

FRONT & CENTER



Col. Earnie Shows

Even the small among us can make great impact

Today marks the start of the ramp-up to the support mission for the 56th SBCT (Stryker Brigade Combat Team). For those of you who do not understand, the “S” in SBCT stands for Stryker. This BCT is equipped with a fast moving and lethal vehicle. It is the only Army National Guard unit to be so equipped.

We have had the privilege of supporting their training here at Camp Shelby during this Annual Training season, but now they will be arriving back to conduct mobilization training. They have a big mission. They are well led and have the same high-caliber Soldiers and leaders we all have come to expect from our Guard and Reserve formations. Be ready to extend to them every instance of support you can. They will be training hard and fast to meet a very demanding schedule. I know you will do so.

By way of comparison, we just recently performed a sendoff ceremony for a well drilling detachment from the great state of Tennessee. These Soldiers of the 775th well drilling detachment, numbering not more than

20, make up a team that punches holes in the ground. Sounds kind of bland doesn’t it? Well, these Soldiers represent diplomats in uniform of a different category. They provide drinkable water sources to people in regions of the world where “any” drinking water is a scarce commodity. As I stated to them at their sendoff, their size may be small, but their mission is huge beyond comparison for drinking water is a commodity that the human being cannot do without for a long period of time.

Think back to your training and education. What do you recall about how important drinking water is to your health and well being? It is critical. We can do without food for several days or weeks, if forced to. Depending on environmental conditions and your physical requirements, you need some water at least every day to maintain good health. The 775th is an example of our best ambassadors doing work that will help our relations across the continents for years to come. Small unit, big impact.

I wish to extend to all the Soldiers and employees of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center my thanks for what you have done in support of our nation. We recently conducted an extensive review of our utilization numbers to date and discovered a grand total of 102,000 personnel supported in mobilization status alone since June of 2004 when we first began this great mobilization mission. You have worked hard, endured the challenges, and accomplished the mission without complaint, (well not much anyway) and not always with every resource you needed. It is because of your innovative nature, can-do attitudes collectively, that have made this post one of the few that is being proposed for enduring mobilization support mission – because of people that care and work hard.

Continue to think safety. Work safety and enforce safety. Thank you all, and may God Bless each and every one of you.



Photo by Sgt. Nakisha Ducksworth)

GOOD SAMARITAN – Master Sgt. David Williamson set the standard as a Platoon Leader for the Youth Challenge Program at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Williamson discovered a lost wallet on his way to work on Interstate 59. The wallet contained a very large amount of cash. However, Williamson showed that he is a man of honor and integrity by returning the wallet to its grateful owner who happened to be a very prominent physician in the Hattiesburg area who did not want to be identified.

Humvees

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next deploying unit.

“The savings from this program comes from both labor and the cost of materials,” said Uher,” and right now, as far as the number of vehicles we’ve done, it’s up there in the thousands. We’ve swapped these kits onto vehicles from every Brigade Combat

Team that’s come through here.”

The kits were originally designed by the Soldiers of the Allied Trades Section of the 3656th Maintenance Company, at the request of First Army Division East, and have saved over \$1,200 per vehicle, per unit since the program started two and a half years ago, which adds up to millions of dollars in savings to the taxpayers.

Help

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All TRICARE regions in the United States offer a Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Service for service members and their enrolled family members who need help locating and making appointments with behavioral health care providers. Beneficiaries call one regional phone number where a representative will help find a provider or assist with making an appointment.

The toll-free numbers for the Assistance

Service are: West Region, (866) 651-4970; North Region, (877) 747-9579; and South Region (877) 298-3514. Hours vary according to region.

TRICARE Prime family members and retirees can also receive the first eight private sector outpatient behavioral health care visits per fiscal year from a network provider without a referral from a Primary Care Manager or prior authorization from their Managed Care Support Contractor (MCSC). Visit <http://www.tricare.mil> for more information on behavioral health benefits.

Enlisted

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Nyergheshm “and the instructors provide great opportunities for us to learn in different ways, which creates a well-rounded view of the tasks we’ll be doing overseas.”

“This is also a time to make our mistakes in training and learn from them, so that when we get overseas, we’ll get it right,” said Nyerghesh.

In addition, she noted that, “all of our instructors have already been deployed overseas,

and their information is coming directly from the source, so to speak.”

In civilian life, she works as a Customer Service Advocate (CSA) for Prescription Solutions. “It’s a mail-order pharmacy for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Medicare, Medicaid, various private insurance corporations and persons who pay out-of-pocket,” said Nyerghesh.

In her spare time, she enjoys fishing, wakeboarding, skiing and “just hanging out with friends.”

NCO

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“The war is won at the E-6 (Staff Sgt.) and E-5 (Sgt.) levels and as NCOs, training is our No. 1 focus until we hit theater (overseas) and shift to combat operations.

After being on post for only three days, Hedetniemi is already feeling the effects of being away from home. He said he misses his friends and his puppy, Chelsea Mae, a Norfolk terrier he rescued after Hurricane

Katrina when he was sent home from Iraq on emergency leave to take care of his home.

During his spare time, Hedetniemi enjoys playing music. “I’ve been playing the guitar and writing music for the past 10 years,” he said. “I enjoy recording with other musicians in my home studio.”

Information you might find interesting about Hedetniemi is that on June 6, 2005, he was attacked by insurgents in Iraq. Due to his meritorious achievement, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device.

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PERSONNEL PROFILE OFFICER

BY SGT. PAUL ROBERTS

177th Armor Brigade PAO

Maj. Donald A. Fuller is the brigade Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Master Gunner for First Army with the 177th Armored Brigade stationed at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC).

The Blytheville, Ark., native has been working at CSJFTC for 14 months. He deployed to Honduras, Central America in 1989 for a peacekeeping mission and served in Afghanistan from May 2006-2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to support the Global War on Terrorism.

Fuller has completed 26 years of National Guard Service. He has two Bachelor of Science degrees – one in Mechanical Engineering from Arkansas



State University and the other in Liberal Sciences, (a combination of Physics, Chemistry, Military Science and Mathematics) from New York University.

He has also completed the Combat Search Operations “Train the Trainer” Course, Tactical Electronic Warfare Operations Course, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Master Gunner Training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Electronic Warfare Leadership Course, C-IED Awareness Course, IED Battle Staff Course, Counter Insurgency Workshop as well as the IED “Train the Trainer” Course while he has been stationed with the 177th Armored Brigade at CSJFTC.

Fuller initially joined the Army in 1982 and had originally joined the National Guard as a way to pay his way through college. Since his arrival to the 177th Armored Brigade, Maj. Fuller supervises the IED-Defeat cell and the brigade’s Master Gunner Teams that comprises more than 20 Soldiers who are responsible for the training of current Troop Training Procedures (TTP), training devices, static displays and

instructor training. These affect more than 10,000 service members who deploy annually to support the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his spare time, Fuller enjoys golf, which he says he’s not good at, martial arts, church and books by Tom Clancy and John Grisham. He also spends time reading leadership-related books, building furniture or working in the yard with his wife., the former Rosanna G. Mansfield of Black Rock, Ark. and has four daughters, Luricka, Jennifer, Shirley and Rhonda, as well as having one granddaughter, Whitney.

A few rules of leadership that Fuller holds respectfully are – “When in command...command,” “Never walk by something that is wrong,” “Integrity is one Army value that can never weaken,” “Communication goes both ways...up and down the chain,” “We can only win, if we fight and work as a team,” and “Understand and live the “Soldier’s Creed.”

CSJFTC will be conducting IWQ on various dates in October. We will need for each directorate to poll their Soldiers and see which ones will be firing with their units and which ones will not fire at all.
The following are dates that firing will occur – Oct. 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 29.
For more information, contact First Sgt. James R. Cochran, 601-558-2563.