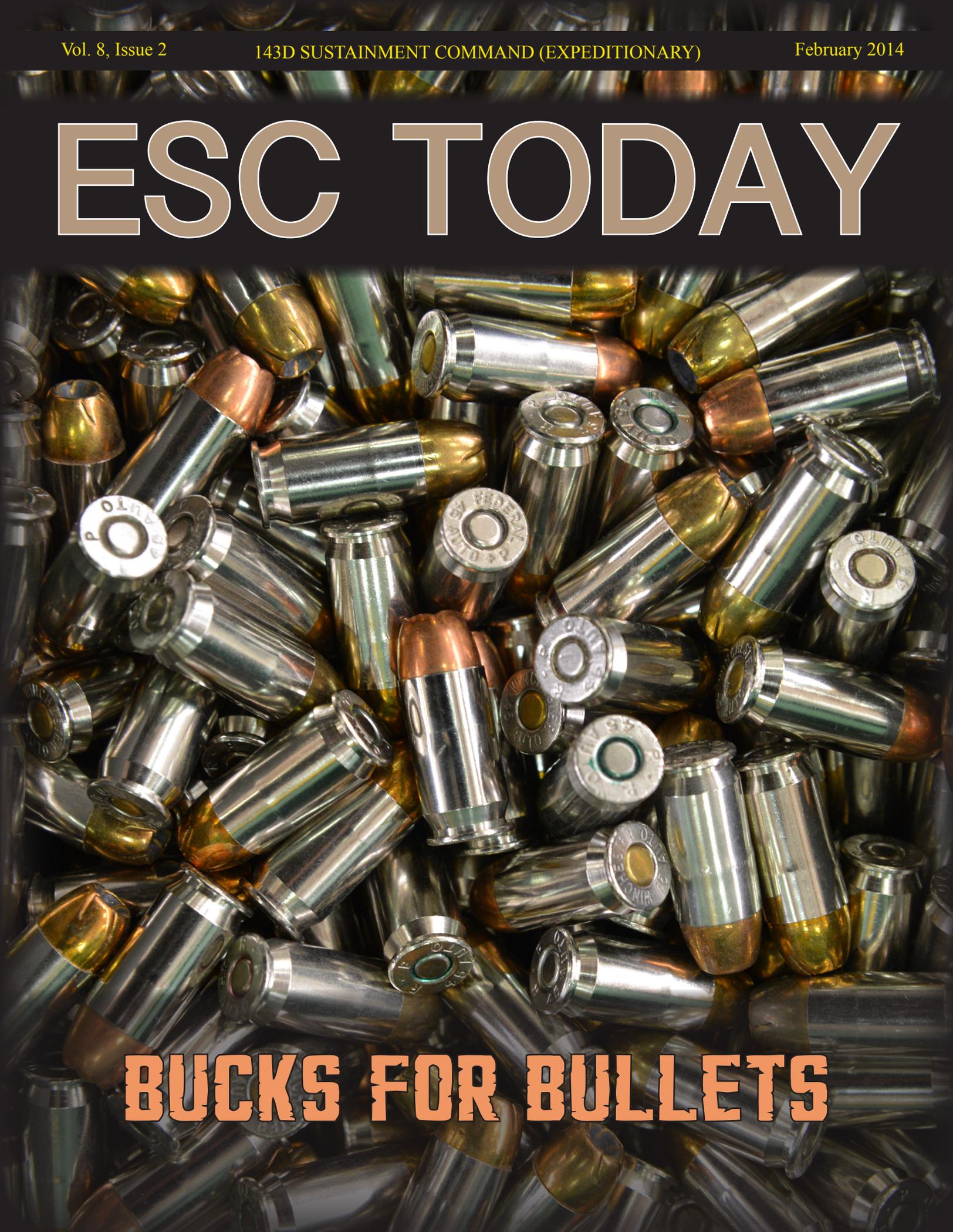
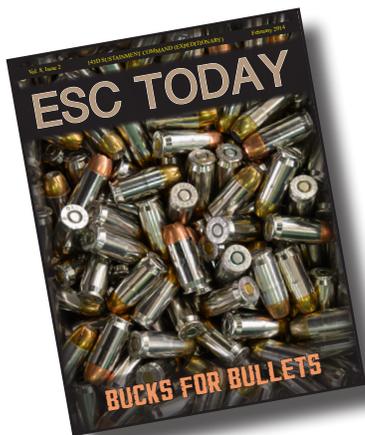


# ESC TODAY



**BUCKS FOR BULLETS**



## << On the Front Cover

A trained Soldier can properly inspect one of these rounds in 60 seconds. In that same time period the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System (ATACS) can inspect and sort up to 300 rounds. Although only five ATACS exist in the world, the machines have saved the U.S. government millions of dollars by inspecting and sorting millions of rounds of ammunition that would have otherwise sat at an ammunition supply point while hundreds of people inspected them by hand.

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

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# The Command Post

Greetings from Kuwait to all Soldiers, civilians and families of the 143d ESC! After more than a decade of war, we're about to enter a time of significant change for our Army. As we leave the past and look to our future, I'd like to share a couple of thoughts on the Department of Defense and its role in 21st Century Global Defense. Before I begin it's important to point out that our Soldiers continue to deploy and redeploy in support of the nation, and I caution you not to become complacent during the current draw-down period.

The global security environment has grown and will grow more complex; all at once, we're ending our military mission in Afghanistan, continuing to pursue Al Qaeda and its leadership, and our nation faces serious deficit

problems. Across the DoD the orders are clear - maintain the world's finest military to support and sustain U.S. global leadership. We in the Armed Forces are charged with ensuring America's success in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environments around the world. We must become a leaner force that does more with less, while ensuring we do not lose the capability to fight and win the Nation's wars.

**"This is a time to show your true professionalism as we shape and train the force. The Army Reserve will retain its best"**

A smaller, ready military is preferable to a larger force ill-prepared because resources are not made available for training, maintenance, and modernization. Ultimately, we will preserve the quality of the all-volunteer force and ensure our troops are treated fairly in any structure or mission related decisions. We will be fully prepared to deter and defeat aggression



**Col. Christopher P. Govekar  
Commander  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)**

anywhere in the world. Even if we are called on to fight in a major conflict, we will be able to deny any adversary the ability to achieve their goals elsewhere in the world at the same time. As we draw down in Afghanistan, and as we look to future threats, we will no longer size our force for sustained, large-scale stability operations. We will field a smaller force while focusing on modernization to address emerging threats.

The "how" or "where the rubber meets the road" concerning the aforementioned strategy begins with you. Over the next few months we will be called upon to do our part in managing change in our own corner of the Army Reserve. This is a time to show your true professionalism as we shape and train the force. The Army Reserve will retain its best. Readiness levels will increase as equipment dependability improves significantly. We will not only know our subordinates' job but also that of our superiors to ensure depth of force and reliable leaders. The National Defense Strategy has changed. Be prepared to change with it. ☒



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Shay, 143d ESC

Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) gathered together for an awards ceremony Jan. 4 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, to welcome six young Soldiers into the non-commissioned officer corps. These newly promoted NCOs have a bright future ahead, but must work harder than before to ensure their place in a leaner, more professional Army Reserve.

## DID YOU KNOW?

## HERO 2 HIRED

Searching for a new job is a big undertaking. That's why Hero2Hired was created: to make it easy for Reserve component service members to connect to and find jobs with military-friendly companies. H2H also offers career exploration tools, military-to-civilian skills translations, hiring events and training resources. iPhone, Android and Windows Device users may download the H2H mobile application to keep up with the latest job opportunities when they're on the go. Sign up for free and find your next job today at <https://h2h.jobs>.

# THE BOTTOM LINE

**D**uring the last three editions of the ESC Today, I have related information on topics such as the Multi-Source Assessment and Feedback 360, a tool used to gain feedback from leaders, peers and subordinates about your leadership. We also discussed the importance of counseling and how we use it to develop our Soldiers into tomorrow's leaders. Finally, I related information on the Army Career and Alumni Program process.

All of these topics lead to one essential element that everyone must have: responsibility. Many of you have heard me use this word several times over. To me responsibility means that I own everything that my Soldiers and I do every day.

As responsible leaders we must ensure that our organization is successful in completing its mission whether it is at home or deployed. Being responsible does not mean that you blame someone when something goes wrong. It means that you, as a leader, own the processes and have the latitude to make corrections, lend advice, share knowledge, and provide expertise. As a leader we should always assume responsibility for our actions and the actions of our Soldiers.

Why, you ask? The answer is pretty simple, and we all know it. We don't always remember right up front what it is, but it has been in place longer than many of us have been in the Army. It is called the principles of leadership.

The following is a recap of what they are and what they mean to me:

## 1. Know Yourself and Seek Self Improvement

Develop a plan to keep your strengths and improve on your weaknesses.

## 2. Be Technically Proficient

Not only do we know our duties and responsibilities, but we also know all those of our team members. We look to our leaders and concern ourselves with learning their duties and responsibilities.

## 3. Seek Responsibility and Take Responsibility for Your Actions

We are not satisfied with performing just our duties to the best of our abilities. We look to grow and seek further challenges. When in charge we accept the consequences of our decisions, absorbing the negative and passing on the praises.

## 4. Make Sound and Timely Decisions

Leaders must be able to reason under the most critical condition and decide quickly what action to take.

## 5. Set the Example

This to me is the most important aspect of leadership. Our personal example affects people more than any amount of instruction or form of discipline. We are the role model.

## 6. Know Your Personnel and Look Out for Their Well Being

Leaders must know and understand those being led. When individuals trust you, they will willingly work to help accomplish any mission.

## 7. Keep Your Followers Informed

Our team members expect us to keep them



**Command Sgt. Maj. Ferdinand Collazo, Jr.  
Command Sergeant Major  
143d Sustainment Command  
(Expeditionary)**

informed and, where and when possible, to explain the reasons behind requirements and decisions. Information encourages initiative, improves teamwork and enhances morale.

## 8. Develop a Sense of Responsibility in Your Followers

The members of a team will feel a sense of pride and responsibility when they successfully accomplish a new task given them. When we delegate responsibility to our followers, we are indicating that we trust them.

## 9. Ensure Each Task is Understood, Supervised and Accomplished

Team members must know the standard. Supervising lets us know the task is understood and lets our team members know we care about mission accomplishment and about them.

## 10. Build a Team

Leaders develop a team spirit that motivates team members to work with confidence and competence. Mission accomplishment is based on teamwork. My experience shows that, the better the team, the better it will perform the task.

## 11. Employ Your Team In Accordance With Its Capabilities

A leader must use sound judgment when employing the team. Failure is not an option. By employing the team properly, we insure mission accomplishment.

A responsible leader is aware of these principles. What do these principles mean to you? ☒



Photo by of Staff Sgt. Ian Shay / 143d ESC

# FINDING *life*

## IN THE VALLEY OF DEATH

“Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”

(John 15:12-14)

Jesus spoke those words to his apostles as the crucifixion was drawing near. These words resound within the hearts of Soldiers even today. Across formations you can even hear them from those not quite certain of their biblical origin or context. Still, just as Jesus shared his life for our salvation, Soldiers truly know what it means to give of their lives for a greater cause, especially when they “walk through the Valley of Death”.

Many of us know this as a “Valley of Death” experience. During this long operation with many deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and other destinations across the world, we know today’s patriots have paid the ultimate cost for freedom. We also know the bonds of war that our deployments bring.

In December six Soldiers died in a helicopter crash in Southern Afghanistan. According to “Stars and Stripes,” at least 180 aircraft are reported to have crashed or been destroyed during the 12-year war. More than 150 Americans have paid the ultimate price over the past year, and many others have shared in the personal loss. If you connect with Soldiers on Facebook, you will see more than a few posting of those who have given so much of themselves. These posting stand in honor of those who have given so much for not only America, but

for the world. The posting are followed by prayers, salutes, and condolences for the Soldier and family. In reading those comments you can be assured their lives were not given in vain. Their legacy continues in the service of those that follow them.

In January Staff Sgt. David George, chaplain assistant for the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, shared a poem with a small group of Soldiers in Kuwait which touched upon what it is like to share the hardships that so many have shared.

“More Than Our Life”

As the war goes on, we're front and center  
This Life and Death world, we chose to enter  
Siblings of our Uncle, we call him Sam  
Though sometimes it feels he doesn't give a damn.



Photo by of Pfc. David Hawk | 22nd MPAD

We shared the same bunkers, Booms came down  
Sirens blaring to us, all around  
Showing no fear, but still afraid  
Couldn't help but wonder, was today the day?  
The bonds we forge are not understood  
By mortals back home, who only know good.  
For even if we die, we'll still live on  
In our fellow Soldier, we'll carry on.  
We trust each other with more than our life  
With our thoughts, our secrets, and our strife  
Forever we will be, for each other  
Here in this life, and if there's another.



**Master Sgt. Ward T. Gros**  
**Master Chaplain Assistant NCO**  
**143d Sustainment Command**  
**(Expeditionary)**

And as the war draws down, we'll try to go home  
But never the same as when we started to roam  
The memories of here, forever embedded  
But for all the friendships, forever indebted.

While George and his chaplain, Maj. Hank McCaskill provide religious support in harm's way, I think back to my days in 2009 with Chaplain (Col.) Stanley Puckett and chaplain assistant Sgt. Lindsay Canterbury. Puckett currently serves as the command chaplain for the 377th Theater Support Command, our higher headquarters at home station. Puckett will retire in March with a legacy of developing young chaplains into senior leaders, providing vision for Unit Ministry Teams, and all the while putting the Soldier first.

During our time in Afghanistan, we travelled more than we thought we would, saw more than we thought we could, felt the sacrifice of so many around us, and today we trust one another with more than our lives. Today, chaplains and chaplain assistants find themselves in much the same situation.

Our memories will last a lifetime, and we should do all that we can to ensure that our friendships will as well. ✕



# The Legal Corner

## NEW SPECIAL VICTIM COUNSEL PROGRAM

A ground-breaking new service that is being offered by the JAG Corps is the Special Victim Counsel (SVC) Program which began Nov. 1, 2013. The program offers services to all new and existing victims of sexual assault. Special Victim Counsel are judge advocates (JAs) with experience in litigating sex crimes. JAs are specially trained in representing victims of sexual assault in the military justice system. The purpose of the program is to encourage reporting by providing attorneys who can offer confidential legal representation related to issues that may arise as a result of being sexually assaulted.

Reporting sexual assault is important. Victims have more options than ever before. To understand these options, the Special Victim Counsel is there to explain them all in a caring and confidential environment. Some of the major barriers to reporting sexual assault are; the feeling of embarrassment, fear of not being believed, blaming themselves, feeling at fault for the assault, fear that reporting will negatively impact their career in the Army, fear that reporting will ruin the career of the person they are accusing, and collateral misconduct. Collateral misconduct means that the victim may have been involved in something they were not supposed to be doing at the time the assault occurred such as underage drinking, adultery or fraternization.

Collateral misconduct should not prevent reporting. It is important to understand that the goal of the Department of Defense is a culture free of sexual assault, through an environment of prevention, education, effective reporting procedures and victim support. If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual assault, it may be in your best



**Capt. Thomas Feiter**  
**Special Victim Counsel**  
**Asst. Command Judge Avocate 143d ESC**  
**Area Support Group-Kuwait**

interests to speak with the Special Victim Counsel as soon as possible – no matter how bad the circumstances may be.

This new program requires that the victim be informed of his or her right to their own attorney (the special victim counsel) upon reporting, in accordance with 10 U.S. Code § 1565b. This means that, before anyone (including investigators) can ask the victim any questions relating to the sexual assault or circumstances, that the victim be provided with a notification form that tells them the services that the attorney can offer them and how to get a hold of that attorney.

A victim's right to be heard in a sexual assault case is provided for in the Military Rules of Evidence. Special Victim Counsel are attorneys who can speak in court on behalf of their client – the victim. It is also important for victims to know that the trial counsel (the prosecutor) and the defense attorney for the accused must go through the victim's attorney (the special victim counsel) before they can talk to the victim. It is hoped that these new services for victims will ease any anxiety or reluctance associated with reporting a sexual assault.

I can be reached at the Legal Assistance Office at DSN 318-430-5258 or by email at [thomas.b.feiter.mil@mail.mil](mailto:thomas.b.feiter.mil@mail.mil) ☒

# ENGINEERS SMOOTH OUT AMMO OPERATIONS

STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. IAN SHAY  
Public Affairs/NGOIC, 143d ESC



Soldiers with the 19th Engineer Battalion out of Fort Knox, Ky., operate a 10k all-terrain forklift to load heavy concrete culverts onto a flatbed truck Jan. 14 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The culverts help mitigate flooding on the roads around Arifjan by allowing water to flow underneath.

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), an Army Reserve operational sustainment command headquartered in Orlando, Fla., work hard in conjunction with active duty engineers with the 19th Engineer Battalion, out of Fort Knox, Ky., to innovate the ammunition supply point (ASP) mission here.

Due to the vast amounts of ammunition currently stored here, the ASP requires a more centralized system. That is why soldiers of the 143d ESC are coordinating the movement of trailers that will act as administrative buildings closer to the ASP and opening a new maintenance facility right next door.

The new facility will allow for material handling equipment to get fixed indoors, mitigating the cost of repairs by reducing repair time and preventing sand and dirt from interfering with the restore process.

“The move will enable LEIDOS (previously known as SAIC, which

stands for Science Applications International Corporation) to perform major end item repairs on Camp Arifjan,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Harden, command engineer, 143d ESC. “Previously, the only way to affect end time repair was by removing and replacing the component and sending it stateside for repair. This capability will increase equipment up-time and reduce year over year parts and shipping costs.”

Harden’s skills as a project manager for Alaska Airlines on the civilian

side mesh nicely with his military career background.

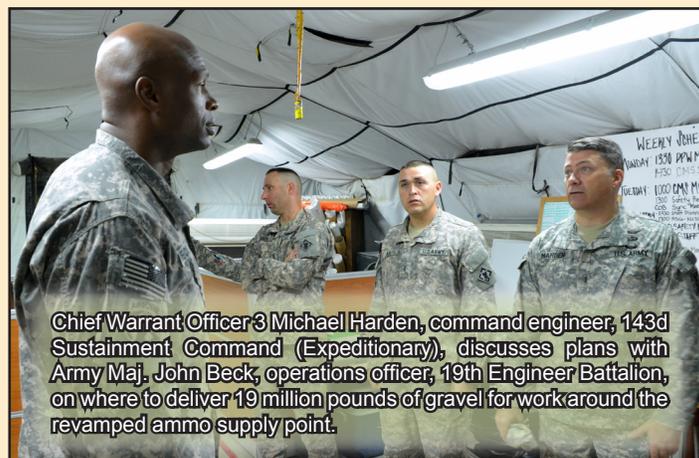
“For the 143d, I am the OIC (officer-in-charge) of the Facilities Management Office and also the Command Engineer, which means I’m in charge of over 150,000 square feet of office space,” said Harden. “I have over 20 years of construction and I.T. (information technology) project management experience. The skills from both jobs complement each other very well.”

The engineers working on the project have been deployed to

Arifjan since November 2013. One of their many duties is to ensure that the theater storage area (TSA) roads in and out of Camp Arifjan are up to code. The work done on the TSA roads make it possible for large flat bed trailers (used for hauling ammunition and supplies to and from the ASP), to safely navigate the dirt roads.

The unexpected thunderstorms have washed away several of the unpaved TSA roads and the 19th Engineers are working hard to provide alternate routes while restructuring roads and drainage systems.

“Since we arrived here in November we have been very busy repairing damaged facilities and infrastructure caused by the flood,” said Maj. John Beck, operations officer, 19th ENG BN. “The vast amount of projects has allowed our Soldiers to sharpen their technical skills. Having this amount of work at the beginning of our deployment has kept us busy through the holiday season.”



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Harden, command engineer, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), discusses plans with Army Maj. John Beck, operations officer, 19th Engineer Battalion, on where to deliver 19 million pounds of gravel for work around the revamped ammo supply point.

# BUCKS FOR BULLETS

## ATACS sorts ammo, saves money

■ PHOTOS AND STORY  
BY SGT. JOHN L. CARKEET IV  
*Public Affairs NCO, 143d ESC*

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – In October 2013 Soldiers from the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) arrived at the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

That's where they discovered a backlog of more than a million rounds of unsorted small arms ammunition.

"The ASP at Camp Arifjan stores ammunition and other items to help warfighters accomplish their mission," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Matos, the ammunition logistical noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 143d ESC. "Millions of rounds come through the ASP as they make their way into and out of theater, and we simply didn't have the manpower to inspect every round that lacked a lot number."

Within walking distance from the concrete bunkers that housed these unsorted rounds sits the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System (ATACS), a machine with the power to resolve the problem literally piling up at the ASP. To the Army's disappointment, the ATACS laid dormant as its complex assortment of belts, cameras and computers collected dust rather than bullets.

"The ATACS had been down for months before we arrived," said Matos, an Active Guard Reserve Soldier currently living in Kissimmee, Fla. "Everything was getting sorted by hand. The 143d and the down trace units managing the ASP knew that we

needed to get that machine up and running, but we didn't have the technical tools and skills to do it ourselves."

After two months of sending email, completing paperwork and making phone calls, Cybernet Systems, the company that designed the ATACS, flew in a pair of technicians to bring the only machine situated in Southwest Asia back to life.

"There are only five [ATACS] machines in existence," said Spc. Zackary T. Helman, an ammunition stock control and

accounting specialist for the 371st Sustainment Brigade, an Army National Guard unit based in Springfield, Ohio. "We are very fortunate to have a machine that does the work of a company [of Soldiers]."

Helman, a native of London, Ohio, received a week of formal training in preparation for keeping the ATACS operational.

"My training consisted of basic troubleshooting and maintenance," said Helman. "I learned how to hook in and power on the machine. I also cleaned the cameras and verified the primers and casings of every round that went into the ATACS."

During his direct involvement with the ATACS, Helman would configure the machine to inspect and sort specific types of



Specialist Zackary T. Helman, an ammunition stock control and accounting specialist with the 371st Sustainment Brigade, inspects an Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System (ATACS) Jan. 14 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Developed by Cybernet Systems Corporation, the ATACS can inspect and sort up to 5,000 rounds of mixed ammunition in one hour.

ammunition.

"The ATACS can process any small caliber round from 5.56 millimeter to .50 caliber," said Helman. "You can even set the machine to sort mixed batches of ammunition."

When the ATACS became operational again in November 2013, nearly every service member and contractor associated



A contractor troubleshoots the Automated Tactical Ammunition Classification System (ATACS) Jan. 14 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. In December 2013 this ATACS inspected and sorted approximately 614,000 rounds of 9 millimeter ammunition brought in from various sources in Southwest Asia. The machine identified 442,000 rounds as serviceable, thereby avoiding the U.S. government more than \$75,000.

with the ASP noticed the enhanced efficiency.

“Productivity has gone through the roof,” said Helman. “This machine can sort 30,000 to 40,000 rounds in an eight-hour day. I don’t think 100 people could inspect that many rounds in one day.”

“In one week [the ATACS] ran through about 200,000 rounds of 9 [millimeter],” Matos added. “In a month we can run up to a million rounds of 9 [mm]”

Thanks to the ATACS, Helman and his comrades may perform other tasks essential to the 371st SB’s mission.

“Without the machine we would be out here every day inspecting bullets,” said Helman. “The ATACS frees us up to inspect and manage other sites around the ASP.”

In addition to bolstering the ASP’s limited manpower, the ATACS has also eased the burden of American taxpayers.

“We ran a total of 614,000 rounds in December [2013],” said Matos. “Only 172,000 rounds were rejected. The remaining 442,000 serviceable rounds avoided government spending by about \$75,000 just in that month alone.”

“The machine has paid for itself,” said Helman. “Most of the rounds the ATACS processes were originally carried by our troops in Iraq and

Afghanistan that found their way back here. For every good round the ATACS finds is one less round we have to order.”

Despite its impressive capabilities, the ATACS comes with its share of challenges.

“We had problems with jams and double feeds,



Specialist Zackary T. Helman (left) with the 371st Sustainment Brigade and Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Matos (right) with the 143d ESC check for dirt and debris in the ATACS at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The country’s dusty climate makes the machine susceptible to jammed belts and clogged sensors.

but a new belt fixed that problem,” said Helman. “Dust storms would also clog up the cameras, so we would need to shut down the machine to blow the sand out.”

“Rain can also be a show stopper,” said Matos. “The recent storms have flooded roads and stopped operations [at the ASP]. Power outages and vehicle break downs may also keep us from feeding ammunition into the machine. These show stoppers do not hinder our overall mission as we have contingency plans in place... Thanks to the ATACS, we are also ahead of schedule in terms of inspecting and sorting ammo.”

The 371st SB and the 143d ESC are slated to redeploy later this year. As Matos and Helman take the initial steps to transitioning back to the United States, they take a moment to reflect on their involvement with the ATACS.

“Firearms and computers have fascinated me long before I joined the National Guard,” said Helman. “Working on the ATACS gave me an opportunity to simultaneously work in both fields.”

“Getting the ATACS back up and running was one of the 143d ESC’s greatest accomplishments during this deployment,” said Matos. “We should be proud that the ammo sorted by the ATACS will not fail our warfighters in the field.” ☑



# RESERVE SOLDIERS SAVE MILLIONS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. IAN SHAY  
Public Affairs NCOIC, 143d ESC

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait- A vast sea of shipping containers spread out over eight separate storage yards covering more than eight acres of dirt and sand. Sprawled across the Kuwait desert thousands of empty containers intermingle with thousands more filled with parts and supplies, bound for the United States or other locations in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Together the eight separate yards form the theater excess warehouse, commonly referred to as W7A. W7A falls under U.S. Central Command authority which is responsible for 20 countries throughout the Middle East.

“Whiskey seven alpha (W7A) is an excess warehouse for retro grade parts,” said Staff Sgt. Jamar A. Sherrill, supply & service (S&S) multi-class non-commissioned officer-in-charge, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). “It receives all excess parts from the area of responsibility repackages them and ships them back to the states. We in the supply & service multi-class section collect data on pallets and containers processed and give a

strategic overview of stock levels to support the CENTCOM AOR.”

The ability to efficiently process, store, move and ship containers and parts throughout the AOR has proved essential to the CENTCOM mission here and abroad.

“It [W7A] fills the requirements of other Supply Support Activities (SSAs) when there is a shortage of a commodity or part,” said Maj. Jonathan S. Pipkens-Smith, supply & service deputy branch chief, 143d ESC. “It is instrumental in providing the war fighter necessary equipment and means to sustain the fight.”

Although the 143d ESC does not work in the warehouse itself, it’s responsible for its contents.

“We here at the 143d Multiclass section are responsible for the downsizing of the warehouse,” said Pipkens-Smith. “ We are in direct contact and conduct coordinating efforts with our strategic partners, [the] Army Materiel Command (AMC) and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA . . . Our mission is to align W7A while issuing directives to reduce our inventory in the CENTCOM AOR to mirror the supply and demand of our Soldiers that are fighting on the front lines.”

Since taking over operations in October, the 143d ESC multi-class section has successfully reduced the inventory of W7A by 139 line items, saving the U.S. government upwards of \$25 million.

The ability to successfully save money, reduce stock and consolidate equipment and parts comes at a crucial time for U.S. forces.

“With the drawdown of forces in Afghanistan and removal of equipment coupled with the vision to right size the military holistically, it is important that we focus on meeting the needs of the war fighter and remain financially responsible,” said Pipkens-Smith.

The S&S section handles the excess parts and equipment within W7A, but it is the container management team that handles the throng of containers situated around Arifjan.

“The container management team provides continuous training and operational support to Container Control Officers (CCOfs) located throughout Kuwait to reduce detention and other charges on carrier-owned containers, maintain



143d ESC Soldiers inspect shipping containers Dec. 30 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Dozens of Soldiers dedicated to sustainment operations in Kuwait are working on stock reduction, site consolidation and cost reduction of containers in an effort to save time, cut costs and streamlined operations throughout the U.S. Army Central Command's area of operations.

Major Brian Holste (right), container management officer in charge, and Maj. Jonathan Pipkens-Smith, supply and service deputy branch chief, 143d ESC, inspect shipping containers Dec. 30 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Holste and Pipkens-Smith are just two of dozens of Soldiers dedicated to sustainment operations in Kuwait and U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility.



accountability of government owned and government leased containers, and improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency for all container management,” said Maj. Brian. K. Holste, container management officer-in-charge, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Like the supply & services department, the container management team is yielding positive results.

“We have dropped the average monthly carrier container detention fees in Kuwait by [more than] \$6,000 per month from last year’s average,” said Holste.

With leasing fees lowered and increased accountability the container management team is able to focus their attention towards container readiness. Not all containers are ready for travel; some require repairs and all must pass inspection before shipping off-post.

“Our day in the W7A yielded over 200 empty containers identified for repair in order to return to mission,” said Holste. “This combined with other container reallocation activities have provided the 1st Theater Support Command with enough local container assets to turn off a previously planned import of containers from CONUS. The projected cost avoidance of these efforts to date is more than \$1.5 [million].”



# AROUND THE ESC



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tanisha R. Concepcion | 143d ESC

Children of parents from the 143d ESC listen to Pete "Mr. Pete" Rusty, a volunteer, tell a story during a "Bring Your Child to Work Day" event held Dec. 27, 2013, at the David R. Wilson Armed Forces Reserve Center in Orlando, Fla.



Photo by Sergeant First Class Joe Pama | ARCENT

Spc. Tia Holzworth, signal support systems specialist, 143d ESC, competes in a Crossfit competition held Dec. 29 in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Holzworth is just one of many 143d ESC Soldiers who stay in shape by taking part in the Crossfit classes given here.



Photo by Lt. Col. Gary D. Dickey | 143d ESC

Members of the Eagles rugby scrimmage squad join arms for a team photo Jan. 11 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Founded by Maj. John Turner, officer-in-charge of the 143d ESC's Knowledge Management section, the team is comprised of Soldiers deployed to Camp Arifjan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Eagles have scrimmaged against a local Kuwait team and plan to play on the pitches of other countries throughout the Middle East.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raul Tizado | 143d ESC

Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Meisler, assigned to Army Reserve Mission Command, 143d ESC, runs toward the end zone during the first Wilson Bowl, a flag football game between local Army, Navy and Marines service members Dec. 19 in Orlando, Fla. The game commemorated 114th Army-Navy football game. The Navy team, which consisted of sailors and Marines, won the first Wilson Bowl with a final score of 28-16.

# AROUND THE ESC

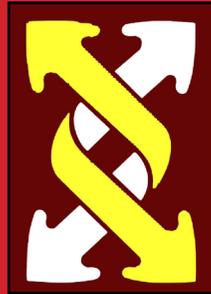


Photo by Sgt. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Several Soldiers from the 143d ESC learned how to apply “suicide first aid” during an Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training course conducted Jan. 6-7 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Here, Spc. Onrry Dejesus (left), and Sgt. 1st Class Carolyn Blassingame (center) immerse themselves in a role playing exercise as their instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Miller (right) from the 371st Special Troops Battalion coaches them through the scenario.



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

Chaplain (Major) Henry McCaskill, Jr. (center, wearing Multicams), the operations chaplain (forward) for the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, stands with Soldiers from the equal opportunity sections from the 143d ESC and the 1st TSC. The 143d ESC invited McCaskill—currently deployed to Afghanistan—to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration held Jan. 20 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and speak to service members, contractors and Department of Defense civilians about his experiences growing up in Alabama during the 1960s. McCaskill’s father, Henry McCaskill, Sr., helped organize many of the rallies, marches and meetings associated with King’s civil rights movement.



Photo by Maj. Sandra L. Gosciniak | 143d ESC

Major John Adams, public affairs chief and Lt. Col. Terence P. Murphy, staff judge advocate, 143d ESC, each packed more than 60 pounds in their ruck sacks and marched more than 13 miles during the Martin Luther King Jr. half-marathon Jan. 20 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



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

Three female Soldiers from the 143d ESC dance with a Kuwaiti local during a Dewaniya held Jan. 12 near the town of Al-Jahra, Kuwait. The locals invited 17 Soldiers from the 143d ESC and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command to take part in this traditional social gathering that combines elements of a town hall meeting, a formal dinner banquet and a night club soiree. From left to right: Staff Sgt. Ivonne M. Haidary, Spc. Bianca M. Alicea and Sgt. Lisette Vera.

# 143D ESC

## SAFETY MESSAGE

### RANGE SAFETY



**SPORTS: Slap, Pull, Observe, Release and Squeeze**

T  
H  
I  
N  
K

**TREAT** every weapon as if it is loaded.

**HANDLE** every weapon with care.

**IDENTIFY** the target before you fire.

**NEVER** point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.

**KEEP** the weapon on safe, and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

### Safely Operating and Working Around Cargo Handling Equipment in Marine Terminals

**Remember: Always wear proper PPE!** All workers should maintain eye contact with equipment operators when working near cargo handling equipment.

- Supervisors and leaders should **maintain radio contact with equipment operators.**
- Maintain a **focus on safety.**



### SAFETY FIRST LAST and ALWAYS!

*Savage Chickens*

by Doug Savage



# A TURN FOR THE BEST

■ BY 1ST LT. NICOLE ROSSMAN  
*Deputy Public Affairs Officer, 143d ESC*

Sergeant First Class Michele P. Bell, senior human resources noncommissioned officer, 143d ESC, shares her unique story of growing up on the small island of Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands, moving stateside to New York after high school, and eventually planting roots in Florida.

**Q. Tell me about your move to the United States?**

A. “[I left] one week after I graduated from high school. It was just so small, Island fever, I just had to leave, I just wanted to explore. I wasn’t thinking about the military then, I moved to Brooklyn. I went to John Jay College of criminal justice that September, the same year I finished high school.”

**Q. What made you join the military and your career path now?**

A. “I was living in New York [and] going to college. I knew I needed discipline. I was a bully in high school. I think if I didn’t join the military I would have ended up in jail. I knew I needed some type of discipline in my life. I was 18 years old and joined the active duty Army. My first duty station was in Germany. It was awesome!”

**Q. What made you decide to separate from the military?**

A. “I got in some trouble and it was in my best interest to separate. I was only in the military for just over three years before heading back to New York. I’m not proud of some of my choices, but you live and you learn. Some people said I did a complete 360 where I am today, but I think I did a 180 because a 360 would take me back to where I started and I’m here today because I chose to be a better person.”

**Q. What did you do when you moved back to New York?**

A. “My first job when I got out of active duty was a police officer in New York City. I loved it, but it was so dangerous. I did it for about a year, but I just had to find something new. I moved back to the Virgin Islands for about a month and I just wasn’t happy. Something was missing in my life, and I knew I had to find it. That’s when I decided to search for a new place to move to and start a life.”

**Q. What made you choose Florida?**

A. “The cold! I hate the cold. Being from an island the cold just doesn’t work for me. I looked on a map: Florida, Texas, California. I didn’t think they get



Sergeant First Class Michele P. Bell (right), senior human resources noncommissioned officer for the 143d ESC, earns her promotion from staff sergeant to sergeant first class during a ceremony held Oct. 21, 2013, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

too cold, so I picked a place and Orlando, Florida it was. I just moved by myself. I was living in the Virgin Islands searching for an apartment online. I mailed a check to an apartment complex company, bought a one-way airline ticket and left. I got off the airplane in Orlando with a piece of paper with my new address on it and that’s all I had. This was in 1992, and I didn’t come back in the military until 2006 in the Reserves. I had a 16 year break in service! I didn’t become a mil-tech until 2011, but I was on orders the whole time so it was like I was on active duty.”

**Q. What is your greatest memory so far from this deployment?**

A. “I think one of the greatest things that I would remember is that I’m a senior human resource person in HHC and I have so much responsibility. I think the trust and confidence the commander and first sergeant have in me I’ll always remember. Another huge memory I’ll take from here is knowing the difference I’ve made in at least one person’s life and career. I mentored this one Soldier since she’s been in the unit, and she asked me to be her sponsor for the NCO induction ceremony. I was so emotional when she asked me, of course I said yes. I mentored her from day one to become a noncommissioned officer, I am so proud of her!”

**Q. Do you have any advice for young Soldiers as they begin their career in the Army Reserves?**

A. “One of the biggest things I tell everyone that brings in a promotion packet to me is to choose a senior NCO to be a mentor and look up to. My mentor helped me, encouraged me, and helped me with my career. I went

from an E4 (specialist) to E7 (sergeant first class) in six years. She made sure I went to any and every school available. I would tell everyone else coming into the military the same. Take advantage of all the schools the military has to offer. I am where I am today because of my mentor, I challenge all Soldiers first coming into the military to find a mentor.”

**Q. Do you have any hobbies, passions you enjoy in your free time?**

A. “I use to enjoy riding my motorcycle but it’s getting too dangerous. Now I enjoy running and working out to clear my head. I love to garden. I do all the landscaping around my house. It’s something I really enjoy. Oh, and I love to shop, too!”

**Q. What are you looking forward to upon your return to Orlando?**

A. “Spend time with family. Since my mother died in 2010 when I came back from my last deployment, my brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces are all I have, and want to spend as much time as I can with them.”

**Q. If you could choose any career in the world what would you choose?**

A. “Honestly I’d love to go back and become a police officer. I love my job in human resources but I think I’d go back and be a police officer. Definitely not New York though, I’d say Florida or Texas.”



Michele P. Bell shares a laugh with her co-workers at the Orange County Corrections Department in Orlando, Fla., 1999. Bell worked as a corrections officer for Orange County before receiving active duty orders for the 143d ESC in Orlando, Fla. Bell accepted a civilian miltech position within the 143d ESC in 2011 and is currently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Four generations of women of the Bell family pose for a group photo in 1991. Michele Bell was born and raised in the U.S. Virgin Islands. One week after graduating from high school, Bell moved to New York City to attend college. Less than a year later she enlisted in the Army and spent several years in Germany and New Jersey. Bell returned to the U.S. Virgin Islands, but “island fever” persuaded her to move to Florida in 1992. In 2006 Bell continued her career in the military after a 16 year break in service. From left to right: Sandra Bell (Michele’s mother), Michele P. Bell, Hyacinth Pollard (Michele’s grandmother), and Tychell Mitchell (Michele’s daughter).



# Sexual Harassment / Assault Response and Prevention



1TSC/143rd ESC (Bldg134/Red Cross)



If you become the victim of a sexual assault, you are not alone. There are Soldiers out there that can help you in your time of need and choices you can make to put you back in control of your life. Help is only a phone call away. You are STRONG.

## SARC/SHARP

MAJ Sandy Gosciniak

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## Victim Advocate

MSG Sandra Clemmons

Office: 430-2728

sandra.d.clemmons.mil@mail.mil

[www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil)  
Military OneSource • 1-800-342-9647

