

The Voice of Sustainment in the West

Provider Base

13th Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

Fall 2013



Commander's Corner

The focus for this edition of Provider Base is Transportation, the Spearhead of Logistics. The Army transportation motto, “Nothing happens until something moves!” captures the important role Army transportation plays in Army operations.

As Sustainment professionals it’s our responsibility to understand roles, capabilities and interoperability of each of the Branches or functions within the Sustainment Warfighting Function. Within transportation you must study and maintain proficiency in tactical and operational aspects of movement on the battlefield as well as understand the Army Transportation functions as well the as the Joint interdependences across Air, Sea, Ground and Rail movement.

Your first stop in this study should be CASCOM’s Sustainment Unit One Stop (SUOS). Go to any of your Branch websites or the CASCOM Website (<http://www.cascom.army.mil>) and click. Everything you need is right there. Start by reviewing the October 31, 2013, edition of FM 4-01, Army Transportation Operations, it is the Army’s doctrinal manual for transportation. Always start with doctrine as your base and expand it to fit your day to day operations.

The remainder of the Transportation library is at your finger tips and you should update your professional reference library and use these references as part of your sustainment leader’s development program, planning, and training.

Next take a look at the under the Force Design Tab of SUOS and review the Sustainment Concept of Support Army 2020 (Tactical) and look at how the Transportation function will be modified as part of the Brigade Restructure, pay particular attention to the section on the Composite Truck Company within the Combat Sustainment Support Battalions (CSSB).

Another great reference is the 2013 Sustainment Force Structure book which shows you the details of all the Sustainment units, including all Transportation units.

It is also very important to stay tied into the Chief of Transportation (CoT) initiatives and participate in the various forums hosted by the Transportation School at Ft Lee. This includes getting on distribution for the Division Transportation Officer and Mobility Officer Newsletter. The October-December 2013 edition is available on the CoT’s webpage.

As sustainment professions you must be an active voice in the transportation community and share your ideas with the CoT and his staff. Understand the CoT’s four Lines of Effort across Leader Development, Deliver Training and Education, Design the Force and Drive Change.

Across your units ensure that you are fully utilizing your Transportation NCOs and Warrant Officers. Look for ways to utilize their expertise to review procedures, drive innovation, and train our soldiers. Take advantage of every support mission as a training opportunity – enforce PCCs and PCIs, convoy procedures, intermodal operations, use all our tactical communications and movement tracking assets and integrate Movement Control Teams and tactical reporting into every event and convoy movement.



Phantom Support
Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr.
Commanding General

CSM's Corner

I hope you will enjoy the fall issue of Provider Base. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and especially complement those, who took time out of their busy schedules and furnished us some articles from a forward deployed area!

Brig. Gen. LeMasters talked about the importance of knowing and keeping up with your doctrine. I would like to take that a step further. I encourage everyone to also go back to basics. It is too easy to assume that we will fall in on equipment already in theater, that we will use already existing routes, supply channels and scheduled rotator flights. We got into a routine of deployments, where we were well aware of what to expect when we are deployed. We relied on locally contracted assets and the KBR LOGCAP. What if we will move into an immature theater next? Are you ready? Are your Soldiers ready?

Going back to doctrine and going back to basics will prompt you to pull out your old planning charts, refresh your memory on the storage capacity of your various fuel tankers, fuel blivets and water buffaloes. It will give you brain a great workout to try to find the planning factors for a desert environment and for an arctic environment. Do all of this with a pen and paper! Soldiers who joined the Army around 9/11 or thereafter, may never have had to do any major planning or calculations. It is time that they learn.

As you are conducting exercises, in the run phase, do present your guys with unexpected situations; do take the commander and first sergeant out, do make the G3 or SPO a KIA.

Start looking at missions, and imagine conducting them in an immature theater. Think back to OIF I. What transportation lessons did we learn there?

I can remember a few: lack of recovery assets, not being aware of our reach, lack of refuel points, major mistakes made navigating on the battlefield. Do not solely rely on your automated systems as you practice convoy procedures. Pull out the old map, protractor and compass and have your TCs navigate the old-fashioned way as well. What was the last time you practiced driving with your NVGs on?

But going back to basics really applies to all branches of logistics, not only to transporters. We are transitioning to GCSS-Army, but if we don’t have internet access, our operations may come to a screeching halt. Going back to basics also means knowing how to conduct manual procedures when ordering parts and supplies, for example. How many computers died of heat and sand in Iraq or Afghanistan? We have to have at least one, if not multiple backup plans when automation fails. Have your 92S Soldiers practice patching up military clothing and patching up tents.

I am sure many of you leaders are thinking the same way I am, and our greatest challenge will be keeping our Soldiers trained and current despite of the budget cuts. I can only echo my boss’ words: you can practically turn every routine home-station mission into a training event.

I also encourage you to reach back into your toolkits and tell younger soldiers about some of the cheat-sheets, tables and system you have developed and seen used in the past. Teach them about BDAR-kits and the FOB-in-the-box concept. We keep re-inventing the wheel in the military from time to time, instead of properly documenting and passing on our knowledge and lessons learned to new generations of Soldiers.

This publication is an excellent means of documenting and sharing some of the things that have worked for you in the past, make the most of it, keep the stories and editorials coming.

Phantom Support!



Phantom Support
Command Sgt. Maj. Terry E. Parham Sr.
Command Sergeant Major

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ❗ **Almost half** of all home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ **Half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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Prodigy trades musical career for Army

By Staff Sgt. Ray Kokel
15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Soldiers seem to always have an interesting story for why they joined the Army but if you heard Spc. Pyungan Cho's, a native of Los Angeles, you would probably be left a little stunned.

Cho is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters" based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, and is currently on her first deployment in Afghanistan.

What makes her story so fascinating is the successful music career she walked away from to join the Army.

Cho was born in Seoul, Korea and started playing the piano at the age of five.

"I was first taught at church," said Cho. "It was a gift I had the opportunity to learn."

Many years later at the age of 18, she followed her family as they immigrated to the United States. In the States, her music career took off.

"I had a great instructor who wanted to take me to Juilliard but my family insisted that I stay. My grandmother had breast cancer, and my family needed my help to take her to medical appointments."

Cho feels that it was taking care of her grandmother that further helped her music career.

"I would play for her and she would pray for me. It was her prayers that made everything possible."

At the request of her parents, Cho auditioned at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA., in front of a private audience of musical professors.

"I was so nervous," she confided.

"Here were all these men and women, masters in their craft, judging whether I get a full ride to a higher education or not. I played two pieces of

music that I had practiced. When I was done a professor told me they would call me in two weeks."

That was not the end of it, before she could walk out one professor handed her a thin music book and asked her to play it for the rest of the group. Cho did not know that it was a complicated piece and was the true test of her abilities. What the professors did not know was that Cho had a talent her previous instructor identified as a perfect pitch.

"When someone has a perfect pitch they can hear a note and recognize it by name," explained Cho. "As I read the book I could hear the notes playing in my head."

What happened next amazed the music department - Cho played every note perfectly. They could not believe this was the first time she had played that particular work. They gave her more books to play one after another and their moods changed right before Cho's eyes.

"Suddenly they went from we'll call you in two weeks to - you have to come to our school," Cho said.

One person in her family already knew she received the scholarship and was just waiting for Cho to come home.

"I walked outside to where my dad was parked and when I got inside the car he told me my grandmother had a vision of me in a cap and gown holding a diploma," said Cho. "I told my father how it went then we got out of the car and prayed on the steps of the school."

Cho later graduated from Pepperdine with a bachelor's degree in music. She has played at Carnegie Hall, and performed in front of thousands around the world during her time at the school. She even earned a job at her university and became the youngest music director ever at Pepperdine. So why would Cho, a classically trained and successful musician, join the Army?

"I wanted to give something back," she said excitedly. "The United States, through the help of its military, built schools and hospitals in South Korea. That is why Korea has been able to grow so much more as a nation."

Today, Cho serves as a logistics specialist at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. She spends her time off practicing

with her church choir and performing for religious services on base.

"Music is a powerful thing. It can make you happy, and even cry," said Cho. "I've been so blessed in my life and it feels great to be a blessing for others through my music."

Cho has plans to go to officer candidate school and play for the Army Band in the future.



Photo courtesy of Peter Park, Peter Park Studio

Spc. Pyungan Cho, a native of Los Angeles, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters" based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, poses in front of a grand piano, July 2009, at the Turkey Benefit Concert at Los Angeles. Cho is currently serving as a logistics specialist at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Spc. Pyungan Cho, a native of Los Angeles, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters" based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, practices with her church choir on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 31. Cho performs for the religious services held at Kandahar and was classically trained at Pepperdine University.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 15th Sust. Bde. PAO



13th SC(E) Soldier keeps Civil War spirit alive through volunteering

By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) PAO

Selfless Service – it’s part of every Soldier’s core values. The Army defines this as putting the welfare of the nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own.

However, the selflessness of serving the community through volunteering opportunities is equally a strong value that many Soldiers encompass.

Cpl. Cory Allen, an ammunitions stock control clerk with the munitions section of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)’s Support Operations, volunteers his time and passion of reenacting Civil War battles with the Boy Scouts.

Allen portrays a lieutenant with the Union Army as part of the Boy Scouts of America Venturing Crew 1872. He has been recreating the historic 1860s battles between the Union and Confederacy since he was a teenager growing up in Indiana.

He said that although recreating history is one of his passions, the connections to the people he surrounds himself with is part of the more rewarding aspects of the reenactments.

“More than anything else, it’s a great camaraderie amongst everyone involved,” said Allen. “The kinds of people that do these reenactments are all very kind and nobody ever does it just for themselves. Everyone is doing this for the same reason, to keep history relevant and to help educate others. That is what really makes this enjoyable.”

Allen said the more rewarding aspect of volunteering with the group is, “working with the Boy Scouts and passing on the knowledge and passion of this world to the next generations of kids growing up.

It makes me proud to know that the traditions that we practice today will continue to be passed along and the hobby will be kept strong for years to come.”

Not only are the scouts having fun participating in the events, Allen likes that they are taking an active attitude on learning history beyond their schooling.

“It’s a lot of fun to see the younger generations get into it,” said Allen. “This is a great opportunity to

show the kids that history can be fun, and not just sitting in a classroom reading a book. They’re experiencing history first hand and have a greater appreciation for how far this country has grown since then.”

Allen also said that donating his time for the betterment of the young scouts has helped him grow more appreciative of his own service to the Army. His leadership agrees that his performance is better because of it.

“I can see that what Allen does with his personal time helping with his time here at work,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Choat, Allen’s supervisor within the munitions section of SPO. “Volunteering his time with the reenactments and the Boy Scouts helps to put into perspective what needs to be done here and I can see him take great pride in his work.

“I would want anyone to volunteer their time, whether it’s with the Boy Scouts, civil war reenactments, or local shelters, etc.,” Choat continued. “Any time you can give back to the community, it’ll be a humbling experience and help you grow as a person. It may not always be immediately recognizable, but the work that is put in through volunteering will be rewarding and payoff in the long run. If your efforts are able to influence and improve one person’s life, you have done a great deed for the community.”

For Allen, it is more than a hobby for himself. Tracy Allen, his wife, has participated in several reenactments and his son, Corson, 3, is anxiously awaiting his time when he’ll be old enough to portray a drummer boy.

“It’s great to be able to participate in these reenactments,” said Allen, “but to have my Family enjoy them just as much as I do; it’s amazing and helps to always keep the Family bond growing stronger.”

With his dedication to serving his country and the U.S. Army, as well as a passion to give back to the community, Allen certainly embodies the spirit of the Army’s core value of Selfless Service.



Photo courtesy of Cpl. Cory Allen, 13th SC(E) SPO

Cpl. Cory Allen, an ammunitions stock control clerk with the munitions section of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)’s Support Operations, inspects his troops during a Civil War reenactment battle in Wilson’s Creek, Mo., in 2011. Allen volunteers his time and passion of recreating historic Civil War battles with the Boy Scouts.



Photo courtesy of Cpl. Cory Allen, 13th SC(E) SPO

(above) Troops with the Boy Scouts of America Venturing Crew 1872, a Civil War reenactment group, pose for a group photo during the 150th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg during the Independence Day holiday weekend in Pennsylvania. Cpl. Cory Allen, an ammunitions stock control clerk with the munitions section of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)’s Support Operations, volunteers his time with a passion for reenacting Civil War while also keeping history alive.

(left) Cpl. Cory Allen, an ammunitions stock control clerk with the munitions section of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)’s Support Operations, and his wife, Tracy Allen, enjoy spending time together and volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America Venturing Crew 1872, a Civil War reenactment group, recreating various historic Civil War battles. Not only are the Scouts having fun participating in the events, Allen said he enjoys that they have an active attitude towards learning history beyond their schoolbooks.



CMRE

Mission command of retrograde enablers in Afghanistan

18th CSSB assumed tactical and operational control over several enablers that worked diligently to push excess materiel out of Afghanistan



Photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan

Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher, commander of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, discusses disposition of materiel with Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, Army Deputy Chief of Staff G4, at the Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, retrograde sort yard.

**By Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher
13th SC(E) SPO**

In June 2012, the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) deployed in support of a presidential directive to reduce the force manning levels in Afghanistan. In conjunction with the 62nd Engineer Battalion, the CSSB served as half of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Materiel Retrograde Element (CMRE), which focused on redistribution, disposal, and retrograde of excess materiel in Afghanistan.

The 18th CSSB, an active component unit out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, assumed mission command of a nondoctrinal mission to reposition the operational footprint, assist with achieving the directed force-manning levels, reduce excess, and descope contracts. This mission was accomplished through various command relationships with tactical and strategic support units. The battalion provided mission command and began the tough work of meeting the strategic partner agreement that was signed by President Barack Obama in May 2012.

THE COMMANDS

When the 18th CSSB arrived in Afghanistan, most of

its subordinate elements had already arrived and were tactically controlled by a sustainment brigade. The 18th CSSB assumed tactical and operational control of 350 personnel across 25 locations.

It was important from the outset for the CMRE to focus its efforts on informing and influencing audiences at all levels across Afghanistan--from companies and battalions on remote combat outposts to the regional commands and policymaking levels.

The CMRE hosted more than 30 distinguished visitors to discuss effective and efficient methods for redistributing excess materiel in the Combined Joint Operational Area-Afghanistan (CJOA-A).

The 18th CSSB had a direct mission command relationship with several commands.

THE 1ST THEATER SUSTAINMENT COMMAND.
The 1st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) maintained operational control over all CMRE elements. The TSC maintained a forward presence in Afghanistan specifically to support the retrograde mission and ensure a common operational picture for sustainment leaders regarding theater retrograde.

THE JOINT SUSTAINMENT COMMAND-AFGHANISTAN. The 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) from Fort Knox, Ky., acted as the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan and maintained logistics mission command over all sustainment units in Afghanistan until January 2013.

THE 593RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE. The 593rd Sustainment Brigade arrived in Kabul, Afghanistan, on June 17, 2012, and was the key component in bringing the 1st TSC headquarters to full operating capability. It assumed single logistics mission command in the CENTCOM area of responsibility, which included the newly conceived CMRE.

The 593rd Sustainment Brigade CMRE was then re-missioned to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, to assume mission command of all CMRE elements in Afghanistan on Aug. 9, 2012, 50 days after arriving in theater.

By the time the 593rd Sustainment Brigade left Afghanistan in March 2013, the CMRE consisted of a joint brigade headquarters and three joint subordinate battalions (two engineer battalions and one CSSB). It had grown to more than 4,400 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Department of Defense contractors and civilians in direct support of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command.

THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION. The 18th CSSB provided tailored, multifunctional, multicomponent, joint-enabled, and contractor-supported mission command task organized to execute redeployment assistance, redistribution, retrograde, and disposal of materiel and equipment across the CJOA-A.

THE 62ND ENGINEER BATTALION. An Active component engineer battalion headquarters, the 62nd Engineer Battalion planned, coordinated, and directed engineer activities in support of base closures and transfers.

THE ENABLERS

Several smaller units and teams under the mission command of the 18th CSSB were critical to the retrograde mission.

BASE CLOSURE ASSISTANCE TEAMS. Base closure assistance teams (BCATs) began as a military-resourced solution to assist the regional commands with base transfers and closures. BCATs provided direct property support to units tasked with closing or transferring a base.

The teams assisted, assessed, and advised units on real and personal property. They also assisted with descoping contracts, providing information technology, and coordinating transportation for the retrograde of non-mission-essential items. Each team included three military personnel and six contractors.

RETROGRADE SORT YARDS. Retrograde sort yards (RSYs) received, sorted, and identified materiel and ensured that its accompanying documentation was correct. RSYs brought to record excess non-mission-essential equipment and materiel and provided disposition instructions for redistribution, retrograde, or disposal.

MATERIEL REDISTRIBUTION TEAMS. Materiel redistribution teams provided onsite support. These teams sorted through containers and identified, segregated, processed, and brought to record excess non-mission-essential equipment and materiel. These teams were originally all military but eventually had two military members and 10 contractors. The teams served in RSYs or materiel redistribution yards when they were not on mobile missions.

CUSTOMS AND AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION TEAMS. Customs and agricultural inspection teams ensured materiel met U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Department of Agriculture standards. These teams operated in conjunction with the redistribution property assistance teams and RSYs. The inspection teams were joint and included Army and Navy customs border clearance agents.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND CLEAN UP TEAMS. Environmental response and clean up teams were designed to provide environmental expertise in managing deconstruction activities for projected base closures and transfers. These contracted teams also reviewed site closure surveys.

EXPEDITIONARY DISPOSAL REMEDIATION TECHNICIANS. Expeditionary disposal remediation technicians were part of a Defense Logistics Agency element that provided technical expertise and assistance in demilitarization, disposal, and disposition of unserviceable materiel, equipment, and scrap.

MOBILE CONTAINER ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSISTANCE TEAMS. Mobile container accountability and assistance teams conducted periodic site audits of container control officers (CCOs) in order to validate container management processes and procedures. CCOs, appointed by a base commander (or appropriate authority), established and maintained control and accountability of all containers in their designated areas. Being a CCO was a primary duty and included performing container inventories and ensuring the proper in-gating and out-gating of containers.

THE CMRE COMMON OPERATIONAL PICTURE
The initial force array dispersed teams across 25 locations throughout six regional commands. Retrograde support worked in reverse, from “spoke to hub” and then to the strategic bases.

Originally, the retrograde plan included pushing directly from the outlying bases to the three strategic



hubs. However, it became apparent within the first 60 days that the task forces were accumulating excess at their operational hubs. In response to the needs of the regional commands and task forces, the CMRE developed forward retrograde elements (FREs).

In Iraq, excess materiel sort yards were collection points for onward movement to Kuwait, where the RSYs were located. Unfortunately, the geographic isolation of Afghanistan made it impossible to mirror the sustainment base method used in Iraq and Kuwait.

In order to provide retrograde support, CENTCOM established three main strategic hubs: Kandahar Airfield, Bagram Airfield, and Mazar-e-Sharif. The level of maturity required of an RSY in Afghanistan had to be on par with the mature process in Kuwait because no further sorting would be done once the excess left Afghanistan.

Most of the excess received at the RSYs remained in country for redistribution or disposal. Approximately seven percent of what exited Afghanistan went to Kuwait, and about nine percent was shipped back to the United States. This required an efficient method of receiving, storing, and processing for shipment large quantities of military and government-owned contractor-managed excess.

Once the RSY matured and gained momentum, it was clear that the systems shaping and feeding the RSY also needed maturing. Following the forward logistics element model, the 18th CSSB developed the FRE concept. The FRE nested all the enabler teams and provided green-tab leadership at the platoon level to coordinate with the task force commanders and base mayors.

The FRE allowed logisticians to anticipate requirements and coordinate efforts with the strategic support elements in Afghanistan, Europe, and the United States. Retrograde

operations shifted into a deliberate planning and operations effort across the CJOA-A.

Once the commander gained an understanding of the scope of the problem and recognized the locations where the requirements were exceeding the capability, the battalion reorganized and surged resources at the operational hubs. The forward operating bases (FOBs) that needed those resources met the following criteria:

- The FOB served as a geographical hub for retrograde, where task force logisticians conducted normal supply distribution and transfer and where convoys rested overnight.
- The FOB served as a mission command center, where maneuver units resided as a task force headquarters at the brigade level and where an associated brigade support battalion and combat engineer unit were located.
- The FOB could support a FRE with facilities and land.
- The FOB and the associated task force served as a CJOA-A main-effort location for the International Security Assistance Forces Joint Command, the 1st TSC, the 593rd Sustainment Brigade, or within the regional command.

Using these criteria, the 18th CSSB created and developed seven FRE locations with the flexibility to create an additional two.

The Army resourced a mission command headquarters, the 18th CSSB, to lead reposturing efforts in the CJOA-A and reduce materiel excess across the theater. With the support of several commands and enablers, the headquarters effectively planned and operated a multicomponent, joint-enabled, and contractor-supported solution to theater closing.

Editorial: Maintaining ammunition Soldier, NCO skills at Fort Hood ASP

By Chief Warrant Officer-4 Joaquin Serranocruz
Chief, Munitions Branch, 13th SC(E) SPO

With constant changes in the way our Army does business, leaders have a responsibility to maintain well-trained forces. Munitions Branch personnel with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Support



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

(from left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Scoefield McMillan, with 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Support Operations' Integration Branch, Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Nunez, with the 4th Sustainment Brigade Support Operations Center, and Staff Sgt. Kenneth Siegle, with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment Support Operations' Munitions Section, all senior ammunition inspectors, discuss and review paperwork at the Fort Hood Ammunition Supply Point Oct. 16. The 13th SC(E) SPO's Munitions Branch partnered with units from across Fort Hood through the Borrowed Military Manpower process in order to backfill positions at the ASP as the Soldiers from the unit running the ASP begin preparing for their scheduled deployment.

Operations are implementing an initiative to keep all of their ammunition stock control and accounting specialists and senior ammunition inspectors well trained by having them assist with work at the Fort Hood Ammunition Supply Point.

Ammunition stock control and accounting specialists operate the Standard Ammunition and Accounting System-Modernized computer hardware and software and use manual records to perform stock control and accounting procedures for ammunition, explosives, and associated explosive components. Senior ammunition inspectors supervise the receipt, storage, issue, and preparation of ammunition, ammunition components, and explosives for transportation and storage; they supervise ammunition stock control and accounting procedures for surveillance inputs; they conduct ammunition inspections and tests; they perform inspections of containers and vehicles transporting ammunition; they inspect storage locations and ensure compliance with storage compatibility, quantity, distance, and explosive safety limits; and they additionally ensure compliance with all ammunition safety requirements as prescribed in applicable Army regulations.

The 13th SC(E) Munitions Branch initiative involves ammunition personnel relocating from various units and locations across Fort Hood to work with conventional 4th Sustainment Brigade ordnance company Soldiers at the Fort Hood ASP within the Borrowed Military Manpower process. The initiative involves the section's own personnel and other Soldiers from 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Cavalry Regiment and other separate brigades that do not normally have the opportunity to work with the large amounts of installation stockpiled ammunition at the ASP.

In March 2013, the Fort Hood ASP supporting company, 664th Ordnance Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde., 13th SC(E), was notified that they were soon to be participating in the 2014 unit deployment cycle. The news challenged leadership to determine a way to continue support for Fort Hood and III Corps unit training requirements without the availability of the company of Soldiers to assist. The initial thought was to prepare a civilian contract to contract support for the ASP. This was a great idea until leaders encountered delays with the contracting process.

The 13th SC (E) Munitions Branch worked closely with the Fort Hood staff

leadership to employ the BMM process, navigating all regulations associated with the process. This was not an easy task, but completing the task early was absolutely worth the effort. The section worked closely with Fort Hood staff senior leaders and participated in the BMM Working Group to present the request for personnel support for the ASP to a board of Operations Sergeants Major from across installation.

Originally, some welcomed the idea while others doubted whether it was wise or not to support the request. By the conclusion of the BMM-WG process, all sergeants major agreed to support the request without promising any specific number of Soldiers available from their ranks to support the request.

The problem was not solved at the BMM-WG, despite the board's general concurrence. The next step was to present the BMM request to the BMM Review Board headed by the III Corps chief of staff. This board involved a voting process where the majority rule.

The 13th SC(E) SPO Munitions Branch's personnel compiled information by calling and visiting every brigade support battalion across installation asking for the specific status of their munitions personnel and their qualifications to work at the Fort Hood ASP. The qualifications required included security clearances, local background checks, hazardous material handling qualifications, completion of training on automated munitions management systems, and special military vehicle driver licenses.

Fort Hood personnel managers worked for weeks trying to get to determine accurate Soldier availability



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Spc. Monica Singh, an ammunition stock control and accounting specialist with the 1st Squadron, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, files paperwork at the Fort Hood Ammunition Supply Point Oct. 16.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Spc. London Greene, an ammunition stock control and accounting specialist with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Support Operations' Munitions Section, processes some documents at the Fort Hood Ammunition Supply Point Oct. 16. Greene is part of a group of Soldiers from across Fort Hood who have come together to support the ASP in preparation for the pending deployment of 664th Ordnance Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th SC(E). The 664th Ord. Co. is currently tasked to run the ASP for Fort Hood.

numbers made difficult by ongoing personnel fluctuation due to end of tours of service, fit-for-duty medical review boards, and the normal summer season permanent changes of station personnel transition time period. It was nearly impossible to narrow down all the variables and to determine the specific number of Soldiers and noncommissioned officers available.

The 13th SC(E) allocated every available NCO and Soldier from their own staff section to fill the gap of personnel not available from across installation. The 13th SC(E) allocated two Soldiers and five NCOs ranging from sergeant to sergeant first class to join the BMM ASP Transition team with five NCOs and four Soldiers from other units across Fort Hood.

The arrival of these personnel has enabled the Fort Hood ASP to remain fully manned and operational as personnel from the servicing 664th Ord. Co. leave the ASP to train and deploy in support of the Army's mission requirements.

Making it Happen: Quartermasters turn Transporters at Fort Carson

*By Capt. Christopher Bregman
Commander, 59th QM Co.*

The 59th Quartermaster Company is one of the few Bulk Petroleum Support Companies left in the Army, but when the majority of the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion got the call to deploy to Afghanistan, 59th Quartermaster assumed mission command of multiple logistics elements; all while keeping up the same level of support to Fort Carson.

The Soldiers spent a significant amount of time cross-training on various pieces of non-standard equipment so that they would have the ability to meet mission requirements, while the rest of the 68th CSSB was deployed.

In addition to cross-training the Soldiers already in 59th QM Co., the company picked up mission command of two smaller units. They took operational control of 40th QM platoon, who runs the only fuel lab on Fort Carson. They are responsible for providing fuel sampling and testing for every unit on Fort Carson. In the near future, the lab will begin testing fuel samples for the 4th CAB. The lab tests an average of 250-300 fuel samples every month utilizing its newly fielded Petroleum Quality Analysis System (PQAS).

The 59th QM Co. also assumed responsibility for the only Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) platoon on Fort Carson in support of the 4th Infantry Division. The HET Platoon has faced its own challenges as some of its leaders were deployed with other units and the platoon was left with less than 50 percent strength to continue to support all of Fort Carson and 4ID.

They worked many long days and nights supporting the division, sometimes as long as 18-hour days just to make the mission happen. In the first quarter of 2013 alone, the platoon drove a total of more than 20,000 miles moving more than 287 pieces of equipment including M1A2 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting



Vehicles, and various pieces of MHE. The Soldiers of 59th QM have been praised by several Brigade Commanders as some of the hardest working Soldiers on Fort Carson for the support they provide.

While taking on mission command of these new units and new support missions, the 59th QM Co. headquarters took on a heavy burden as they were now responsible for the maintenance, personnel actions, supply, and logistical support for a much larger foot print. Although the company has taken on a huge new mission they were not originally trained to conduct, they have been able to accomplish all

“As the company commander, I realize that it can be difficult for the Soldiers sometimes with the long hours they work, but they realize that they are making a difference for other Soldiers on Fort Carson and know that they can always be relied on to make it happen. I couldn’t be more proud of the things this company has been able to accomplish since I took command.”

*-- Capt. Christopher Bregman
Commander, 59th QM Co.*

logistical support missions with little to no impact on their teammates they support at Fort Carson.

Most of the equipment that the Soldiers of 59th QM trained on is not organic to a bulk fuel company. They trained on the Palletized Loading System (PLS), Electronic Container Handling Units (ECHU), Multi Temperate

Refrigerated Container System (MTRCS), and Rough Terrain Container Handling units (RTCH). In addition to cross-training on all of these pieces of equipment, the company picked up several other non-standard missions, such as supporting the local Supply Support Activity (SSA) missions and multiple Material Handling Equipment (MHE) support missions.

On any given day Soldiers from 59th QM Co. may be running the local “Hub and Spoke” support mission, in which the Soldiers transport supplies from one SSA to another on Fort Carson in order to deliver critical supplies units are in need of. Soldiers of 59th QM Co. may be moving pallets of supplies, flat racks of critical equipment, and containers for units on Fort Carson without PLS capabilities. They recently supported the newly activated 4th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) SSA stand up. They moved more than 100 flat racks of items for the SSA utilizing the PLS systems they have on loan from 32nd Transportation Company. The

Soldiers also moved more than 20 containers utilizing the ECHU systems.

Soldiers of 59th QM Co. also conduct Multi-Temperature Refrigerated Container System (MTRCS) missions with loaned equipment in which they support units all over Fort Carson, mainly in support of field exercises delivering refrigerated Class I supplies. They consistently run MHE missions for those units without the MHE support and continue to keep up their fuel support mission to those on Fort Carson without any fuel assets. All of these missions are done by MOS 92F, Petroleum Supply Specialists; a missions not normally covered in the training a fueler receives.

The Company faced many challenges taking on these new missions, but has not missed a beat and has still been able to provide an outstanding level of support to the teammates here on Fort Carson. The Maintenance platoon faced the challenging responsibility of keeping up a fleet twice as big as it was doctrinally authorized. They are able to complete this job through motivation and hard work by the mechanics of the company. The orderly room is now responsible for an additional 60 Soldiers; however it’s not just more Soldiers as each of the three units have separate Unit Identification Codes (UICs). Not only are they responsible for the oversight of awards, noncommissioned-officer evaluation reports (NCOERs), and personnel actions, but have three times the reports to compile.

Just as the maintenance platoon now had a much more complex task, the supply sergeant felt the same pressure now that he was managing three different property books instead of just one. Since the additions of the new units, the company has not had one property-loss-related Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss (FLIPL) or late supply transaction. All of these actions were accomplished through hard work and dedication by the Soldiers of 59th QM Co.

As the company commander, I realize that it can be difficult for the Soldiers sometimes with the long hours they work, but they realize that they are making a difference for other Soldiers on Fort Carson and know that they can always be relied on to make it happen. I couldn’t be more proud of the things this company has been able to accomplish since I took command.

As a multi functional logistician, both my experiences working previously both a Brigade Support Battalion and a Forward Support Company and what I learned in the Captain’s Career Course prior to taking command have helped to prepare me for this task. I know that it has been hard work, but the training we continue to complete on a daily basis is what makes our Company so successful.



Mexican military leaders tour Fort Hood logistics facilities

By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Senior logisticians with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hosted an information exchange visit by representatives of the Mexican Secretariat of National Defense as they toured several Fort Hood units during a site visit Aug. 14-15 focusing on the U.S. Army's logistics and maintenance processes.

The visit was part of a partner nation security cooperation initiative by the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command to build strong relationships between the partner nations.

"We feel it's important to build our partnership with our partner nations, and visits such as this help to facilitate that partnership," said Brig. Gen. Timothy McKeithen, the director of logistics and engineering for NORAD and USNORTHCOM. "By showing our partners how we approach maintenance and logistics within our command, it provides a transparency while we're working together with our partner militaries."

It was part of a three-stop trip through central Texas, which also included visits to Randolph Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Fort Worth. The purpose of the trip was to observe and exchange ideas on ground vehicle and aviation maintenance and logistics processes.

During their trip, the delegation, led by Mexican Air Force Brig. Gen. Javier Cuevas Gomez, deputy chief of staff for administration on the General Staff of the Mexican Air Force, met with Brig. Gen. Clark LeMasters, commander of the 13 SC(E), to discuss Army maintenance and logistics concepts and processes.

Cuevas said he and his fellow officers appreciated the tour and found it to be informative and helpful.

"Logistics are important for the functioning of the armed forces," said Cuevas. "We wanted to come here and view (the U.S. Army's) systems so that we could become better and more effective."

Cuevas said one of his biggest take-aways was the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., the commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), discusses U.S. Army supply and maintenance systems with Mexican Air Force Brig. Gen. Javier Cuevas Gomez, deputy chief of staff for administration on the General Staff of the Mexican Air Force, during a visit to Fort Hood Aug. 14.

information he gained on the computer systems the U.S. Army uses, such as the Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced.

"It's great that all aspects of the logistics process from supply to the maintenance can be tracked through the connecting platforms," he explained.

Following an in-brief at the 13th SC(E), they toured the ground vehicle maintenance operations of the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. In the afternoon, they toured the Directorate of Logistics Support Maintenance Facility, which highlighted their maintenance and engine rebuilding and testing capabilities.

"We want to remain transparent," continued McKeithen. "We walked them through our motor pools so they could see our systems and our processes in action. They can then take in the information that we've provided and use that to implement into their systems as they need to."

The following day, the contingent toured the aviation maintenance facilities of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Div., where they viewed helicopter maintenance processes and also toured the medical evacuation hangar for 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB. The Mexican military leaders also toured the Supply



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Support Activities and observed how the parts resupply system operates. The tour ended with a brief walkthrough of the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, where they viewed a number of medical technical capabilities.

"By observing the maintenance and supply teams at the various sites, the delegation was able to follow the process, from identification of a fault, through the requisition process, to final repair, and return of the equipment to full capability," explained Lt. Col. Stephen Costable, the mobility chief for the Support Operations section of 13th SC(E).

"USNORTHCOM is the lead for this partnership," he said. "Our role in the visit was to support their efforts by showing the SEDENA delegation first-hand how U.S. Army maintenance and logistics systems operate at the unit level, and also show how they are linked to the national level logistics system."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Above: Lt. Col. Shawn Czehowski (left), the commander of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and Chief Warrant Officer-5 Jose Agosto (middle right), chief ordnance logistics officer with the Materiel Readiness Branch, Support Operations, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), discuss aircraft maintenance operations with Mexican Air Force Brig. Gen. Javier Cuevas Gomez (middle left), deputy chief of staff for administration on the General Staff of the Mexican Air Force, during a site visit Aug. 15.

Left: Peter Vanderham (left), a maintenance technician with the Directorate of Logistics Support Maintenance Facility, discusses vehicle maintenance procedures with Mexican Air Force Brig. Gen. Javier Cuevas Gomez (right), deputy chief of staff for administration on the General Staff of the Mexican Air Force, during a site visit Aug. 14.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Spc. Milagros Martinez, a Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced operator with Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, provides a demonstration of the maintenance system to Mexican Air Force Brig. Gen. Javier Cuevas Gomez (right rear), deputy chief of staff for administration on the General Staff of the Mexican Air Force, and other logistics officers during a tour of several Fort Hood logistics facilities Aug. 14.

13th SC(E) conducts installation-wide Wave 1 GCSS-Army Conversion ROC Drill with Fort Hood logisticians



Photo by Capt. Monika Comeaux, 13th SC(E) PAO

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., the commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) calls on the audience not to be bashful and ask all of their questions about the Global Combat Support System-Army implementation at Fort Hood, during a Rehearsal of Concept Drill at Fort Hood's Mission Command Training Center Oct. 17.

**By Capt. Monika Comeaux
13th SC(E) PAO**

FORT HOOD, Texas - Members of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Support Operations section hosted a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill on Global Combat Support System-Army procedures with fellow Fort Hood logisticians Oct. 17 at the Fort Hood Mission Command Training Center.

The goal of the ROC Drill was to provide familiarization for the detailed procedures and training requirements of "G-Army," as personnel already introduced to the system nicknamed it.

"The purpose of this is to fill a gap that we perceived in our training," said Col. John McCoy, the support operations officer of the 13th SC(E).

"There is a lot of fielding training that goes on at the

operator level, and at the supervisor level. We saw that some of the higher level managers would not get that same level of training, yet they would still be responsible for operations of units when they go through the Wave One conversion. This ROC Drill provides an overview of the maintenance, finance, SASMO-Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, and supply aspects of Wave One conversion that are going to affect select Fort Hood units. Higher-level managers otherwise may not learn of G-Army conversion challenges until after the conversion happens," McCoy said.

The first 13 ROC Drill vignettes walked the more than 100 participants through how orders are processed in the new, and soon to be fielded at Fort Hood, GCSS-Army system when an item is on hand or not on hand at the Supply Support Activity (SSA).

Organizers also illustrated how the future equivalent of an "026" maintenance report will be generated and read once G-Army has been implemented at Fort Hood.

The new system once fully implemented across our Army will not only include automated supply orders and maintenance management, but it will also "integrate approximately 40,000 local supply and logistics databases into a single, enterprise-wide authoritative system," as the GCSS-Army webpage states.

The new procedures are similar, yet different with G-Army, said Maj. Alicia R. Dease, the logistics automation officer for 13th SC(E), an FA 53 signal officer.

"With the old system, you request it, you get the money. With the new system, you get the money, and then you request it," Dease explained.

With G-Army comes a new vocabulary also. What you referred to as "ORILs" (Overaged Reparable Items List) in the past, are now simply called "Reparables" in G-Army, said Dease.

Both McCoy and Dease agreed that having legacy systems and the G-Army system run concurrently will pose challenges.

Lessons learned from Fort Bliss, Texas, where some units are already fully up and running on G-Army,

showed that during major field training exercises, operators must be closely connected to funds managers, otherwise the unit may not have the necessary funds behind the orders they place.

Additional training challenges arise when converted units go to the National Training Center in California, for example, they may have to sign for and start using the legacy systems again.

Soon, Soldiers newly graduating from Advanced Individual Training may only know the new system but they may get assigned to a unit still using the legacy systems.

According to McCoy, the next big step at Fort Hood is called New Equipment Training (NET). It is designed to be the training for warehouse, finance, and material managers.

During this training, Soldiers are provided specific training on the new G-Army equipment and software.

"NET is followed by a 'brownout period' where we slow down the systems, we align the financial and supply systems, and then a 'blackout period' which is a time when last minute adjustments to codes within the new systems are made. We aim to go live with G-Army Wave 1 Conversion in mid-November," McCoy said.

Personnel interested to learn more about GCSS-Army should consult the website at: <http://gcss.army.mil/>.

For Fort Hood installation information, go to <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/41350594> and search for "Fort Hood Wave 1 GCSS-Army ROC Drill."



Photo by Capt. Monika Comeaux, 13th SC(E) PAO

Above: Chief Warrant Officer 2 QuantaMaria C. Weeks, a supply systems technician with the Support Operations Section of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) responds to a question about Global Combat Support System-Army during a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill at Fort Hood's Mission Command Training Center Oct. 17. Weeks is one of the Fort Hood subject matter experts on the new system, which is in the process of being implemented Army-wide.



Photo by Capt. Monika Comeaux, 13th SC(E) PAO

Left: Pfc. Shaunja Patrick, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from 509th Brigade Support Company, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, reads her part of a parts order vignette during a Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) Drill conducted about the Fort Hood Wave 1 Global Support System-Army conversion at the Mission Command Training Center here 17 Oct. Organizers invited system operators from units who have received some training on the new system, illustrating the step by step process of a parts order, for example.

49th Trans. Bn. removes FOB Magistrate containers; *High visibility logistical mission complete*

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson
4th Sust. Bde. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Approximately 12 months ago, the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were tasked with setting up a Forward Operating Base. This has been a standard operation for the Wrangler Brigade over the past 11 years of overseas conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Except this FOB was different. It was to be built on Fort Hood, Texas and would be the future home for the court-martial of former Army Maj. Nidal Hasan, the man convicted of killing 13 people and wounding 30 others during a shooting rampage in 2009 here.

FOB Magistrate was constructed by the men and women of the Wrangler Brigade by double stacking approximately 250 cargo containers, each one measuring 20 feet long. However, now that the trial is over, somebody has to tear it all down.

“Our mission for the next two days is to assist the DOL (Directorate of Logistics) with the tearing down of FOB Magistrate and moving 243 containers from the Magistrate to the DOL container yard,” said Capt. Nidas M. Cezar, a native of Oklahoma City and the officer in charge of the Wrangler Brigade’s operation at FOB Magistrate.

On Sept. 6, 2013 with just two days to complete the mission, the 49th Transportation Battalion needed to rely on each other for teamwork, motivation, and hard work.

The hard work was made considerably easier with the use of three vehicles called the Kalmar RT240, a vehicle that is capable of lifting 56,000 lbs and able to stack 20 or 40 foot containers up to three high and two deep without breaking a sweat.

“The Soldiers that are out here with us...this is their normal operations on mission support across Fort Hood,” said Cezar. “I would say this is a high visibility mission for us this year taking down containers and allowing the civilians to stay around and have the freedom to see something other than stacked containers around their homes,” he added.

With numerous trucks going back and forth and hundreds of containers being moved around by the RT240’s, it is



By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson, 4th Sust. Bde. PAOa

Spc. Joseph Sevilliano, a native of Whittier, Calif., and a transportation specialist with the 297th Transportation Company, 49th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), loads a 20 foot container onto the back of an M1088 truck Sept. 6, 2013 on Fort Hood, Texas. The Wrangler Soldiers were helping the Directorate of Logistics tear down FOB Magistrate, a temporary compound used for the Hasan Trial.

imperative that safety is on everyone’s mind at all times.

“If the Soldier is not paying attention and they are going to download a container onto the truck, there is a chance that another Soldier could get hit by the movement of the truck or by the RT240,” said Cezar.

As the containers are loaded onto the trucks for transportation to the DOL yard, they are tagged with a movement tracking device which enables the unit to track where the 20 foot containers are at all times.

“My job for the next two days is to move and track all the containers from one location to another here on Fort Hood,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Nares, a native of San Diego and the movement coordinator for the 151st Movement Control Team. “This is good training for our Soldiers, who are doing a fantastic job, but also gives us an opportunity to test out our systems,” he added.

The containers are tracked all the way to the DOL container yard located on the other side of Fort Hood where they are downloaded, stacked, and processed by the civilian contractors working there.

“Once the Soldiers get down here with the trucks, we unload the containers and stack them,” said Mr. John McHaney, from the DOL Rail Section. “We have a tracking sheet that we use to track what containers are coming in, but our main focus is of loading the trucks as fast as possible so the trucks can get back and pick up more containers,” he added.



Soldiers assigned to the 418th Transportation Company, “Road Knights”, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 15th Sustainment Brigade, haul heavy equipment to its next site during a multi-compositional convoy mission in Afghanistan. The “Road Knights” are responsible for providing sustainment support to U.S. forces and select Coalition Forces throughout Regional Commands South, West, and Southwest in addition to assisting with synchronizing and executing the movement of retrograde equipment.

‘Road Knights’ pave way for sister units

By 1st Lt. Amanda Cookman
87th CSSB, 15th Sust. Bde.

SHINDAND AIR BASE, Afghanistan – The 418th Transportation Company, “Road Knights”, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, sets the bar for its sister elements to emulate by becoming the first multi-composition truck company in the 87th CSSB.

Prior to their deployment and train-up, the “Road Knights” were primarily a Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) and Palletized Load System (PLS) unit working under the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, at Fort Hood, Texas.

The drawdown deadlines set by Congress increased the need for versatile sustainment support units equipped to handle the high demand of retrograde missions in Afghanistan.

The 418th Trans. Co met these goals by training for months before and during their deployment, investing time in developing its Soldiers into a well-disciplined logistics element capable of conducting retrograde operations via multiple means of logistics transportation.

The tactical training took the form of two National Training Center rotations, a field-training exercise, and extensive training on multi-compositional missions while in Afghanistan.

Capt. Mark W. Canary, Commander of the 418th

Trans. Co, explained how imperative this modification, to their unit’s capabilities, was to their mission.

“It is a unique mission set that provides supported commanders and units fluidity on the battle field, meeting requirements without a lag in capabilities,” said Canary. “It is the only way we can ensure mission accomplishment regardless of external support.”

The company’s newly acquired fleet as a multi-compositional truck company included HET, PLS, Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) and the rough terrain cargo handler vehicles.

These new abilities and equipment positively affected the way transportation logistics operations were performed as the “Road Knights” have not only exceeded their mission requirements but continue to excel as they conduct combat logistics operations in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Lance Curtis, commander of the 87th CSSB, and a native of Warrensburg, Mo., praised the 418th for their ingenuity.

“Theses Soldiers, some operating in a capacity outside their primary military occupational specialty, added their expertise to the fight,” said Curtis.

The “Road Knights” played a vital role in Operation Enduring Freedom by permanently closing down six forward operating bases, becoming the premier transportation company in Regional Command West.

'Titans' conduct 1st multi-compositional retrograde mission

By Staff Sgt. Ray Kokel

15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan -- The 377th Transportation Company, "Titans," assigned to the 15th Sustainment Brigade based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, breaks the mold and conducts its first multi-compositional tactical operations convoy Oct. 16.

The "Titans" were primarily a heavy equipment transporter unit, but that has changed with the help of the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade based out of Fort Stewart, Ga..

The 87th CSSB began training the "Titans" in September and wrapped up their training mid-October, just in time for their first multi-compositional mission. Some of the Titan's training included learning how to operate mine-resistant ambush protected all-terrain vehicles, palletized load systems, and forklift vehicles as well as certification on convoy operations.

For 1st Lt. John Rossi, a native of Fredericksburg, Va., executive officer of the 377th Trans. Co., this mission indicates his team's level of dedication.

"We have come a long way," said Rossi. "Being able to perform at this level establishes us as a premier transportation company capable of accomplishing any mission anywhere."

The "Titans" have run nearly 30 missions across Afghanistan as a HET unit in five months, transporting more than 4,900 tons of equipment spanning approximately 70,000 miles in three regional commands, RC-West, RC-Southwest, and RC-South.

According to the 377th Trans. Co. maintenance platoon sergeant,



By Staff Sgt. Ray Kokel, 15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

A Soldier assigned to the 377th Transportation Company, "Titans", 87th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 15th Sustainment Brigade, watches as a heavy equipment transporter hauls a front loader to its next site. The "Titans" conducted their first multi-compositional convoy in Afghanistan Oct. 16. The 15th Sustainment Brigade are responsible for providing sustainment support to U.S. Forces and select Coalition Forces throughout Regional Commands South, West, and Southwest in addition to assisting with synchronizing and executing the movement of retrograde equipment.

Sgt. 1st Class William Dillon, a native of Gainesville, Fla., the extensive training from the 87th CSSB along with his own teams' enthusiasm will have a major impact on their mission in Afghanistan.

"Now we have the ability to run our own convoys," said Dillon. "We'll be able to facilitate retrograde missions more effectively by reducing the need for assistance from multiple units."

Dillon went on to explain that due to the active insurgency and challenging terrain, route clearance patrols are still an indispensable part of their convoy operations.

During the Titans first multi-compositional mission they traveled

to Combat Outpost Shukvani in the Northern Helmand Province, where they dropped off two MRAP all-terrain vehicles and recovered several connexes and one MRAP.

"We'll stay here at Shukvani for a couple of days until the RCP return to lead us back to Leatherneck until then we'll stay here and build rapport with our customers."

The "Titans" are responsible for providing sustainment support to U.S. Forces and select Coalition Forces throughout Regional Commands South, West, and Southwest in addition to assisting with synchronizing and executing the movement of retrograde equipment.

Logistics officers participate in professional development session

By Capt. Monika Comeaux

13th SC(E) PAO

Close to 300 officers participated in a post-wide logistics officer professional development session at the Fort Hood Community Events Center and Bingo Hall Sept. 18.

The event was the first of several upcoming professional development sessions organized by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Hood's senior logistics command.

During the event, participants heard about sustainment in a decisive environment. They had the chance to talk to logistics experts from the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., via video teleconferencing, heard the lessons learned of the 215th Brigade Support Battalion's recent NTC rotation and learned about the virtual pre-deployment site survey concept.

"With the Army focus moving away from COIN (counterinsurgency operations) and back to the decisive action, the conversation about how we conduct sustainment operations has to take place," said 1st Lt. Shane M. Hasbrouck, an armor officer and the officer in charge of logistics operations in 3rd Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

"This has been a great opportunity to take lessons learned from both NTC and the units that recently conducted decisive action rotations and then implement them across Fort Hood," Hasbrouck added.

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters, Jr., commander of the 13th SC(E), encouraged all to provide input and ask questions. He emphasized the importance of realistic training: "It is not about a pretty sand table...you got to make it as real and as tough as possible when you go to the field or NTC. If it is just over the hill, it is not hard enough." He also emphasized the importance of training during nighttime and inclement weather.

Col. Steven A. Cook, the chief of operations of the 13th SC(E), highlighted the logistics challenges of modularity. With Iraq and Afghanistan winding down, logisticians have to readjust how they think about supporting the warfighter. "We used to being FOB (Forward Operating Base)-centric. We had a large supply base that we could live off. We were used to swimming in fuel," Cook said. Logisticians now have to plan for initial entry operations and joint reception, staging and onward integration, which they have not had to do for the past decade, he said.

Second Lt. Dena Pollard, assistant executive officer

of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, who arrived at Fort Hood Aug. 5, said that some of her biggest takeaways were acronyms she wrote down and plans to look into. "...When I come back next time I can actually put it all together and get a broader idea of all of it," she said.

Pollard said the OPD was exciting and interesting. She hopes to learn about NTC and Joint Readiness Training Center rotations during future sessions. "I am still not sure about the exact difference between the two, and what makes one better than the other or why you go to one rather than the other."

Hasbrouck liked the discussion on the impact of transitioning from COIN to decisive action operations, and what personnel or equipment issues may arise from this.

The next logistics officer professional development session will take place in December, and will introduce participants to a doctrinal laydown of all sustainment functions, said LeMasters in conclusion.



Photo by Capt. Monika Comeaux, 13th SC(E) PAO

Col. Steven A. Cook, the outgoing chief of operations of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), explains to participants of a Fort Hood-wide logistics officer professional development session about how things have changed in logistics, on Sept. 18 at the Fort Hood Community Events Center and Bingo Hall.

13th SC(E) Soldiers celebrate unit's 48th birthday, rededicate memorial

By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
13th SC(E) PAO

The Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and 4th Sustainment Brigade took a break from their busy operational schedule to celebrate the unit's 48th birthday and remember its fallen Sept. 23-27.

Soldiers started off the week with an esprit de corps run and competition, with the company whose Soldiers showed the highest motivation and finished the run with the highest percentage of runners earning the 13th SC(E) Commander's Run Streamer for display on their guidon.

Thursday, the 13th Corps Support Command (COSCOM) Association hosted the Brig. Gen. Terry Hildner Memorial Golf Tournament at the Clear Creek Golf Course and the annual 13th COSCOM Alumni Dinner in Temple.

On Friday, the unit and the association hosted a 13th SC(E) Memorial Rededication Ceremony at Hildner Field, followed by a luncheon and a cake cutting at the Freeman Café dining facility.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry E. Parham Sr., the command team for 13th SC(E), along with Robert Crouch, president of the 13th COSCOM Association, laid a wreath at the memorial wall which was rededicated after the names of four fallen Soldiers were added to the wall – Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, Capt. Aaron D. Istre, Staff Sgt. Robert A. Massarelli, and Sgt. Michael J. Strachota.

"This memorial stands as a tribute to the 110 Soldiers of the 13th COSCOM/13th Sustainment Command who have fallen in a combat zone since 9/11/2001," said Crouch during his speech following the wreath laying. "Paraphrasing Maj. Gen. Mike Terry (commanding general of United States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command Life Cycle Management Command), the sun has not set on Central Texas since 9/11 without a Soldier of the 13th being deployed in harms' way somewhere in the world. Unfortunately, Soldiers of the 13th (SC(E)) have paid also the price of freedom since the very start of the War on Terror."

"Today, as part of this rededication, we honor our four most recently-fallen Soldiers by revealing their names on the wall of honor," he continued. "It is our duty to memorialize them - we will never forget their courage and their sacrifice."

Also during the ceremony, LeMasters spoke of how the memorial is not only a solemn reminder of the Soldiers who have fallen, but also a representation of the hard work and determination of the Soldiers within the 13th SC(E) to accomplish their missions.

"Around the central column it reads, 'We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail,'" said LeMasters. "It is a symbol of how this unit strides each and every day to do the absolute best it can, at whatever the task is. The patch facing the sky symbolizes the unlimited potential of you, the Soldiers of this unit."

The 13th SC(E) was activated at Ford Hood as the 13th Support Brigade in September 1965. As the nation's involvement in Vietnam was increasing, this brigade was formed and tasked with training technical services units to assume combat service support missions in Southeast Asia.

The command continued to evolve due to increased missions and changing roles, and, along with similar units, was redesignated as the 13th Support Command (Corps) in 1980, then as the 13th COSCOM in March 1989. As part of Army Transformation, the 13th SC(E) was lastly reflagged in its current configuration Feb. 16, 2006.

The command's primary missions are to provide command and control of assigned, attached and operational control units, and to plan for and provide sustainment (supply, maintenance, and field services), distribution, and health service support for full spectrum operations.

Currently, the 13th SC(E) is Fort Hood's third largest unit with a local strength of more than 3,500 Soldiers. The command is comprised of the 4th Sustainment Brigade and the 13th Financial Management Center.

Overall, the events of the week, culminating with the memorial rededication ceremony, were an opportunity for the Soldiers of 13th SC(E) to break from their standard routines and missions to reflect on the lineage of the unit and also pay respect to their fallen comrades.

"It's extremely important for us as a unit to take a break and remember something other than the normal day to day turmoil," said LeMasters. "It's one of our traditions and keeps the heritage growing. We had tremendous participation throughout the week from both our Soldiers and our community partners in Temple, Belton and the 13th COSCOM Association. It speaks volumes to the quality of this organization to have great Soldiers, both past and present, and great community support."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Top: Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr. (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry E. Parham Sr. (behind), the command team of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), along with Robert Crouch, the president of the 13th Corps Support Command (COSCOM) Association, lay a wreath at the 13th SC(E) Memorial during a rededication ceremony at Hildner Field Sept. 27. The memorial was rededicated after the names of four fallen Soldiers were added to the wall – Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, Capt. Aaron D. Istre, Staff Sgt. Robert A. Massarelli, and Sgt. Michael J. Strachota.

Left: Cindy Hildner, the widow of Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, former commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pays respect to her fallen husband following a memorial rededication ceremony at Hildner Field Sept. 27.

Above: (from left) Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., the commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); Robert Crouch, president of the 13th Corps Support Command (COSCOM) Association; Cindy Hildner, widow of Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, former commanding general of the 13th SC(E); and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry E. Parham Sr., command sergeant major for 13th SC(E), cut a cake in honor of the unit's 48th birthday during a luncheon at the Freeman Café Dining Facility Sept. 27.

13th SC(E), COSCOM Assc. celebrate birthday week

During the week of Sept. 23-27, Soldiers participated in an esprit de corps run, golf scramble, 13th COSCOM Association dinner, and finally a memorial rededication ceremony and luncheon.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Capt. Monika Comeaux, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson, 13th SC(E) PAO

Siblings reunite in Afghanistan

By Staff Sgt. Ray Kokel
15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Its one big Army family as Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 15th Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters" reunited with their siblings from the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade.

During a deployment families typically separate for months at a time which can be extremely difficult for their families back home. However, the Gogan family, of Readfield, Maine, and the Hilliard/Burney family, of Biloxi, Miss., can take comfort in knowing their children were able to spend at least a little time together, even though they were thousands of miles from home.

1st Lt. Terance Gogan and his brother, Sgt. Kabary Gogan, deployed to Afghanistan at different times, but were able to see each other before Kabary headed back to Hunter Army Airfield.

Terance serves as an adjutant general with HHC, 15th Sust. Bde.. He is currently stationed at Kandahar Airfield (KAF), about 300 miles southwest of Kabul, and was fortunate enough to get together with his brother Kabary who serves as an avionic mechanic with Delta Troop, 3rd Squadron 17th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

Terance found out his brother was at KAF on Facebook. When Terance left Fort Bliss for his deployment he made arrangements with his brother Kabary to meet up once he arrived.

"It was great being able to see him," Terance said. "It has been a while since we last met because our military life interfered with us reuniting during the holidays."

The two had not seen each other in three years when Terance swore his brother in the Army at the New



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 15th Sust. Bde. PAO
Spc. Charita Burney, left, and Chief Warrant Officer Charmaine Hilliard, natives of Biloxi, Miss., spend time together at the Afghan Coffee House on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 12.

England Recruiting Battalion.

Also in the same brigades are two sisters from Biloxi, Miss., who also had the opportunity to come together at KAF.

"I was amazed when I heard the news," Terance said. "Come on, what are the odds to have two different families coming from the same units meet up in Afghanistan at the same time?"

Chief Warrant Officer Charmaine L. Hilliard, who works in the same office as 1st Lt. Gogan, also has a younger sibling in the 3rd CAB. Her sister Spc. Charita N. Burney is a personnel specialist and has been in the Army for just under two years.

"This was my third deployment and my little sisters first, so I wanted to look out for her when I got here," said Hilliard. "In reality she took care of me by helping me get settled in."

Both of the younger siblings credit their older siblings for them joining the Army.

"I wanted to be like my big sister," Burney said. "I even plan to become a warrant officer in the AG field too after I make staff sergeant."

"AG all the way, Hooah!" said Hilliard.

The two families spent time catching up at the Monti Dining Facility and Afghan Coffee House at KAF. They spent most of their time talking about shared military experiences, recapping childhood memories and how their families were doing back home.

Sgt. Gogan and Spc. Burney are at the end of their nine-month deployment and 1st Lt. Gogan and Chief Warrant Officer Hilliard are at the beginning of theirs. This left only a small window for them to spend time together. Understanding this, the siblings were thankful for the time they did share.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 15th Sust. Bde. PAO
Sgt. Kabary Gogan, left, and 1st Lt. Terance Gogan, natives of Readfield, Maine, return from eating at the Monti Dining Facility Aug. 19 on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The two brothers have not seen each other in three years and were able to catch up while the two were at KAF.

3rd Sust. Bde. cases colors; transfers authority to 15th Sust. Bde.

By Staff Sgt. Ray Kokel
15th Sustainment Brigade

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- The 15th Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters" from Fort Bliss, Texas, signaled the beginning of their tour in Afghanistan with a transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 26.

The ceremony started with the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, "Providers" based out of Fort Stewart, Ga., casing their colors, signifying the completion of their mission. Afterwards, Col. Curtis A. Johnson and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry A. Parks, the command team for the 15th Sust. Bde., uncased their colors, symbolically lifting the weight off the shoulders of the 3rd Sust. Bde. by assuming responsibility of the mission.

"The Providers have completed their duties with excellence; they have prepared us for this awesome responsibility," said Johnson.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 15th Sustainment Brigade
Col. Curtis A. Johnson (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry A. Parks, the command team of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, uncased their brigade's colors during the transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 26. The 3rd Sustainment Brigade transferred authority over to the 15th Sust. Bde. and will return home to Fort Stewart, Ga., later this month. The 15th Sust. Bde. provides tactical logistical support for regional commands -South, Southwest and West.

"Now is our time, and we are prepared."

The 15th Sust. Bde. will continue this renowned standing by providing unhindered tactical logistic support for all Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, coalition forces and civilian personnel in Regional Commands South, Southwest and West.

Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein, commanding general of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, spoke highly of the 15th Sust. Bde. and expressed his confidence in their ability to complete the mission.

"The 15th Sust. Bde. joins us with a tremendous reputation," Stein said. "I'm happy to have them on the team."

The 15th Sustainment Brigade is dedicated to continuing the work of the 3rd Sust. Bde. by balancing sustainment missions throughout the area of operation with the monumental task of redistribution and material reduction.

Johnson praised the officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of the 3rd Sust. Bde., for their commitment to selfless service.

"I stand in awe of those on and in the field today," said Johnson. "I am impressed with your accomplishments and adherence to high standards."

The 15th Sustainment Brigade has a long and distinguished history dating back to their constitution on May 4, 1966.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Kokel, 15th Sustainment Brigade
Col. Curtis A. Johnson, commander of the 15th Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters", commends the 3rd Sustainment Brigade for their selfless service during the transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 26. The 3rd Sustainment Brigade transferred authority to the 15th-Sust. Bde. who returns home to Fort Stewart later this month. The 15th-Sust. Bde. provides tactical logistical support for regional commands -South, Southwest and West.

Soldiers honored with luncheon by Temple Chamber of Commerce

By Capt. Monika Comeaux
13th SC(E) PAO

More than 150 Fort Hood Soldiers, amongst them several Providers, had barbecue lunch as a courtesy of the Temple Chamber of Commerce Sept. 17 at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, Texas.

The chamber's Military Appreciation Luncheon takes place annually; the event also serves as the kick-off for the chamber's military toy drive for the holidays.

"I think you agree with me that we have the greatest military force on Earth, all volunteer," said Jim Granfor, the chairman of the Temple Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, in his opening remarks. Granfor complemented all services for their contributions, and made sure that the audience honored veterans and those who currently serve with several rounds of applause.

There is a longstanding history and cooperation between the city of Temple and soldiers from the 1st MED Brigade and 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., the commander of the 13th SC(E) and the events keynote speaker. "The most important part of this event is to have the opportunity to talk with each other," said LeMasters, and challenged participants to talk to the Soldiers in the audience and ask them a couple of questions about their background and the Army, if they haven't already done so. "It's all about getting to know you and getting to know us."

"These soldiers here today



Soldiers line up to help themselves to a tasty barbecue lunch during the Temple Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Luncheon Sept. 17 at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, Texas. Various businesses and organizations sponsored lunches for the troops, inviting over 150 green-suiters to the event.

represent not only the Army, but the future of our great nation; our all volunteer Army is an example for other Nations," LeMasters added. He then went into talking about budget cuts, the new Defense Strategy Guidance and force restructuring. "Let me assure you, that the senior leaders of our Army are looking at these challenges." LeMasters expressed his confidence that leaders at high levels will make the best decisions for the future of the forces.

First Lt. Sherry Klander, an operations officer from the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Sustainment Brigade said her unit put out a memorandum to let the Soldiers know about the event. "It was great; it was an awesome experience to see community

support." In her civilian life she is a photographer in Temple, and owns her own business photographing "anything from babies to pets to weddings." Klander said this was the first time she attended the military appreciation luncheon and thought it would be great to see other community events like a career fair for a meet and greet for Soldiers.



Jim Granfor, the chairman of the Temple Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, addresses guests during the Temple Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Luncheon Sept. 17, at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple, Texas. The chamber puts on a luncheon to celebrate service members annually. This year, they had close to 600 attendees, 150 of them Soldiers.

Wranglers build trust at Leadership Reaction Course

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson
4th Sust. Bde. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), spent the morning working on their teamwork and leadership skills at the Fort Hood Leadership Reaction Course during Sergeants' Time Training, Sept. 12.

The morning started with a safety briefing and course rules given by the noncommissioned officer in charge of the training, Staff Sgt. McKinley Miller, a native of Lynchburg, Va., and the operations NCOIC at HHC.

After they were briefed, the Wrangler Soldiers were split up into five groups with the lower ranking Soldiers put in the leadership positions for the obstacle course and given the instructions for their first task of the day.

"The intent for the leadership course was team building," said Miller. "The Soldiers were split into teams to not actually complete the obstacle course, but it was to have them think and trust each other as a team so they could accomplish whatever mission was given to them," he added.

In one of the scenarios, a Soldier received a back injury in a chemically hazardous environment and his/her team had to use a litter (stretcher) to get them from one side of a stream to the other. This sounds simple enough, but there was a catch. The Soldiers couldn't touch the water because it was contaminated and they only had six various-sized pieces of wood that they could use to navigate the obstacle in a set time. This particular obstacle was unconquered by the Soldiers of the Wrangler Brigade.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), work on their teamwork and leadership skills as they try to navigate their way across one of the many obstacles at the Fort Hood Leadership Reaction Course during Sergeants' Time Training, Sept. 12.

"The Soldiers received some good training today because the Soldiers were put in the leadership positions," said Miller. "We had a total of five teams here today. Three of the teams completed three different obstacles, but no team completed all five of them."

Miller said that some of the Soldiers took this training and leadership opportunity with both hands and excelled, standing out above their peers.

One such Soldier was Spc. Andrea Gomez, a native of San Antonio who stated that the course was really hard and took a lot of communication to accomplish any of the missions.

"You have to trust your team and rely on your team leader," she said. "It is fun and helps build character, we should do this more often. I think the Soldiers got a lot out of this," she added.

Throughout the training event,

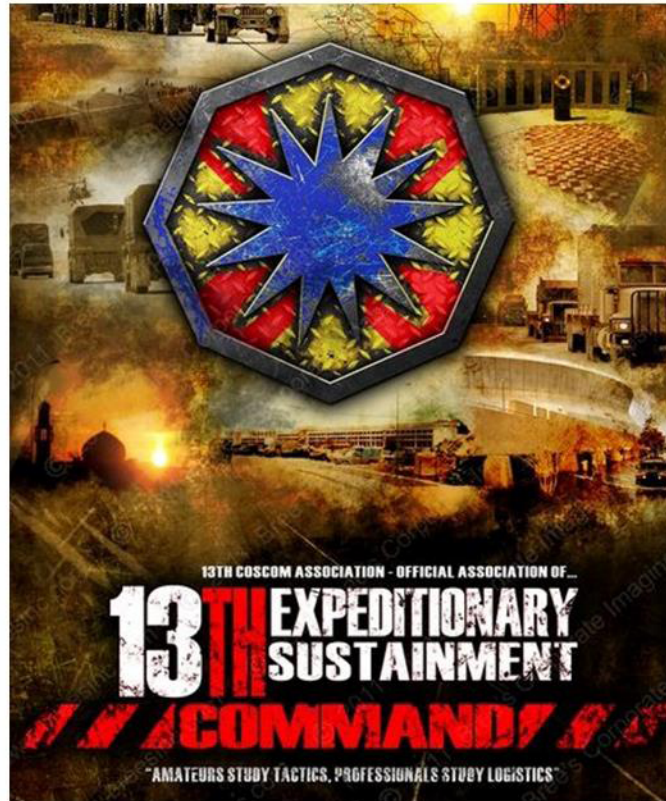
Soldiers were given guidance and directions from the safety officers and various NCOs that were on the course. This kind of guidance ensures all obstacles are approached with safety in mind and to make sure they thought about the obstacles properly before tackling them.

"The safeties were helping us out, but at the same time they were letting us develop our own ideas and our own ways of doing things," said Spc. Luis Navedo, a transportation specialist and native of Vega Alta, Puerto Rico. "That was good because everyone had to interact with people from other sections," he added.

Navedo said that it was good for the lower enlisted to be put in leadership positions like the ones on this course because it prepares them for the future when they, too, will become noncommissioned officers, leaders of Soldiers.



13TH COSCOM ASSOCIATION



WHO WE ARE:

- Current and former members of the 13th ESC (and predecessor units)

WHAT WE DO:

- Support the soldiers of the 13th ESC
- Maintain a tribute to 13th ESC fallen - the 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion
- Help educate the 13th ESC family - Provide two annual scholarships through AUSA
- Record the history of the 13th ESC
- Be the 13th ESC veteran connection
- Link 13th ESC to the local Community

HOW TO JOIN:

- Sign up for a free membership on our website
- Send an email to Contact13CCA@gmail.com

HOW TO CONNECT:

- Visit our website at www.13cca.org
- Like our page on Facebook (13th COSCOM Association)

HOW TO SUPPORT:

- Make a donation to the Association via our website
- Buy a brick for the 13th ESC Memorial Pavilion (available on website)
- Volunteer to serve on an association committee

www.13cca.org