

TRIPLE NICKEL TRIBUNE

555TH ENGINEER BRIGADE - WILLING AND ABLE!

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, WASHINGTON - WWW.LEWIS.ARMY.MIL/555



Volume 1, Issue 1 - Autumn 2012

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Message From the Commander, COL Nicholas Katers - 'ABLE 6'



"We now have over 1000 Soldiers in the fight and in January we will welcome four new battalions into the family as we assume control of all engineer operations in Afghanistan."

These next few pages provide a snapshot of the great things going on across the brigade, including in our world-class construction and combat engineer battalions, our expert chemical battalions, and our exceptional EOD battalion.

Our units' recent achievements, along with the always top-notch quality of our Soldiers, are what have made the Triple Nickel a unit of choice for generations.

This great brigade has been around since 1943 and is currently the largest active duty engineer brigade in the Army with nearly 5000 Soldiers assigned to it. The brigade was there

at Normandy earning five battle streamers clearing the supply routes for the breakout from the Omaha and Utah beachheads. They were part of Patton's third Army bridging the Moselle River and reducing the fortress at Metz. Recently, the brigade has participated in three deployments to Iraq. Most operating bases and logistics hubs in Kuwait bear the Triple Nickel stamp.

We now have over 1000 Soldiers in the fight and in January we will welcome four new battalions into the family as the brigade headquarters assumes control of all engineer operations in Afghanistan. This is a great family with a long, distinguished record of accomplishments. We proudly bear the red and white of a great engineer community but also the cobalt blue and golden yellow of the chemical regiment and the crimson and gold of our EOD brothers.

Our pride in these units extends to our devoted Families who stand behind us, whose love and support can be felt from half a world away. So thank you to our Families and also our supportive communities and friends. This newsletter is dedicated to you all.

Willing and Able,
Colonel Nick Katers

At A Glance...

- ◆ 14TH ENGINEERS BACK HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN. WELL DONE!
- ◆ 1ST ENGINEER "DIEHARDS" DEPLOY TO KEEP ROADS SAFE FROM IED'S
- ◆ 864TH ENGINEERS COMPLETE PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING IN IDAHO
- ◆ BRIGADE HQ'S TO DEPLOY, RUN ENGINEER OPS IN AFGHANISTAN
- ◆ NOV. 20: SANTA'S CASTLE RUCK MARCH, TO DONATE TOYS FOR ARMY FAMILIES, STARTS AT 6:15AM ON FIELD BEHIND BRIGADE HQ'S
- ◆ THANKSGIVING NOV. 22 AT THE BRIGADE "CASTLE & CANNON" DINING FACILITY, 11AM-2PM. COST \$7.50. FAMILIES WELCOME!
- ◆ BRIGADE HHC & 864TH ENG BN. COLORS CASING CEREMONY ON ABLE FIELD AT 10AM, DEC. 19

Triple Nickel Team,

I'm happy to introduce our new brigade newsletter, especially at such an exciting time in our unit's history. As we close out our beautiful summer and fall, and prepare for the deployment of the brigade headquarters, we proudly look back on recent missions accomplished by our Triple Nickel Soldiers across the U.S., Afghanistan, and everywhere in between. We also will bid a fond farewell to our great 23rd Chemical Battalion as they leave the brigade and re-station to the Republic of Korea. The Mighty Lions will be greatly missed.

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Combined Federal Campaign
Consider supporting a charity of your choice through the CFC! Ask your unit for a pledge card, or go to www.cfcgive.org and click 'Donate Now' on the left.

Choose from thousands of popular charities, including...

555 Able Soldier & Family Fund

"Honor the fallen and support those who carry on"

CFC Code: 84293
www.555SoldierFund.org



The Brigade Run, Sept. 18, was led by COL Nicholas Katers, left, with SPC Aaron Dreas carrying the Brigade Colors.



CSM Corner, Command Sergeant Major Kevin Bryan - 'Able 7'



Triple Nickel Team,

It was very gratifying see our great brigade and local community coming together as one during our annual Triple Nickel Ball. Evenings like this are only successful when Soldiers and families are proud of the unit they are a part of. Our families keep our community spirit alive while we are gone and sustain our Soldiers while they are so far from home. The bonds that are made during events such as the brigade ball and family readiness group meetings will help our family members realize they are part of a much bigger team that cares for every one of them. We will continue to have challenging times as our loved ones depart in and out of a combat theater, but as long as we have the special bond with our Triple Nickel family it will help mitigate the hard times.



Staying involved is a key part of dealing with this hardship. The first step is often the hardest. You will

find that time will seem to pass a lot faster when the days are being spent involved in our community. Be part of your FRG. Volunteer in the local community. Thank you to all of those that make our Triple Nickel family a winning team. Willing and Able and God speed.

Willing and Able,
CSM Kevin Bryan

“Our families keep our community spirit alive while we are gone and sustain our Soldiers while they are so far from home.”



The Triple Nickel Tribune is an authorized newsletter for members of the 555th Engineer Brigade. Contents are not necessarily endorsed by the Dept. of the Army, DoD, or U.S. Government. Content is reviewed, edited, and approved by the Brigade Public Affairs Officer (PAO). For questions, comments, or submissions, please contact the Brigade PAO.

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WILLING & ABLE SOLDIERS

Recognizing exemplary service across the Triple Nickel Brigade



(Photo by Cedric Silas, Cascade Photography)

Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CW4) Bryan Hanks, CW4 James Townsend, and First Sergeant Raymond Washington are presented with the de Fleury Medal, a prestigious medal awarded to exceptional Army Engineers, at the Brigade Ball in September. Willing and Able!



1st Engineer Battalion "Diehard"



Since our departure from Fort Riley in early September, the Soldiers of the 1st Engineer Battalion have been incredibly busy and have already proved themselves as combat ready. Soon after deploying, the battalion moved to its final destinations and began a rigorous process of in-theater training and transition tasks in preparation of assuming our diverse missions.

On 14 October 2012, the 1st Engineer Battalion, now Task Force

Diehard, conducted the transfer of authority (TOA) with the 7th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Red Devils. In the days prior, each company likewise assumed their missions across eastern Afghanistan. The 72d Engineer Company and the 111th Engineer Company are each assigned to the 178th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Prowler while Task Force Diehard has grown to include HHC, FSC, the 41st Engineer Company, the 102d Engineer Company, the 264th

Engineer Company, the 289th Engineer Company, and the 857th Engineer Company.

I cannot express how proud I am of each of these units and their Soldiers. Each has demonstrated an unrivaled degree of professionalism and dedication that has set the standard for deploying units. I know that their performance would not have been possible without the superb support of our Diehard Families and friends.

Over the next several months we will face numerous challenges such as poor weather, evolving missions and a determined enemy, but I have complete confidence that our Soldiers are up to the task.

As a final note, I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you, Soldiers and Family members, for your sacrifices and commitment. Your support is our strength.

Always First!

*-LTC Thomas B. Hairgrove, Jr.
Battalion Commander*



"We will face numerous challenges such as poor weather, evolving missions and a determined enemy, but I have complete confidence that our Soldiers are up to the task."

-1st EN BN Commander

4th Engineer Battalion "Vanguard"

The 4th Engineer Battalion welcomed Command Sergeant Major Jon R. Stanley on Aug. 22 at the battalion Change of Responsibility Ceremony. CSM Stanley comes to us from Fort Bragg, at a critical time for the battalion as the battalion staff and the Forward Support Company ramp up pre-deployment training, 576th conducts redeployment reintegration, 62nd prepares for the National Training Center (NTC) and deployment, and the 569th completes its deployment.

Forward Support Company went to Pinon Canyon on 23rd of July to train on Logistical Convoy Operations in preparation for their deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Both the Maintenance and Distribution Platoons conducted four different training lanes and proved that they soon will be the "best of the best!"

Headquarters and Headquarters Company was busy with Tactical Operations Center (TOC) operations during August. The battalion staff worked hard to refine their battle

drills and establish standards of TOC operations. The staff will apply their lessons learned as they prepare for their NTC rotation.

Soldiers from 576th were split up and sent home at different times. With half the company back and the other still deployed, families eagerly awaited the return of the rest of the company, a return welcomed with McDonalds, smiling families and friends.

On Aug. 6, 62nd Company went to Camp Red Devil to install a headquarters from which to conduct missions. After getting set up and settled on the 6th, the platoons hit the ground running on the 7th, conducting daily missions through the 16th. The FTX missions had a route clearance focus in order to prepare the company for the upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, where route clearance

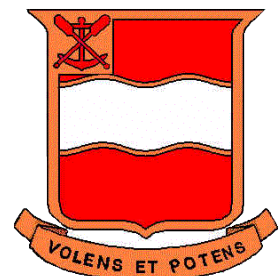
will be their mission. While tiring, the missions were a learning experience and provided the ideal environment for the platoons to integrate new personnel and refine battle drills.

In addition, Soldiers from across the Battalion took a lead role in fighting the Waldo Canyon fire this summer at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Horizontal construction engineers such as SFC Justin Payne, below, used their heavy equipment to clear away vegetation to prevent the fire from spreading.



(Photo by PFC Andrew Ingram, 4ID Public Affairs)

"Vanguard Soldiers from across the 4th Engineer Battalion took a lead role in fighting the Waldo Canyon fire this summer at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs."





14th Engineer Battalion "Rugged"

WELCOME HOME

As the summer months at Joint-Base Lewis-McChord drew to a warm and sunny end, the Soldiers of the Rugged 14th Engineer Battalion redeployed from a year long tour in Afghanistan. As this chapter of Rugged history came to a close, a new one immediately opened. LTC John G. Buck, commander of the 14th for over three years, relinquished command to LTC Douglas E. Brown two days before the battalion went on a 30 day block leave. Coming off an extremely successful deployment where over 700 IEDs were removed from the battlefield and over 300,000km of routes cleared across Afghanistan, the "Rugged" took some much deserved time off.

While most of the redeployed Soldiers were relaxing and enjoying the life and freedoms they had just

spent a year fighting for, the rear detachment was hard at work in order to prepare the battalion for the next fight. Upon returning from block leave, it seemed like the battalion was moving in a hundred different directions at an extremely fast pace. Several important missions that Rugged supported include sending Soldiers to support the 864th Engineer Battalion's mission readiness exercise in Idaho, observer control teams (OCTs) to National Training Center at Ft. Irwin to certify a Sapper company of the 4th Engineer Battalion for their deployment, resetting battalion equipment to be prepared for the next fight, and finally, undertaking the monstrous task of re-drawing all of the left-behind equipment to resume training. While all of these lines of effort are being conducted, the battalion is reestablishing its own internal processes with new leadership.

With the upcoming Global Response Force readiness mission

and future deployment on the horizon, the 14th Engineer Battalion is quickly establishing systems and preparing Soldiers in order to meet the needs of the Army and our great Nation. And as the warm and sunny days give way to the clouds and the fall rain, the Rugged Engineers look to fill the pages of the next chapter in their illustrious history.



"...an extremely successful deployment where over 700 IEDs were removed from the battlefield and over 300,000km of routes cleared across Afghanistan..."

52nd Engineer Battalion "Five Deuce"

The 52nd Engineer Battalion has had a number of memorable events occur this summer. Newly redeployed, the 615th Engineer Company (Horizontal) responded to the Waldo Canyon Wildfire, pushing equipment and personnel to the Air Force Academy to support fire-fighting efforts, while simultaneously conducting reset operations. Following the response, 615th EN CO immediately shifted operations to construct a two-mile stretch of road for the Fort Carson Route White Construction Project. Upon arrival in the Middle East, 497th Engineer Company (Horizontal) and 544th Engineer Company (Vertical) immediately started working to improve camps across Kuwait and executing construction operations in Afghanistan.

The companies have made innumerable contributions to the region including laying concrete DFAC pads and culverts, improving camp roads, preparing tent and connex yard pads, refurbishing la-

trine and admin trailers, and installing indoor and outdoor lighting to name just a few.

Meanwhile, FSC and HHC not only honed their tactical skills during field training and range operations but also supported the Waldo Canyon Wildfire response, construction operations, and prepared 40th Engineer Detachment for deployment. The companies refreshed skills from map reading, to medical buddy aid

under fire, to combatives training. In addition to the work, the 52nd Engineer Battalion honored past and present members of the Five-Deuce Family at the 2012 Alumni & Spouse Day and celebrated an exciting year with a Battalion Ball. Our Soldiers have left a lasting impact this quarter on the Fort Carson and Colorado Springs communities, military operations at home and abroad, and on the 52nd Engineer Battalion legacy.

WE SERVE TOGETHER



52nd Engineer Soldiers practice medical evacuation during recent training.



864th Engineer Battalion "Pacemakers"

Indomitable work ethic and dedication to duty describe the actions of the 864th Engineer Battalion's Soldiers every day. Spread out across the globe, this quarter the Pacemakers worked to improve the living conditions for a community in Thailand, assisted the US Border

Patrol by building a strategic road in New Mexico, and supported Operation Warrior Forge, an exercise that is vital to training the Army's future officer corps.

In early May, Soldiers from 617th Engineer Company "Trailblazers" deployed to New Mexico and worked closely with the US Border patrol to build a strategic road along the US/Mexican border. The platoon's hard work on the project, along with their steadfast dedication to safety excellence were personally recognized by the Joint



Task Force North Commander.

Extending a humanitarian hand, the Soldiers from the 585th Engineer Company "Roughnecks" set out for Thailand to conduct two months of intense construction operations.

They participated in a joint exercise with the Royal Thai Military to provide a rural community in the Prachuap Khiri Khan Province with improved educational facilities. The Roughnecks and their Thai partners (pictured) worked hard in

demanding conditions to build a new library and community center, three classrooms, and one bathroom. Their construction efforts will have a lasting impact on that community and its children's educational experiences for years to come.

The battalion's main effort during the summer was at JBLM in support of Operation Warrior Forge,

the training mission that provides cadets and officer candidates vital training and leadership experience to prepare them to be commissioned as United States Army Officers. The Pacemakers set up two large training bases for over 4,000 personnel. The battalion provided more than 500 Soldiers and leaders to assist in training, making a lasting impact on those cadets and future leaders.

Finally, the Battalion spent the month of October in Idaho training on essential combat and construction tasks to prepare for their deployment to Afghanistan in early 2013 to assist with the drawdown.

The 864th Engineer Battalion continues to set the standard for Engineer Battalions across the Army with its dedication to excellence and accomplishment of a wide variety of missions around the world. Pacemaker Soldiers are disciplined, trained, ready, and built to last on a foundation of strong leadership, outstanding work ethic, and a dedication to serving their country.

Set the Pace!



Brigade & Battalion Colors Casing Ceremony: Dec. 19th

In preparation for deployment to Afghanistan, the 555th Engineer Brigade HHC and the 864th Engineer Battalion will hold a joint colors casing ceremony on Dec. 19 at 10am on

Able Field behind Brigade HQ's (Wilson Gym, if inclement weather)

23rd Chemical Battalion "Lions"

Since 2004 the Lion Battalion has been under the care of the 555th Engineer Brigade here in the Great Pacific Northwest and the environment has been a model for the AD-CON (administrative control) relationship. While not a traditional command relationship, the leadership, camaraderie, and esprit de corps has been phenomenal and we truly feel like a part of the team. We will truly miss being a part of the Triple Nickel and our ties to this great organization will always be a highlight in our battalion history. But, as the war in Iraq has come to a close and Afghanistan begins to subside, our Nation has called on the Lion Battalion to assist in the enforcement of the armistice and enhance deterrence of North Korean aggression on the Korean Peninsula.

This Battalion has a long and proud history with Korea dating back to the Korean War, and we look forward to once again join our Korean brothers and sisters and live our

"I look forward to the opportunity of writing yet another chapter in this battalion's proud heritage as we re-station this great organization to the 'land of the morning calm' in support of the 2nd Infantry Division." -LTC Crockett

motto: Moong Chi Ja- "Two Joined as One". This motto not only speaks to the Battalion's commitment to security on the Korean Peninsula, but our Nation's commitment to our over 60 year Alliance with the people of South Korea.

As many of you know, the 23d CBRN Battalion is steeped in a proud history of service to our Nation, dating back to its inception and service in WWII, where we fought alongside the battalions of the Triple

Nickel, protecting our Nation's finest with generated smoke as they stormed the beaches of Normandy. I look forward to the opportunity of writing yet another chapter in this battalion's proud heritage as we re-station this great organization to the 'land of the morning calm' in support of the 2d Infantry Division and their mission to defend against North Korean weapons of mass destruction.

As we begin our final preparations to re-locate the Battalion, I want to take this time to thank the countless leaders, Soldiers, Families and Alumni of this great organization for your enduring support over the past eight years. We hope that the friendships and bonds that we have made in the Pacific Northwest, and throughout the Continental United States, remain strong and stand the tests of time and distance.

-LTC Dale "Sean" Crockett
BN Commander





110th Chemical Battalion "Utmost"



We have some magnificent Soldiers and Civilian Employees in our battalion, and I am honored and proud to serve with you. During September 5-7, we partnered with several other Army, Air Force, and Civilian professionals for the 2012 Pacific Northwest CBRNE Conference/Seminar and Green Dragon Ball. Whether you helped as part of the battalion staff, family volunteer, or were a community/organizational supporter, I sincerely thank everyone that made this endeavor a success.

Where does the time go? The Fall Season is upon us, and our training calendar is full of activities and events. On October 1st, 172d Chemical Company (located at Fort Riley, Kansas) reunited with the Iron Dragon Battalion as part of the 48th Chemical Brigade realignment for administrative control. On October 10th, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Companies conducted a re-designation ceremony and became the 11th, 9th, and 501st Technical Escort Chemical Companies. Our Battalion HQ and HHC will participate in the 2d Infan-

try Division Warpath III Exercise in October and return in mid-November. Although this event is the main focus for the battalion, the 9th and 11th will concentrate on sub-team training. 501st will remain focused on re-stationing to Korea now that it is aligned with 23d Chemical Battalion. The 172d will field the Stryker variant NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle. Several of these events will carry over to November.

Remember that we have Soldiers deployed with the Afghanistan Capture Material Exploitation Cell and a CBRNE Response Team (CRT) operating with 2ID in Korea. For those of us not currently deployed, continue to train hard and be ready for whatever response is required to defend our great nation.

- LTC Daryl Hood
Battalion Commander

"For those of us not currently deployed, continue to train hard and be ready for whatever response is required to defend our great nation."

-LTC Hood



3rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Battalion

Greetings from Kandahar!

Since we last met, the 3d Ordnance Battalion (EOD) has deployed from our home station of Joint Base Lewis McChord, and assumed our new role as JointTask Force Paladin-South at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Last month we conducted a Transfer of Authority (TOA) with the 192d Ordnance Battalion (EOD) on 19 Aug 2012 and just a few days later we conducted a TOA with EOD Mobile Unit Three at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, thus giving the Nighthawks command and control of EOD forces across three separate Regional Commands; South, Southwest, and West. This is an amazing amount of responsibility, however, I am confident that the team we have built is more than capable of accomplishing the mission. We are nearly 60 days into the deployment and your loved ones are doing a great job of taking care of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines that make up JTF Paladin-South.

While your loved ones are committed to taking care of our service members in harm's way, CSM Pat Standley and I are committed to taking care of the families and friends who support the Nighthawks. In conjunction with our Rear Detachment Team of MAJ Rob Shefner and 1SG Ray Ertle, we want to ensure that the strength of our organization, our families, have their needs taken care of with a sense of urgency and purpose. Ultimately, our goal is to take care of you so that your loved ones can focus on the task at hand of executing their jobs to the best of their abilities. We are a completely transparent organization and I welcome emails from each and every one of you.

We have an amazing Facebook page (search '3d Explosive Ordnance' to find it) where we provide everything from news articles, contests, stories, current events on JBLM and even pictures of your deployed loved ones in action so you can see first-

hand how they are doing. I encourage you to share our page with extended family members and friends so we can continue to get our message out. We are giving away some Nighthawk items such as battalion coins, polo shirts, hats, water bottles, and even a football signed by the members of the HHD.

We also have a program where you can send in an American flag and have it flown over Camp Meyers, our compound here on KAF, and we'll mail it back to you with a certificate of authenticity.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention that the JTF Paladin Team loves to receive care packages! Chaplain McBroom is our point of contact for receiving care packages designated for any member of the Nighthawk Team. His mailing address is: Chaplain Phil McBroom, JTF Paladin-South (KAF), APO AE 09355

- LTC Frank Davis
3rd EOD Bn. Commander

NIGHTHAWKS





CLEAR - HOLD - BUILD

ARMY ENGINEERS CONSTRUCT A COMBAT OUTPOST IN AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS

FROM THE PAINTING BY PATRICK J. HASKETT

UNITED STATES ARMY  **ENGINEER REGIMENT**

Sales of blankets, artwork benefit the 555 Able Soldier and Family Fund

The 555 Able Soldier & Family Fund helps support our Triple Nickel Soldiers and their Families during their times of greatest need, assisting those deployed and Families of those killed or wounded.

The Able Fund recently commissioned world-renowned combat artist Patrick Haskett to create a **new print titled "Clear-Hold-Build."** This print, shown above, depicts the 864th Engineer Battalion constructing a combat outpost in Afghanistan. The print title reflects the Army's strategy for counter-insurgency.

This print is being offered at \$80, with proceeds going directly to the Able Fund. In addition, the official **Triple Nickel blanket**, to the right, is available for \$50, with proceeds also going to the Able Fund.

Visit www.555soldierfund.com for more info and to order.





Brigade Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC)



The Soldiers and leaders of Brigade HHC, nicknamed "Outlaws," have been busy getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan around the beginning of 2013 and become the theater engineer brigade in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will assume command and control of all separate engineer units and operations across the country.

With extensive training occurring at all levels, HHC is ready to answer the nation's call. In September, much of the staff traveled to the Mission Command Training Center at Ft. Leavenworth and is now conducting mission command exercises at JBLM; some soon travel to Germany for two weeks to further hone their command and control capabilities.

From the Outgoing Commander: CPT Warren Hummel

Change of Command ceremonies are too often mistakenly seen as being about the Commanders. The Officers involved, incoming and outgoing, are not the purpose or reason for the ceremony. The cere-

mony is about the Command itself. It celebrates the group of Soldiers and their hard work and accomplishments throughout a period of time.

During this period, the Outlaw Soldiers have supported deployment and redeployment of multiple units spread across installations in three states. They have conducted over 50 surveys, and completed multiple construction plans. The S1 section processed hundreds of awards and evaluations, while our S3 section has planned training for subordinate units as well as themselves, and supported objectives of the I-Corps Headquarters. These are just a few examples of functions that occur every day. This team of Soldiers have met every task with outstanding results and have prepared themselves for success in Afghanistan.

Going forward is a great command team in CPT Pride, 1SG Wooth, and 1LT Flowers. The headquarters is a team of teams and they are ready. It has been an honor to be a part of that team and I look forward

to supporting this team and seeing all they will accomplish.

"Outlaws!" "Willing and Able!"

From the Incoming Commander: CPT Matthew Pride

Our mission in Afghanistan is straightforward; we will support and engineer the means by which ISAF forces can successfully transition security operations to the Afghan Army. This will in turn provide a safe and secure condition to begin transitioning NATO and US forces out of theater and close the book on the long-endured Operation Enduring Freedom, our nation's longest kinetic struggle. Each of you have every right to feel privileged as a participant of living history, just as I feel honored to be your company commander for this mission. First Sergeant Wooth and I both look forward to serving your needs and sustaining your spirits so that each staff member and company Soldier can focus on the important task at hand.

Willing and Able!

- Outlaw 6

Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 20: Santa's Castle Ruck March beginning at 6:15am behind Brigade Headquarters.

*Triple Nickel Families may join their Soldiers for a 2.5 mile ruck march to donate toys for JBLM Soldiers' kids

- Nov. 20, 2pm: Brigade HHC Turkey Bowl on Willing Field, featuring FRG fundraiser.

- Dec. 6, 4:30pm: JBLM Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of Jensen Gym

- Dec. 8, 4-6pm: Brigade HHC Christmas Party (in 23rd Chem Battalion classroom)

Contact the Brigade FRSA at 253-967-8506 (office) or 360-259-9188 (cell)

Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA), Mr. Clark Hoffman

What is the Family Readiness Support assistant or FRSA? The FRSA is a paid civilian employee that assists Commander, Rear Detachment Commanders, and Volunteer Family Readiness Group (FRG) leaders by providing primarily administrative support.

The primary mission of the FRSA is to provide administrative support services to commanders and FRG leaders in the area of Family readiness. FRSA's are also responsible for maintaining the critical communication link between the rear detachment commander and FRG leaders, and ensuring responsiveness of established community resources.

As Fall arrives here in the Pacific Northwest it means many things to many people. For some they look forward to the changing of the leaves, cool nights by a warm fire, and hearty meals. For others it is the signal that football season is here which means watching the games, snacking on your favorite foods and cheering for your favorite team. For children it means that one of their



This summer's Kids Deployment Camp was a big hit with Triple Nickel Families.

favorite "holidays" are coming when they get to dress up in their favorite costume and go door-to-door begging for candy.

To me it signifies the beginning of the "Holiday Season" which means good food, good friends, and time to be spent with Family.

No matter what the change of seasons means to you, take the time to spend it with those you care most about Family and friends.

Although the seasons may

change, the OPTEMPO in the Triple Nickel does not. So as units in the brigade prepare to deploy, take advantage of every opportunity offered here in the area to get out and see the sights. Build the memories now that will sustain you and your Family while you are apart. Here in the Pacific Northwest, you can be in the mountains, or at the coast in a relatively short amount of time as well as Seattle a short drive up the interstate.



Fall Safety Tips for Soldiers and Families, Safety Officer, Mr. Kevin Crumpler

Colder Weather

As autumn comes into full swing, the temperatures may lower in your area, which can lead to several safety issues...

- ◆ Have your chimney and furnace cleaned and inspected on a regular basis. This helps prevent chimney fires and carbon monoxide buildup.
- ◆ Keep your fireplace hearth free of newspapers, magazines, toys, or anything combustible.
- ◆ Do not burn cardboard boxes or trash in your fireplace, as they can cause chimney fires.
- ◆ Leave at least three feet of space around your space heater. Remember to unplug it when it's not in use.
- ◆ Use candles with care. Keep them away from flammable objects. Never leave them unattended and always extinguish them before leaving the room.
- ◆ If the power fails, never run a generator near a window or door due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fall Driving

There are multiple autumn safety issues that relate to the road.

- ◆ Since days are getting shorter during the fall, more driving will occur when it is dark out. This can lead to drowsiness which leads to more accidents.
- ◆ School buses will now be present in the morning and small children walking to the bus. Use extra caution when driving around busses or in school zones.
- ◆ Leaves may cover the road and become slippery with weather. This requires extra care, especially for bicycles and motorcycles.
- ◆ Tire pressure can be affected by the cool nights and warm days of autumn. Make sure to check on tire pressure throughout the season.
- ◆ Maintain a safe following distance at all times, especially in these dark, wet conditions.

Around the Triple Nickel...



Photo by SGT Justin Naylor, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Major General Buchanan, I Corps Deputy Commanding General, presents the Purple Heart to five 14th Engineer Soldiers during a ceremony Oct. 22.



Sergeant Major Robinson, Brigade Ops SGM, gets a pie in the face from PFC Allen, a member of Brigade HHC, as part of a fundraiser which raised almost \$2000 for fallen Triple Nickel Soldiers and their Families.



SFC Saunders, a member of the 573rd Construction Management Team, enjoys a quiet moment with family just prior to the 573rd's departure for Afghanistan earlier this month.



Triple Nickel Soldiers stage in front of Brigade Headquarters for the Fall Motorcycle Ride which focused on reinforcing motorcycle safety.



Triple Nickel Public Affairs: Media Guidelines for Soldiers

Military service is a great privilege and carries great responsibility—including a great responsibility to the American people, so we strive to reach out and connect with the public and tell them about our mission and our Soldiers. One way we do that is through the media.

Soldiers are encouraged to speak with the media, mission permitting, and in the proper, professional, and honest way. Here’s some guidelines.

Media Rules of Engagement

- Maintain operations security (OPSEC).
- Be courteous and professional.
- You are authorized/encouraged to speak to credentialed media, mission permitting.
- Check ID and press credentials. If proper credentials are not produced, refer them to your chain of command or your battalion unit public affairs representative (UPAR).
- Any media on base must have an escort.
- Know your rights: You don't have to be interviewed or answer all questions. You may end the interview any time.
- Inform chain of command and PAO after any media encounter, including a summary of topics discussed, questions/answers, name of reporter and agency, and when it will print/broadcast.

OPSEC Guidelines

- DON'T discuss or release information on:
- Specific dates/times, numbers of troops, equipment, critical supplies, or casualties.
 - Future or ongoing operations or projects including any postponed or cancelled.
 - Security precautions on bases/outposts.
 - Details/imagery of base layout/security.
 - Intel collection / ISR activities and TTPs.
 - Special Ops units and activities.
 - COMSEC / electronic countermeasures.
 - Enemy TTPs and effectiveness, including targeting, direct/indirect fire, and IEDs.
 - Specific ROE or Escalation of Force.
 - Ongoing search and rescue operations.
 - Any info vital to troop safety / OPSEC.

***Off limits to media: Classified environments (TOCs, CPs, etc.), documents (orders, maps, reports, etc.), and displays (FBCB2, BFT, etc.).**

Advice for Media Interviews

- Be yourself. Be open, honest, and courteous.
- Look professional. Be in the proper uniform.
- Understand our mission and our message.
- Think before you answer. Take your time.
- Tell the truth. Never lie or intentionally mislead.
- Stay in your lane, and speak at your level. Discuss only what you personally know about and are responsible for. Don't speak for others. Use "I" not "we" when stating an opinion.
- Don't comment on higher-level national policy.
- Don't speculate or answer 'what if' questions.
- No jargon, acronyms, slang or technical terms.
- Keep remarks brief, clear and concise.
- Everything you say is "on the record". If you don't want it in the news, don't say it or do it.
- If you don't know the answer to a question or can't discuss it, say so. Don't say "no comment".
- Inform chain of command and PAO afterward.



Pulling together

Soldiers from the 864th Engineer Battalion "Pacemakers" work together to construct new facilities during their October training at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho. The battalion is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan early 2013.

Chaplain's Closing, MAJ Dawud Agbere

Sometimes 'Willing and Able' Means Seeking Help

Readying myself one morning for a run, my then 8-year-old son Tilahta approached me and asked if he could run with me. I said I would love to run with him but did not think he was ready yet. He protested reminding me that he had once run with me. I told him that was only about two miles but this time I would be running five miles. To that he replied, "I only need to run three more miles to make five."

Unable to talk Tilahta out of the run, I decided to take him out on a short slow run at his pace. However, after about a half-mile my young trooper suddenly stopped and started walking. I asked, "Son, why are you walking; are you tired?" He said, "No, I just want to rest my knees." For the duration of our short run, Tilahta would often walk to rest his knees, all along insisting he was

not tired. The truth is: Tilahta was tired, even hurting, but he would not admit it because perhaps he thought that would disappoint me.

Like Tilahta, I wonder how many of us are tired or hurting right now - emotionally, spiritually, financially, or even physically - and yet for some reason(s) including "stigma" we would not acknowledge it let alone seek help. We tend to think, albeit wrongly, that it is a sign of weakness to seek help. This attitude or mindset is the ENEMY that has and continues to cost us lives of many great Soldiers. You and I need not become part of those grim statistics. Army Strong begins with SELF-CARE. To remain strong, we must learn to seek help for our problems.



Triple Nickel Fallen Warriors Memorial

Added on 12 October 2012: SSG Alexander G. Povilaitis




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Willing and Able

We are one of five active duty tactical Engineer Brigades in the U.S. Army. We have various command and control responsibilities for nearly 5,000 Soldiers across eight battalions at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Fort Carson, and Fort Riley. We have a proud history that can be traced back to the 1103rd Engineer Group on the beaches of Normandy, continuing to the battlefields of Afghanistan. Our pride is each of the battalions that comprise the Brigade—each with their own storied histories, some dating to the Civil War. With five Engineer Battalions, two Chemical Battalions and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, there is a wide, diverse, and valuable set of abilities that help fight and win our Nation's Wars.



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www.lewis.army.mil/555

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