



The Eagle's Nest

Magazine

May 2013

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Belton II Reserve Center, 15303 Andrews Road, Kansas City, MO 64147



**I WANT YOU
TO SHARE YOUR OPINION**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Kathleen W Embrey
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Help Wanted!

If you're interested in learning how to be a member of the Public Affairs field, or just want to share your talent with the rest of the unit, contact Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Symonds or Cpl. Zeta Green. We want your pictures and your stories. We want YOU to tell the story of the 89th Sustainment Brigade.

89th Sustainment Brigade



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89th Sustainment Brigade
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FRAGO: Your Opinion

From: 89th PAO

Who: Every 89th SB Soldier

What: Your feedback and comments

Where: 89th Sustainment Brigade Facebook page

When: NOW.

How: Log onto the 89th Sustainment Brigade Facebook page and like us.

Cover Photo:
*SPC Chase Simmons,
C Co. 1/3 Infantry Division (The Old
Guard), Fort Myer Washington D.C.,
stands in formation waiting for the
second part of the funeral detail to
arrive graveside at Arlington National
Cemetery.*

Right:
*Members of C Co. 1/3 Infantry
Division (Old Guard), at Arlington
National Cemetery, Caisson team carry
the casket of a soldier to his final resting
place.*

*Photos by SFC Daniel W Symonds
89th SB PAO*



**Saturday APFT Uniform
Sunday ACU uniform**

**Sign-In
0700-0730**

**Formation
0730**

**Lunch
1200-1300**

**Formation
1530**

**Sign-out
1600**

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publication authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30.**

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**The opinions contained herein are not necessarily those of
the Department of the Army.**

DRILL SERGEANT SAYS

By Kat Embrey



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Command Sergeant Major's Corner

There is a tool all noncommissioned officers should re-familiarize themselves with: the leader book.

The leader book is an outstanding tool for leaders of all levels and is as flexible as needed to meet individual or unit requirements. Field Manual 7-22.7, or The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide, provides an overview with examples showing how to create a basic leader book.

Since NCOs are responsible for individual and small-team training, they must provide qualitative training assessments on each of their team/squad members to the chain of command.

Not only does the leader book provide a mechanism to track individual or collective training deficiencies, it allows the chain of command to make resourcing decisions to provide time or necessary equipment to achieve more proficiency.

The best functionality of a leader book is captured in three bullets in the FM:

- Track and evaluate Soldiers' training status and proficiency on essential tasks;
- Provide administrative input to the chain of command on the proficiency of the unit; and
- Conduct Soldier performance counseling.

Tracking and evaluating Soldier training status and proficiency is developed from individual and collective tasks supporting the unit's Mission Essential Task List, or METL. Having these documents ensures the NCO knows which tasks are required to begin developing a training plan, possibly through Sergeant's Time Training.

Furthermore, an assessment after conducting training can identify specific areas where a Soldier may be weak, requiring more emphasis on that specific aspect of a task.

Aside from METL-related tasks, annual training requirements can also be added to ensure leaders manage time to properly allow for Army Warrior Task and Battle Drill training, quarterly Equal Opportunity training or others.

Each quarter, units present quarterly training briefs, or QTB, to their next higher command. The leader book, if properly used, provides a quick snapshot for a well-informed assessment of a team's, squad's or platoon's proficiency.

Weapons qualification, physical fitness testing, schools status and vehicle certification and density are all easily tracked in the book.

Aside from the QTB, leaders can use this tool to develop performance counseling and identify areas where leaders can step in to assist in Soldiers' development.

The power of a leader book is incredible, if maintained. NCOs need to ensure they work review plans into their personal battle rhythm.

Either way, the leader book is a great tool that, if left neglected, proves to be nothing more than a book with no value.

NCOs can use this tool creatively and consistently to ensure they can track and train their Soldiers to provide accurate assessments of Soldiers' training status.

CSM Eric W Bethurem
"Above The Rest"

Daily Devotional

The God of Second Chances

“But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” (Mark 16:7)

Does God give second chances to those who have failed Him? He certainly did so for Peter. Peter had proudly announced that he was Jesus’ most reliable disciple (Matt. 26:33). Yet Peter not only fled with the other disciples in the moment of crisis, but also blatantly denied he even knew Jesus (Matt. 26:69–75). Peter failed so miserably that he went out into the night and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62).

How compassionate the risen Christ was to Peter! The angel gave the women at the tomb special instructions to let Peter know that He was risen. Jesus took Peter aside to allow him the opportunity to reaffirm his love and commitment (John 21:15–17). The risen Lord also chose Peter as His primary spokesman on the day of Pentecost, when three thousand people were added to the church.

God’s desire is to take you from where you are and bring you to where He wants you to be.

When He found His defeated followers hiding together in an upper room, Jesus’ first word was “peace” (John 20:19). Jesus’ first words to you after you fail may also be “peace.” Jesus will find you in despair and bring you peace. Then, He will reorient you to Himself so that you can believe Him and follow Him. Don’t give up if you have failed your Lord. Remember what happened to Peter. God has not yet finished developing you as a disciple.

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- Training to recognize and correct issues before the crisis stage
- Preparation for Army children to grow up in healthy families

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CH Campa (STB)

MEMORIALS

By definition, a memorial is, “A reminder in honor of an individual or event.” Such commemorations can be patriotic, re-instilling appreciation for national heritage or civic identity. They can also be religious, helping us stabilize our faith in appropriate traditions and customs.

When memorials are patriotic, they either serve to highlight a set of values that led an individual to take specific actions that are worthy of our remembrance, or they honor dates on which these actions took place. When this is the case it is the intention of those creating the memorial, and our responsibility, to carry on the values that motivated these actions. As soldiers it is our privilege to honor these patriotic values by acting as living memorials of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Service, Honor and Personal Courage.

When these memorials are religious there is a similar expectation to honor them by maintaining a life that is consistent with the individuals, actions and events being remembered. We need to pause and reflect on and apply the core beliefs of Obedience, Praise, Service and Worship that demonstrate our faith as a living source of hope and peace.

Chaplain Jeffery Campa

Arlington National Cemetery Washington D.C.
Photo by SFC Daniel W Symonds
89th SB PAO Kansas City, MO

Remembering the Brave

From The Editor

SFC Daniel W. Symonds

I stood on the flight line at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, in February of 2012 about 0200 on a cold windy morning, waiting for the ambulance carrying the body of a young 22 year-old Marine. He would be loaded onto a KC 130 cargo plane bound for home. I



SFC Daniel W. Symonds with his father CPT Irving R. Symonds Jr (ret) at the reburial of PVT Daniel R. Symonds in 2011 Photo by Army Sgt Carolyn Kettelhut

the Marines at Camp Leatherneck. As the Sergeant Major called every one to attention, we all began to raise our right hands with a slow pace to salute as his casket was carried by and onto the ramp of the plane. I thought to myself, "I wish I could have shook his hand," so I could tell everyone I had met a real hero that day.

Who could of known that, just three months later, I would be on a flight back to Chicago to say farewell to another hero -- my father. You see, my father didn't dodge bullets or hand grenades to be an American Hero. He did something that only one percent of Americans ever do; he joined the military.

In 1953, right after the Korean War had just ended, a young Chicago boy by the name of Irving R. Symonds Jr. had just turned 18 years old and enlisted in the US Army Reserve as a Combat Medic. His mother was angry with him for enlisting, when he didn't "have to" do it. He served till 1979, but never saw action in his 26 years of service. Would you call him a hero? I would, and thousands of other Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines just like him.

waited somewhere in the fifth or sixth row of at least 10 rows deep of military personnel from all over the world, from British to Estonian soldiers. I had only been in country for less then a week, and I had not even unpacked my equipment to start my mission to cover

Very few people really think they are a hero, or could ever be a hero, and too many would think they are more of a zero, in their own eyes. One of the proudest days of my life was when my father pinned on my sergeant stripes in 2005 and said to me, "Earn these strips and make proud, more then I am right now." Just before my father died, I told him that I was proud to be his son, and that he is a braver man then I could ever be.

For my family, Memorial Day is not just a day to have a barbecue or go to the mall to get deal on a TV set. It is a day to remember those who came before us. You see my father was not only a citizen soldier. He was a funeral director who dedicated his life to helping those who needed help in their greatest time of sorrow. He would go out of his way to help a family that had nothing and to make sure their loved one had a decent burial. He would give his time and services to the Veterans Hospital. When a Veteran would die, and had no family, my father would make sure he was buried with honor, no matter who that person was.

He was always the first one at Fort Sheridan National Cemetery on Memorial Day to help in anyway he could. He loved being there and walking around the garden of stones, reading the names on the head stones. He enjoyed helping the soldiers set up chairs or put out coffee for the small crowd that would show up for the ceremony.

We found it fitting for my dad to be laid to rest the day before Memorial Day. He was buried next to my brother John, also a retired Captain, who suddenly died of a heart attack in 2007. Along side them both lies my great-great grandfather, PVT. Daniel R. Symonds, a Civil War veteran who was moved next to John in 2011.

This Memorial Day means more to me now than in times past. It means remembering all soldiers who have died in combat and those who died many years later after the war was over and forgotten. Memorial Day is not for the living it is for all of those with honor who have come before us.



SFC Daniel W. Symonds presents his fathers flag CPT Irving R. Symonds (ret) to his mother Adeline K. Symonds at the CPT Symonds funeral in 2012 Photo by Marty Zuekubski

A Military Working Dog's Journey to Retirement

by Staff Sgt. Heather Denby

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. - Retired Staff Sgt. Lady was only two years old when she was brought to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, as a potential military working dog, but her willingness to learn and obedience in the field earned her access into the elite military working dog force.

"There are only about 2,500 military working dogs across the entire Department of Defense," said a Lackland AFB spokesperson. "Our dogs have to be high drive and highly motivated to make it in the program."



Sgt. Roque Espinoza, a combat engineer and military working dog handler assigned to K9 Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, kisses his dog, retired Staff Sgt. Lady as they sit in the shade April 30, 2013. Espinoza served with Lady for four years until she was medically retired and adopted into the Espinoza home.

After initial training at Lackland AFB, Lady was sent to the Counter Explosive Hazards Center here where she would meet her one and only handler.

"The moment I looked into those big brown eyes, I knew that we would be lifelong friends," said Sgt. Roque Espinoza, who now works as a dog handler for the K9 Detachment, 5th Engineer Battalion.

Espinoza, a combat engineer, re-enlisted to become a dog handler back in 2008 and spent



Retired Staff Sgt. Lady, a black labrador retriever and trained mine detection dog, holds her favorite toy as she sits in the shade April 30, 2013. Lady served in the U.S. Army for five years and two combat tours. She was recently retired and adopted by her handler Sgt. Roque Espinoza, a combat engineer assigned to K9 Company, 5th Engineer Battalion.

six months training alongside Lady to certify in mine detection techniques.

The training paid off.

Lady and Espinoza were sent to Afghanistan in 2009 and again in 2011 where they conducted countless mine detection missions during their yearlong tours.

"During our first deployment we went out to do a scan of an area marked for [Forward Operating Base] expansion," said Espinoza. "Lady identified a 60mm mortar that was buried six inches below the ground."

"I couldn't believe it, until I saw it and at that moment I couldn't have been prouder of what we had done together," he said.

But during her second deployment, the regional veterinarian identified a potentially debilitating condition in Lady's back and hips that led to her retirement in January 2013. "You could tell right away that something just wasn't right," said Espinoza.

“Sgt. Espinoza filled out the disposition and adoption paperwork,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Gerts, K9 Co. kennel master of the 49th Mine Dog Detachment. “The papers went through the vet here on post and were sent to Lackland AFB for final review and approval.”

Espinoza said that he knew early on in their relationship that he wanted Lady to be a part of his family forever and that there was no doubt in his mind he would be taking her home after her time in the military was finished.

And that’s just what he did.

From that point, Gerts said that Espinoza would ask him two to three times a day if Lady was finally ready to go home.

Gerts said that he made phone calls and sent emails daily for nearly two weeks before receiving word that Lady was approved for retirement.

Approximately 400 military working dogs are approved to leave service every year, according to a Lackland AFB spokesperson.

“You really couldn’t ask for an easier dog than Lady,” said Gerts. “And all that hard work and persistence paid off because now she’s in a really great home.”

In anticipation of Lady’s trip home, Espinoza also pushed to have honorable discharge papers crafted from the unit and then framed commemoratively with Lady’s favorite tennis ball.

As Lady’s only handler and Espinoza’s only dog, the two share a special bond.

“The love and friendship we share is hard to describe,” said Espinoza. “She has been my friend, my companion, my protector, and occasionally the thorn in my side, but I love her.”

“To me she is a lot more than just a dog, to me she is family,” he said.

Lady now spends her days lounging around the house with lots of toys and lots of love thanks to the Espinoza family who say they couldn’t be happier to welcome her into their home.

Espinoza is scheduled to attend Specialized Search Dog training at Lackland AFB in June and will be assigned a new military working dog at that time.

“I am excited to see what is next for me and my family here at Fort Leonard Wood or wherever the Army sends us next,” said Espinoza. “There’s nothing better than being able to serve my country while doing something that I love.”



Sgt. Roque Espinoza, a combat engineer and military working dog handler assigned to K9 Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, poses next to his commemorative frame culminating his four years of service with retired Staff Sgt. Lady, a black Labrador retriever and mine detection dog. Espinoza served as Lady’s sole handler and was adopted by Espinoza after being medically retired from service.



FORT LEAVENWORTH, KS - The 89th Sustainment Brigade conducted range operations for weapons qualification at Fort Leavenworth, KS on April 6-7. Army regulations mandate that each soldier qualify with his or her weapon twice a year to keep their skills honed. As each firing order finished, SGT Kirstin Carl of Leavenworth, KS checked the paper targets and recorded the scores.



WICHITA, KS. - Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones (left), Commander of the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), awards the Army Achievement Medal to Sgt. Jesse J. Zapien-Guzman (right) for his devotion to duty and selfless service while competing in the 89th Sustainment Brigade 2013 Best Warrior Competition on March 8-10 at Camp Clark in Nevada, Mo. During the three-day event, Sgt. Zapien-Guzman was rigorously tested, both physically and mentally. His professionalism and excellence in performance resulted in multiple second-place finishes. Both the award and promotion were presented in military formation at the Lanny J. Wallace Army Reserve Center.



CAMP ROBERT, CA. - Soldiers of the 423rd Transportation Company; 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) inspect military wheeled cargo vehicles in preparation for convoy operations to return home to Colorado from an annual training event in California. Noncommissioned officers applied risk mitigation procedures to identify hazards and implement controls to conserve both power and resources during each day's training event. The 423rd TC trains to perform line haul; local haul; unit resupply; and other missions in the tactical environment to support modernized and highly mobile combat units. U.S. Army Photo provided by 423rd Transportation Company.



KANSAS CITY, MO - Chaplain Nelson Nissley 89th Sustainment Brigade Chaplain was promoted to Major. The Major's wife along with Major General Megan Tatu, pin on his new rank.



FORT LEAVENWORTH, KS - The 89th Sustainment Brigade conducted range operations for weapons qualification at Fort Leavenworth, KS on April 6-7. Concurrent training in Combat Lifesaving was held as the soldiers awaited their turn on the firing line. During the course, instructor SPC David Knifely of Wichita, KS demonstrated the "sled dog" method of evacuating a casualty. This method allows the soldier to maintain use of his or her weapon while dragging the casualty to safety. SPC Allen Clark of Wichita, KS had nothing to do but lay back and enjoy the ride.



KANSAS CITY, MO - CW2 Kenneth E. Sharp Jr of the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command is presented the Meritorious Service Medal by LTC Daniel Stromp of the 451st ESC

Yearly Training Brief



KANSAS CITY, MO - Members of the 79th SSC and the 451st ESC Present there yearly training brief for FY2014.

The YTB is conducted prior to the start of the fiscal year in RC units, following drafting of the YTG and YTC. After approval by the next-higher commander, the training guidance and calendar are published.

The following topics as a minimum should be briefed:

- Unit's METL assessment.
- Training assessment (to include assessment of slice elements. Training briefed, but not conducted, from last QTB or YTB.
- Next quarter's or year's training. Assessment of soldier and leader training. Linkage of soldier, leader, and collective task training.
- Resource management and restrictions.
- Long-range training update. Lessons learned.
- The CSM and 1SG normally brief after their commander. They provide an analysis of the unit's soldier training proficiency and discuss the unit's proposed soldier training and education plans.
- Special emphasis must be placed on low-density MOSSs. Areas of discussion should include.
- An assessment of the unit's battle focused soldier and leader training program.
- Soldier training proficiency feedback received during the previous short-range planning period.
- A description of METL-derived soldier tasks to be emphasized during the upcoming period (such as marksmanship program).
- A description of soldier and collective tasks linkages.
- The unit's education, Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), and overweight programs.



KANSAS CITY, MO - Major General Megan Tatu Commander of the 79th SSC and Brigadier Kenneth Jones Commander of 451st ESC listen to briefings given by all elements the 79th SSC and 451st ESC.



KANSAS CITY, MO- Briefers are questioned about elements of their brief by attendees.