that can create a new terrain: the Caterpillar D7. Since its first use in World War II, this 50,000-pound tractor, commonly known as a “bulldozer” or “dozer,” has proven to be one of the most versatile and dependable vehicles in America’s military arsenal.

The Caterpillar D7 has built an extensive legacy spanning more than six decades and is replete with upgrades and enhancements that have positioned it well beyond its primary role of earthmoving in the rear to terraforming in combat zones. The D7 has evolved from performing mainly rudimentary engineering tasks such as dozing, grading, filling, ripping and towing into more skilled and precision functions like mine and unexploded ordinance (UXO) clearing. Today, almost all military branches use a version of the D7 to complete

both peacetime and combative missions.

### Capabilities

First manufactured by Caterpillar, Inc. in 1938, The D7 is a medium sized bulldozer used initially by the military during World War II for construction and excavation purposes. Each subsequent version of the D7 has introduced enhancements to its overall functionality and capabilities.

The standard D7 is used for the construction of survivability positions and antitank ditches, and it can be fitted with a flail adapter kit for mine clearing. Although versatile to operate in various soil conditions, the D7 requires transport by trailer due to its poor mobility.

The D7(R) is equipped with an enhanced operator’s station for improved observation of the blade and rear of the vehicle, an elevated sprocket undercarriage for improved earthmoving, and differential steering that provide fingertip directional controls and excellent maneuverability to reduce one

of its major critiques: operator fatigue. This design also reduced interior noise levels, thus eliminating the need for ear protection as well as acquiring modifications for transport, chemical agent resistant coating paint and blackout lights.

The D7 (MCAP) has a chassis designed for greater traction and stability controls when clearing mines and UXOs in light, uneven or heavily vegetated terrains. The D7 (MCAP) is also fitted with robust armor, including bullet resistant glass and steel plating, to protect the operator from potential explosions.

The D7 series is constantly being improved to meet the changing needs of the military. The simple yet superior design requires minimal maintenance, and the expansive parts supply via U.S. military supply chains and Caterpillar’s global parts network keep the vehicle down-times low and the in-service times high. It is the continued use of the D7 that solidifies its reputation as an effective, versatile and dependable “horsepower hero.”

*\*The data listed above are based on Caterpillar’s D7G model bulldozer.*



# Stay Drug Free 143d ESC

## 'Recreational' marijuana use: State initiatives vs. federal DFWP

As many of you are aware, a number of states such as Washington and Colorado have recently passed initiatives that permit the use of marijuana for "recreational" purposes.

As a point of clarification, there have been no changes to the panel of drugs being tested under the federal Drug-

Free Workplace Program (DFWP).

Therefore, the DFWP (as established under Executive Order 12564, Public Law 100-71 and

the Mandatory Guidelines) will continue to operate in accordance with federal law, which identifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substance Act.

As such, federal civilian employees within the executive branch covered

by the DFWP will continue

to be tested for marijuana at the

established cut off levels noted in the Mandatory Guidelines available through this [link](#).



Gilbert Rivera  
Alcohol & Drug Coordinator  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)

# SOLDIER *on a ship*

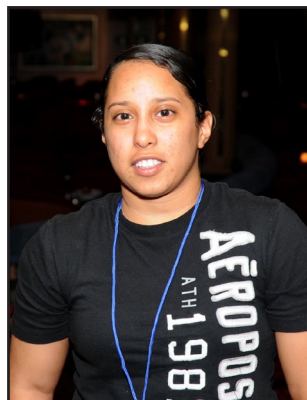


Soldiers who embarked on the 'Thank You Veterans Cruise' were asked:  
**"Why do you continue to serve in the military?"**



Sgt. Linda Baez  
143d ESC (HHC)  
Orlando, Fla.

"I love this country. I come from a long line of relatives who served in every branch of the military. The Army's a great way to give back to nation that has given so much to my family and me."



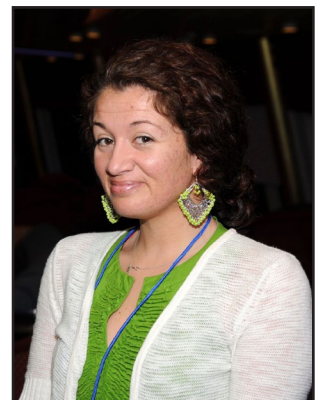
Spc. Diana Santillana  
143d ESC (HHC)  
Orlando, Fla.

"I saw a lot of people doing wrong in the world, and I didn't want to sit around and watch it happen. I welcome the challenges the Army presents, and I appreciate it giving me a head start in my career."



Sgt. Michael Wright  
257th Transportation Battalion  
Gainesville, Fla.

"Serving in the military is a tradition in my family. My father joined the Marines so he could protect the United States and support his family, and those reasons carry over to me as I do all I can to make the world safer for my wife and children."



Sgt. Laticia Ruiz  
894th Quartermaster Co.  
Jackson, Miss.

"I serve to give back to the community and country. Joining the Army gave my life purpose, and being a Soldier makes me feel that I've done something worthwhile for the people I care most."

Photos by Staff Sgt. Raul Tirado | 204th PAD

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Camaraderie Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides re-deployed or deployed Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and their families with supplemental counseling as well as emotional and spiritual support to alleviate the stress associated with their transition from the battlefield back into society. The foundation's programs include peer-to-peer discussion groups, financial counseling, community fundraisers and public awareness campaigns. Learn how you and your family can use the Camaraderie Foundation's services and support its special events by visiting <http://www.camaraderiefoundation.com> or calling (407) 841-0071.

# A LONG DISTANCE PROPOSAL



Photo by Spc. Adrienne Vinson | 421st QM DET 4

Spc. Rafael Campos, a parachute rigger for the 421st Quartermaster Detachment 4, and some of his fellow riggers gather together Nov. 2 to set up for the momentous occasion of proposing to his girlfriend in Calif. The 421st QM DET 4 deployed to Qatar earlier this year.

■ BY SPC. ADRIANNE VINSON  
421st Quartermaster Company (DET 4), UPAR

SOUTHWEST ASIA, Qatar — Cupid's arrow found its mark Nov. 2 at the 421st Quartermaster Company Detachment 4 Riggers in Qatar, where Spc. Rafael Campos, a parachute rigger, proposed to his long-time girlfriend in a unique way.

Spending tireless hours planning and coordinating on how he was going to propose to the love of his life waiting for him thousands of miles away, Campos enlisted the aid of his fellow riggers.

"I wanted to propose in a very special way that was going to be memorable," said Campos. "Since I can't be there right now, I used the help of others in the detachment. My mom has also been a major source of help and support."

Campos and his fellow riggers gathered together to set up for the momentous occasion. It was simple. With Campos kneeling, the riggers held wooden signs which spelled out the question, 'Paola, will you marry me?' for a photo.

With the ring for his girl back home, it took some work to coordinate Campos' proposal in Qatar as a surprise. His mother came into play, hand delivering a custom made engagement ring and the photo to Paulo Guzman at exactly the right time.

Guzama, a Santa Barbara, Calif. native, who is expecting the couple's first child in June, joyously accepted the proposal.

"Rafael blew me away with his creativity for the proposal," said Paulo Guzman. "I liked how he included everyone from his unit to share this special day for us."

"It really was so romantic; I can't even imagine her excitement," said Spc. Rebecca Sirkel, a parachute rigger with the 421st QM Co. DET 4. "The unique, creative way it was done, despite being on a deployment, is something that no girl in her right mind could resist."

Spc. Campos and his new fiancé have decided to approach marriage in a different manner, initially while he is still deployed, by saying their vows more than 8,000 miles apart by proxy. The couple agreed that this avenue of approach

would be best for their expected child by setting up marriage and family benefits prior to their baby's arrival.

"I really think it was a great idea to propose how he did, being that we are presently deployed," said Sgt. Jack Arnold, a lane chief rigger for the 421st. "I wish them both the best and think it is admirable that they are planning ahead and keeping family as the focus."

"It is common knowledge that it is difficult beyond belief to say goodbye to a loved one for so many months of a tour," said Spc. Elizabeth McPher-son, a combat medic for the 421st. "So it is very inspiring to see when couples last and can even advance their relationship during those strenuous times."

Campos and Guzman met in high school and began dating when they both went to work for the Department of Homeland Security. Campos plans to continue his career with the Army Reserve and Department of Homeland Security, where he recently received a promotion.

Congratulations Campos and the future Mrs. Campos. ☒





# AROUND THE ESC



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Officers from the 143d ESC serve turkey, ham, potatoes, vegetables and other traditional dishes to Soldiers and their families during the unit's annual holiday party held Dec. 2 at the David R. Wilson Armed Forces Reserve Center in Orlando, Fla. The 143d ESC invited spouses and children to the free event that also included crafts, games, dancing, family portraits and a visit from St. Nick.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lawn | 143d ESC

Newly promoted Warrant Officer Candidate Austin R. Kropp (center) with the 143d ESC holds his award between Chief Warrant Officer 5 Phyllis Wilson (left), the command chief warrant officer of the United States Army Reserve, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Billy Ray Robinson, the command chief warrant officer for the 377th Theater Sustainment Command, during the 143d ESC's annual Warrant Officer Workshop held Jan. 4 at the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando, Fla.



Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman | 414th TC

Soldiers from the 414th Transportation Company out of Orangeburg, S.C., rush to grab dodgeballs at the beginning of a game Dec. 6 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. The 414th held a dodgeball tournament as part of its monthly Morale, Welfare and Recreation event to boost morale and alleviate stress associated with working in a deployed environment.



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Soaked from heavy rain showers, Sgt. Nathaniel Perez, the color guard noncommissioned officer in charge for the 143d ESC, waves to an equally wet crowd while marching in the Orlando Citrus Parade held Dec. 29 in downtown Orlando, Fla. In addition to honoring America's service members, The parade featured a myriad of colorful floats as well as high school and university bands from Georgia, New York, Nebraska and even as far as Guatemala.



# AROUND THE ESC



Photo Spc. Aaron Ellerman | 414th TC

Spc. Daniel Harwell (front) and Soldiers from the 414th Transportation Company fire at targets during their annual rifle qualification Nov. 25 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Each Soldier holds an M4 carbine, a gas-operated, magazine-fed, selective fire, shoulder-fired weapon with a telescoping stock. Adopted by the U.S. military in 1994, the M4 is a shorter and lighter variant of the M16A2 assault rifle. Both weapons share 80 percent parts commonality and fire the same 5.56x45 mm caliber rounds.



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Sgt. Maj. Monte Waller (second from left), the senior noncommissioned officer for the 143d ESC's support operations section, poses with three members of Great White, a heavy metal band that gained international stardom during the 1980s. Soldiers from the 143d ESC partnered with Great White to raise money and awareness for the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation through the "Rock'n for Our Heroes" concert that took place Dec. 14 at Capt. Hiram's, a beach resort in Sebastian, Fla.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Tirado | 204th PAD

Crew members from the Monarch of the Seas, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship, pose for group photo with veterans from past and present wars along with their friends and families Dec. 7 in Port Canaveral, Fla. More than 100 veterans with family members and friends embarked on the first "Thank You Veterans Cruise" sponsored by the board and members of the Cpl. Larry E. Smedley National Vietnam War Museum in Orlando, Fla.





# AROUND THE ESC

## UNIT PHOTOS WANTED

The "ESC Today" wants to show off photos of Soldiers from your unit performing operational duties and basic soldiering skills. Include a caption with names, ranks, place, date and a short description of what is happening in each photo, then send your images to: [john.adams16@usar.army.mil](mailto:john.adams16@usar.army.mil)



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Lt. Col. Donald R. Weakley, a former operations, plans and training officer for the 143d ESC, holds a plaque recognizing his retirement during the unit's full-time staff luncheon Dec. 7 at the Rosen Shingle Creek resort in Orlando, Fla. Weakley, who served in the Army for 29 years, also received Legion of Merit that day.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Tirado | 204th PAD

Michah Johnson (left), assigned to the 143d ESC, and his wife, Lydia (right), enjoy dinner during the first "Thank You Veterans" cruise Dec. 7 on the Monarch of the Seas, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship. More than 40 rooms were donated by veteran supporters to Soldiers who recently returned home from overseas deployments.



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Santa Claus (Mark Daly, safety officer), Mrs. Claus (Maj. Sandy Gosciniak, historian) and two of their elves (Sgt. 1st Class Soklay Kong and Spc. Bianca Alicea, information technology specialists) pay an early visit the David R. Wilson Armed Forces Reserve Center in Orlando, Fla., Dec. 2 to give gifts to the children of Soldiers assigned to the 143d ESC.



# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. HOLIDAY

EVERYBODY  
can be  
great.

Because  
ANYBODY  
can  
SERVE.

You only  
need a  
HEART  
full of  
A grace.

SOUL  
generated  
by LOVE.



## REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!



# Rock 'n for our Heroes

■ BY SGT. JOHN L. CARKEET IV

143d ESC Public Affairs

SEBASTIAN, Fla. – Anyone who visited Capt. Hiram's beach resort in Sebastian, Fla. Dec. 14, likely would have believed that an unearthly force had hurled him back to 1986. Live music from the decade's most iconic heavy metal bands ignited an atmosphere fueled by strobe lights, theater smoke and kilowatt speakers. Servers balancing a dozen beverages on trays bustled between head banging fans and camera toting journalists as they surged toward the edge of the bandstand in hopes of capturing—and perhaps consuming—the perfect shot.

Just beyond the illuminated stage and lively crowd sat an elderly woman, her short silver hair standing in stark contrast against her red shirt and black bracelet. In front of her rested a card table festooned with American flags that fluttered in the gentle sea breeze. A gray bucket with a small rectangular hole cut out of its plastic lid resided at the center of the table. Flyers taped to the bucket explained the patriotic setup with a single phrase: ***"Donations for the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation"***

The money in the bucket supplemented a deluge of donations from the ticket booth, for every penny from the "Rock'n for Our Heroes" concert benefited this philanthropic program that supports wounded service members who once defended America as explosive ordinance and disposal technicians.

"The Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation doesn't just take care of the Soldiers but their families, too," said Gary L. Eavey, chief promoter for "Rock'n for Our Heroes." "[The foundation] helps families better understand what a Soldier goes through when he transitions from deployment and gives them resources to make the adjustment easier for everyone."

As a former Soldier who completed his career as a motor transportation

specialist for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Eavey reached out to his comrades at the 143d ESC to promote the show and personally speak to the bands and their fans. The unit answered the call by spreading the word via Facebook and providing a pair of prominent representatives to speak on behalf of the Army Reserve: Sgt. Maj. Monte Waller, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 143d ESC's support operations section, and Col. Edith Greene, commander of the 642nd Regional Sustainment Command based in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me, and I wasn't going to turn it down," said Waller. "It was an honor to shake hands with the bands then walk on stage and personally thank the fans for their generosity."

Several hours before the performers took their places on the Grand Sand Bandstand, the three bands—The Wicked Garden Gnomes, The Trans Ams and Great White—hosted a press conference at The Inn at Capt. Hiram's. Here, the men that would soon pound drums, shred guitars and wail lyrics shared their thoughts about the concert's solemn cause.

"Sometimes people just go through the motions of life and don't stop to think about what thousands of people have done thousands of miles away to keep them safe," said Mark Kendall, a guitarist for Great White. "We hope 'Rock'n for Our Heroes' will remind our fans of the sacrifices our Soldiers have made, especially after 9/11."

Great White's vocalist Terry Ilouis expressed the bands' respect for those service members who bled to detect, diffuse and dismantle explosive ordinance.

"This concert will shed some light on what our wounded [EOD] warriors have done," said Ilouis. "Their whole lives changed the moment they lost a limb, and it's only right that we support them the same way they preserved our way of life."

Shortly after the press conference, Waller and Eavey stepped onstage to welcome the gathering crowd. Cheers rose around the two men as they threw souvenir shirts and hats into the mass of outstretched arms.

"Thank you for coming out and supporting the wounded EOD warriors," boomed Waller. "It's a privilege to do this, and it's my privilege to tell you that we're starting to bring our troops home so—"

The roaring crowd drowned out Waller's words.

The show started in earnest when guitarist Steve Murray unleashed Jimi Hendrix's rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner." The Wicked Garden Gnomes and the Trans Ams followed Murray's homage to Hendrix and played songs made popular by Aerosmith, Metallica and Mötley Crüe.

Eavey also gave Greene a couple minutes

**See "HEROES," pg. 16>>>**



Gary Eavey (right), chief promoter for the "Rock'n for Our Heroes" concert, throws a souvenir shirt while Sgt. Maj. Monte Waller (left), the senior noncommissioned officer for the 143d ESC's support operations section, pumps up the crowd. Eavey invited his former comrades from the 143d ESC to the concert Dec. 14 at Capt. Hiram's beach resort in Sebastian, Fla., to raise money and awareness for the Wounded EOD Warriors.

Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC



### <<< “HEROES,” cont.

to thank the audience for their support and asked everyone present for a moment of silence in respect for the 20 children and six adults killed during the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Sandy Hook, Conn.

As headliner Great White stormed the stage and rocked the very songs that brought it to international stardom in the 1980s, Eavey and Greene reflected on the night’s festivities.

“Our motto is ‘be loud and proud,’ and what better way to get your message out there than at a rock concert?” asked Eavey. “We’re already lined up to do this event again next year, and the crowds and performers will only get bigger.”

“Tonight we reached an audience we don’t normally interact with,” Greene observed. “We got to tell our story to people who only get glimpses of us on television, and they showed us that they whole heartedly support the military even though they may have never before met a person in uniform.”

Waller believes the night’s excitement will extend beyond those who “danced the night away.”

“There’s so much that communities can do to help their wounded

warriors,” said Waller. “If people see that Soldiers are actively supporting them, then they, too, will get involved in fundraisers like this one.”

The members of Great White—who spent their own money to promote the concert and donated \$500 to the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation—believe their music would help validate Waller’s theory.

“We should never leave a Soldier behind, whether he or she is ‘over there’ or ‘over here,’ said Kendall. “We hope our music reminds our wounded warriors of something or someone that makes them feel good.”



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

“Rock’n for our Heroes” featured three bands: The Wicked Garden Gnomes, The Trans Ams and Great White. Here, the Trans Ams (below) whale whale tunes famous by America’s most popular ‘80s heavy metal bands, while Great White vocalist Terry Ilous (above) sings one of his group’s original Top 40 hits. Every penny from the concert’s ticket sales supported the Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation.



Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC



## GENERAL DISCUSSION



**Norman Schwarzkopf**  
1934-2012

*Years in service: 1956-1991*

*Highest rank: General (four stars)*

*Highest command: U.S. Central Command*  
*Wars fought: Vietnam, Grenada, Persian Gulf*

*Famous quote: "It doesn't take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle."*

Story by Olivia L. Carkeet | Historian

H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr. was born in Trenton, N.J. in 1934. His father, Herbert Norman Schwarzkopf, graduated from West Point in 1917 and deployed with the American Expeditionary Force to Europe. After returning from the Western Front, the senior Schwarzkopf was appointed the first superintendent of the New Jersey State Police in 1921 and is best known for leading the investigation during the Lindbergh baby kidnapping in 1932. He later returned to the Army and retired as a Major General in 1953.

The younger Schwarzkopf attended Valley Forge Military Academy before following in his father's footsteps. In 1956 he graduated from West Point. Schwarzkopf also earned a Master's Degree in mechanical engineering focusing on guided missile engineering from the University of Southern California before returning to

West Point as a teacher.

A highly decorated soldier, Schwarzkopf's military career included two tours to Vietnam. During his second tour, Schwarzkopf was awarded his third Silver Star for leading members of a company under his command out of a minefield to safety. He was also awarded a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and several Distinguished Service medals. In 1983 Schwarzkopf commanded American ground forces restoring order in Grenada after a Marxist group seized control of the island. Schwarzkopf was named commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., five years later.

The defining events of Schwarzkopf's career began with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. American forces moved into the Middle East within five months. Schwarzkopf directed U.S.-led coalition forces in

Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, sweeping Saddam Hussein's troops out of Iraq. The string of decisive victories his coalition accumulated earned him the nickname, "Stormin' Norman."

Schwarzkopf retired from the Army shortly after his return to the United States. At the height of his fame and recognition, he declined all opportunities for public office. He instead lived out his retirement in relative quiet, releasing his autobiography, "It Doesn't Take a Hero," in 1993. Schwarzkopf would return occasionally to the public spotlight while serving as a television analyst on military matters and speaking for prostate cancer awareness.

Schwarzkopf died of complications from pneumonia Dec. 27, 2012 at age 78. His tenacity, intelligence and concern for his troops has molded the leadership style for many of today's commanders.

Photo by Bob Daugherty | AP

# New year brings change to Warrior Leadership Course

■ BY MIKIE PERKINS

*U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy*

FORT BLISS, Texas – Preparing Soldiers for the Army of 2020 means restructuring a critical link in the Noncommissioned Officer Education System chain that prepares Soldiers for future leadership—the Warrior Leader Course.

Gen. Robert W. Cone, commanding general of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine command, asked the commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, or USASMA, Command Sgt. Maj. Rory L. Malloy, to evaluate whether or not the Warrior Leader Course, or WLC, was meeting the Army's needs.

"When you get a request from the top to look into a course as important to the future of our Army as WLC, you know the boss is paying attention to his Soldiers," Malloy said.

The year-long analysis resulted in a number of suggested changes and improvements, which were tested during three iterations of the pilot course at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, both in Texas. After the iterations were completed, the

changes were approved, and the course was updated to reflect the assessment of training. Modifications to the WLC include changes in course length as well as subject improvements and additions.

The length of the WLC will increase from 17 to 22 academic days. The academic day will be limited to 8.5 hours, resulting in time for reflection, and additional time to reinforce training in areas such as counseling and leadership.

The restructured WLC will also include 12 hours of map reading -- four of which are introduced in the Structured Self-Development Level One as prerequisite for WLC, and the remaining eight will be taught in the WLC.

The addition of the Army Physical Fitness Test to the WLC will ensure Soldiers are capable of meeting the Army's fitness, and height and weight standards, Malloy said. He added that the inclusion of a noncommissioned officer, or NCO, initiatives class was a valuable tool to keep Soldiers on the path to success.

"The best thing about the NCO initiatives class

is there's flexibility built into it, which allows for the insertion of new and emerging trends that Soldiers need to be aware of and keep up with," Malloy said.

Two areas where training hours increased include instruction in writing NCO Evaluation Reports as well as a more comprehensive block of teaching in counseling. Malloy said while the 17-day program of instruction served Soldiers well, the change was necessary in order to provide the best training possible.

Changes to the course were the result of a comprehensive approach taken by USASMA. The commandant and his team used a variety of sources, including end-of-course surveys, working groups and a selection board to gather information and feedback from subject matter experts to compile data and provide a comprehensive picture of the course—both its strengths and possible areas to target for improvement.

Active Army implementation of the new WLC will begin this month. 📅

# DA PHOTO LAB

# NOW



## WHAT TO WEAR - OFFICIAL D.A. PHOTOGRAPH

SOLDIERS MAY WEAR EITHER THE CLASS A UNIFORM OR THE ARMY SERVICE UNIFORM UNTIL FY 2015



THIS IS A 3/4 LENGTH PHOTO. SHOES WILL NOT SHOW IN PHOTOS HOWEVER YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR FEET.

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# 'Skill, Knowledge, Talent'

## *912th AG is no ordinary company*

■ BY CAPT. SHARIF FARUQUE  
*912th Adjutant General Company*

The 912th Adjutant General Company (HR) is a postal unit that pushes the envelope while training inside and outside of Battle Assembly. Many of the practical Mission Essential Task List (METL) and pre-deployment specific training events were successful due to the creative approach of the 912th AG's leadership and, more importantly, junior Soldiers.



During fiscal year 2012, the unit trained on various individual and collective tasks including Military Operations Urban Terrain training, Operation Leprechaun, Silver Scimitar, and multiple unit-level field training exercises while prioritizing for Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualification and Noncommissioned Officer Education System requirements.

Operation Leprechaun, a mini-postal exercise, simulated forward operating bases at three different locations. Soldiers travelled with their tactical vehicles to exchange mail and reacted to different types of attacks that included a mock chemical situation.

Field training exercise Operation Overload consisted of weapons qualification, land navigation using Precision Lightweight GPS Receivers, an obstacle/rappelling course, and a modified zombie run that provided an opportunity to gain basic leadership skills at all levels.

Combat arms Soldiers in the unit used their knowledge and skills to prepare and execute battle drills, using paintball guns to simulate contact on tactical vehicles, and conduct



MOUT training. The hands-on drown-proofing training provided water confidence, taught proper techniques in using Army Combat Uniforms as floatation devices, and helped Soldiers gain trust in their equipment. In addition to the unit training, the Soldiers provided year-round support for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Silver Scimitar and a brigade exercise with more than 800 Soldiers.

The organizational and family days were also unique. The unit's organizational day injected team and platoon level ruck-march competitions, drill and ceremony tests, and an obstacle course that promoted esprit de corps. In memory of our fallen Soldiers, the 912th AG introduced a memorial walk as part of the family day to encourage family and friends show solidarity with the Soldiers.

The Soldiers of the 912th AG lived up to this year's motto: "Skill, Knowledge, Talent." The leadership and full-time staff were integral to the high-quality training produced this year. The 912th AG will maintain their success in the future with hard training, engagement and high quality performance at all levels. Visit the [912th Facebook page](#) for more pictures and information. ☒

