

# TRIPLE NICKEL TRIBUNE

*"Willing and Able!"*



NEWSLETTER OF THE 555<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER BRIGADE  
JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, WASHINGTON



Spring 2014

## Message from the Commander

Colonel Timothy Holman, "Able 6"

Triple Nickel Team,

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. We're excited to show you the wonderful work being done by our Willing and Able Soldiers, Families and leaders across the Triple Nickel Brigade.



Being a part of this team for six months, I have been impressed with the discipline and hard work of our units. BJ and I have enjoyed meeting our Soldiers as well as their Families.

This has been a busy spring for the Triple Nickel, as we support deploying units, begin restructuring the brigade, and maintain intense training across the brigade.

In addition, we continue to support our local community and strengthen ties with our friends and neighbors, such as during the City of Roy's recent Hometown Heroes Day, where over 50 of our Soldiers came out and pitched in.

As we approach the summer and enjoy the warm weather, my hope is that you'll get out there with Family and friends and experience all that the beautiful Pacific Northwest has to offer. Just remember as you enjoy yourself to continue making safety a top priority. Great work this spring, Triple Nickel, keep it up!

Willing & Able!

- Col. Holman, 'Able 6'



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Jasmine Higgins, 28th Public Affairs Detachment

**The 570th Engineer Company's command team cases their unit guidon prior to departing for Afghanistan earlier this spring.**

## Amid transformation, 555th remains combat ready, deployment focused

Story by Capt. Spencer Garrison  
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

JBLM — The 555th Engineer Brigade approaches the summer months with a long list of priorities, as the "Triple Nickel" prepares to transform and restructure, while keeping Soldiers trained and combat-ready, and supporting the units and Families of those still deployed.

Over the last two months, the brigade has seen two companies deploy to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 570th Eng. Co. deployed in April to conduct route clearance, protecting civilian and military traffic by finding and removing roadside bombs. Similarly, the 787th EOD Co. deployed in May to support the mission of defeating enemy explosives.

Other Triple Nickel units still deployed include the 129th and 707th EOD Companies, and the 22nd Clearance Co., which returns home this summer.

At the same time, brigade restructuring continues on schedule, with the 557th Eng. Co. preparing to inactivate, first among several

Triple Nickel construction units inactivating as the brigade transforms in line with Army downsizing.

August will see the conversion of the 14th Eng. Bn. (HHC and FSC) to a newly formed brigade engineer battalion which will fall under 2nd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. The companies under the 14th will stay with the Triple Nickel, soon falling under the 864th Eng. Bn.

All the while, training continues, in order to ensure Soldiers are combat ready for the next Triple Nickel deployment.

**\*See inside for examples of the brigade's tough ongoing training.**



787th EOD Co.'s pre-deployment ceremony. Full story on page 10

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### At A Glance...

- ◆ 555TH HAS COMPLETED RESET PERIOD FROM 2013 DEPLOYMENT
- ◆ FULLY IMMERSSED IN TRAINING TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE MISSIONS
- ◆ UNITS PREPARE FOR REDUCTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES AS BRIGADE TRANSFORMS AND DOWNSIZES
- ◆ TOWN HALLS HELD IN APRIL TO EDUCATE SOLDIERS/FAMILIES ABOUT THE IMPACT OF RESTRUCTURING; VIDEO LINK TO THE TOWN HALL STILL AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK... OR BY [CLICKING HERE](#) IF VIEWING ONLINE
- ◆ 555TH CONSISTS OF 4 BATTALIONS AND OTHER DETACHMENTS AT JBLM

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### Command Sergeant Major's Corner Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Hood, "Able 7"

Triple Nickel Family,

I'm proud of all you have accomplished this spring, especially in this time of change and transformation, with the brigade restructuring, some units preparing to inactivate, and the 14th converting to a Brigade Engineer Battalion.

In spite of these challenges, our level of effort and the pace of our training have continued to pick up, with events such as Pacemaker Stakes and the 3rd EOD Team of the Year competition, where our units have demonstrated tactical and technical expertise, as well as physical and mental toughness.

In so many ways, our Soldiers continue to raise the bar and set the standard. Just look at our 9th Chemical Company, recently named the top chemical company in the Army. Or look at SGT Harri-



*"Perhaps most inspiring is the support our Soldiers continue to receive from their resilient Families."*

son and SPC Cetinich — two outstanding warriors recently selected as the Brigade's NCO and Soldier of the Year. Phenomenal work!

Perhaps most inspiring is the support our Soldiers continue to receive from their resilient Families, who have stood strong in the midst of so many changes and throughout so much hard training.

I thank you Families for staying so strong and supportive.

And I thank you Soldiers for your continued hard work!

*Willing and Able,  
CSM Hood, 'Able 7'*

## NCO Induction Ceremony recognizes rising leaders



By U.S. Army Capt. Spencer Garrison  
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

JBLM, Wash. — The 555th Engineer Brigade hosted an NCO Induction Ceremony April 17, to welcome newly promoted Sergeants into the Corps of the Non-commissioned Officer.

During part of his keynote speech, Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Hood said to the new NCOs:

"In the end, the fundamentals of your role as a Noncommissioned

Officer remain unchanged:

Knowing your Soldiers, training them, and caring for them and their Families. Setting the example. Being a mentor. Demonstrating physical and moral courage in all that you do. Building a team that can get the job done.

That is what's expected of you. It's what I expect from you, it's what your Soldiers deserve from you, and it's what the Nation needs from you."

**Congratulations to these new Noncommissioned Officers.**



The Triple Nickel Tribune is an authorized newsletter for members of the 555th Engineer Brigade, a subordinate unit of 7th Infantry Division, I Corps. Contents are not necessarily endorsed by the Dept. of the Army, DoD, or U.S. Government. Content is reviewed, edited, and approved by the Brigade Public Affairs Officer. For questions, comments, or submissions, please contact the Brigade PAO.

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**YOU ARE THE NEWS!**

This newsletter belongs to the **WILLING AND ABLE** members of the 555th Engineer Brigade...

Send us photos, stories, and ideas for future coverage, and see your unit's accomplishments highlighted on our Facebook page and in future editions of the Triple Nickel Tribune!

[Facebook.com/555enbde](http://Facebook.com/555enbde)

**\*After June 1st, the new Brigade PAO will be 1st Lt. Bryan Perrenod. Reach him by email at [bryan.r.perrenod.mil@mail.mil](mailto:bryan.r.perrenod.mil@mail.mil)**

*Announcing the winners of the Brigade NCO and Soldier of the Year Competitions!*

**SGT Christopher Harrison**  
557th EN CO, 864th EN BN

**SPC Cole Cetinich**  
557th EN CO, 864th EN BN

The annual competition evaluates Soldiers on their knowledge, professionalism, and military skills through a variety of rigorous tests over the course of several days.

Well done Soldiers!



# Community Matters: Hometown Heroes Day connects Triple Nickel Soldiers with City of Roy

By U.S. Army Capt. Spencer Garrison  
555th Eng. Bde. Public Affairs

ROY, Wash. — More than 50 Soldiers of the 555th Engineer Brigade joined with leaders and residents from the City of Roy for Hometown Heroes Day, May 3.

The annual spring event brought together Soldiers, local leaders and residents to help with spring clean up projects around the town. The event also included a Texas-style barbecue provided by the City of Roy, and this year also featured the unveiling of a new battle cross memorial built in honor of fallen war veterans.

Spring cleanup projects included the removal of dirt and debris piles at the City Park, weeding and cleaning up around the local historic cemetery, and landscaping and planting of flowers around the City Hall building.

The work projects were mostly complete by lunch, at which time the work groups reconvened at the City Park to enjoy a cookout with grilled chicken and pulled pork provided by the City of Roy.



*Soldiers and Families came together May 3 in the City of Roy to help out with various work projects, such as removal of dirt and debris around the City Park, and landscaping work outside the City Hall.*



After lunch, the group moved to the City Hall for the unveiling of the new battle cross memorial. The design and construction of the memorial was led by Roy Police Chief Darwin Armitage. The memorial incorporates equipment from different generations of American warfare, such as jungle style boots, an M1 Girand rifle, and desert style helmet and goggles.

**Editor's Note: The Brigade thanks the City of Roy for honoring our military's sacrifices.**



*Local residents and leaders, including Roy Mayor Karen Yates (left), treated the Triple Nickel Soldiers to barbecue lunch at the City Park.*



*After completing the various spring cleanup activities and work projects, the crowd of Soldiers, Roy residents, and others including VFW representatives gathered at the City Hall for the unveiling of a new battle cross memorial, built by the City of Roy to honor fallen war veterans.*





# In the News: Combat engineers' stress shoot

By Keith Eldridge  
KOMO 4 News (Seattle)

JBLM, WA – A U.S. Army combat engineering unit is going through the "stress shoot" test at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The 100 members of the 571st Combat Engineer Company were all set to head to Afghanistan, but instead are staying home giving us an exclusive look at their preparation efforts.

The "stress shoot" training is part exhaustive physical exercise and part sharp-shooting. It's to simulate shooting under stress.

One of the primary duties of combat engineers in Afghanistan and Iraq was clear the path of

roadside bombs. But oftentimes they have to fight for their lives as they come under direct enemy fire.

"The first time I took direct fire myself I was out in the open, so my first thing was cover," said Spec. Max Wolfer.

*The "stress shoot" training is part exhaustive physical exercise and part sharp-shooting. It's to simulate shooting under stress.*

Company commander Capt. James Perkins added: "It is chaotic to say the least, the first time it happens."

That's where this stress shoot training comes into play. It helps Soldiers manage the stress of combat.

"You're trying to control your breathing," said Pvt. Justin Tavani. "Once your breathing gets under control after a couple of seconds, your shot gets a little



better. But not a first."

This unit was all primed to head to Afghanistan in the next few days, but got word one week ago they weren't needed.

"Fortunately not and that's a good thing," Perkins said. "It's helping us meet the strategic mission."

However, its companion

unit, the 570th Combat Engineer Company is on its way to Afghanistan right now.

*This video story aired on KOMO 4 News on April 9, 2014.*  
<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Combat-engineers-are-stress-shooting-254648201.html>

# Training reduces 14th Engineer Soldiers to tears

Story by Adam Ashton  
Photo by Thomas Soernes  
The News Tribune (Tacoma)

Watery-eyed Soldiers poured out of a Joint Base Lewis-McChord gas chamber coughing and cursing until they could clear their lungs.

"Terrible," said Spc. Errol Lucas

"I'm dying, I'm dying," one of his teammates said with a laugh to show he was fine.

"I couldn't breathe," vented Staff Sgt. Court Canterbury.

Those three and about 75 others passed through the chamber Thursday morning in a remote part of the base. They endured an uncomfortable Army test lasting less than two minutes in which Soldiers practice donning gas masks in an environment affected by a chemical

attack.

It's a way to reacquaint Soldiers in Lewis-McChord's 14th Engineer Battalion with the basics of preparing for chemical warfare. For the past decade, its Soldiers have been busy with repeated deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, where they cleared roads of deadly mines.

The idea behind the training is that a Soldier will feel the burn of CS gas, put on a mask and then breathe clean air.

"That way Soldiers feel more confident if they're ever in a chemical environment" because they'll know their equipment works, Capt. Marie Mikasa said.



Soldiers also took a series of short classes in the field about other tools they can use to protect themselves against chemical weapons, such as tests that show when dangerous chemicals appear in the atmosphere around them.

"It's a good refresher," said Lucas, 22.

He had not done much chemical weapons training since he went to boot camp three years ago. "So I basically forgot everything."

The gas chamber also gave Soldiers a way to bond outside of their normal assignments.

About one-third of them chose to walk back into the chamber for a second run, but

this time, they left their gas masks outside.

"Oh my goodness, what possibly made me do that?" exclaimed one specialist when she emerged from the chamber after a mask-free, "commando-style" exposure.

She was led there by the senior noncommissioned officer in her company, First Sgt. Don Browne. He wanted to get in there when a junior Soldier dared him to walk in unprotected.

"That was my 'hoah' for the day," said Browne, 37, as tears ran down his face.

The gas had little effect on one Soldier. Pfc. Nicole Taylor went in for the second pass and came out smiling.

"It made my eyes water a little," she said.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/03/13/3095630/training-reduces-jblm-soldiers.html>



# Amidst smoke, mortars, and gunfire, Engineer Soldiers set the pace during Pacemaker Stakes

By U.S. Army Sgt. Jasmine Higgins  
28th Public Affairs Detachment

JBLM — Smoke filled the forest, blinding the Soldiers of the obstacles ahead. Sounds of mortars and gunfire deafened the ears to orders shouted down from the squad. The smell of mud clogged every pore of the land, capturing the senses of the surrounding squad.

As the Soldiers scrambled around onlookers might assume this was an enemy attack, but in fact it

was the Soldiers of 864th Engineer “Pacemaker” Battalion conducting a week-long intensive military skills training event, on Joint Base Lewis-McChord North, May 15.

While Soldiers are no stranger to training, the Pacemaker Battalion took it a step

further and added a little competition to the mix, thus bringing life to the Pacemaker Stakes competition.

Events like this not only prepare Soldiers, but it does wonderful things for their morale, said Sgt. Steven Cools, a squad leader for the Pacemaker Stakes competition.

The exercise consisted of seven different events ranging from reacting to enemy fire to chemical, biological, and nuclear defense training.

“The competition is a combination of real-world and

basic-Soldiering skills,” declared Capt. Katherine McKenna, the battalion plans officer.

Each squad was evaluated individually during the event, and the winning squad was recognized and awarded later in the competition.

“It gets the Soldiers



**Pacemaker Soldiers jump over obstacles while reacting to simulated enemy fire.**



**Soldiers with the 864th Engineer Battalion take cover while reacting to enemy fire on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., May 15, 2014. The event was designed to boost the morale of the Soldiers while preparing them for real-world events.**

pumped up, and they stay pretty high-spirited throughout the day,” exclaimed McKenna.

According to McKenna, the help of a little friendly competition has positively impacted the morale of the Soldiers during the Pacemaker Stakes exercise. Unit cohesion, motivation and determination have all been factors contributing to preparing the Soldiers for real-time war situations she stated.

At the beginning of the competition, Soldiers performed an Army Physical Fitness Test which consists of push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run, all while wearing full Army Combat Uniforms.

“This is what Soldiers train to do,” said Cools.

Through it all, there has been a lot of hard work and effort from everyone to ensure this exercise was gauged as a successful mission. The noncommissioned and commissioned

officers in charge have been working around the clock to ensure everything ran smoothly and effectively, said McKenna as she cheered on the competing Soldiers. The Soldiers throughout the battalion have been taking part in individual-level military training since February in order to prepare for this competition.

“It (Pacemaker Stakes) will make you a better individual and definitely a better Soldier,” said Cools.

Training events such as the Pacemaker Stakes are what shapes the Army and its Soldiers today. Through these intense competitive training scenarios, Soldiers are learning the necessary skills to better prepare themselves for the future.

“It’s an opportunity you should not miss,” said Cools. “Soldier first, train first!”



**Soldiers crawl under barbwire during Pacemaker Stakes, a rigorous, combat-focused weeklong battalion exercise in May.**

**“This is what Soldiers train to do.”**



## 14th Engineer Battalion Quarterly Update

The Rugged Battalion has accomplished a tremendous amount of quality training this quarter. Between the preparation required to deploy the 570th and 571st Sapper Companies combined with the planning efforts associated with preparing for our rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) and our transformation from the 14th Engineer Battalion (Corps) (Wheeled) into the 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), we have been keep-

*Our primary focus was clearly on ensuring the 570th and 571st Sapper Companies were ready to deploy to Afghanistan this Spring and although the deployment order for the 571st Sapper Company was recently rescinded, their training was certainly worthwhile.*

ing extremely busy. Our primary focus was clearly on ensuring the 570th and 571st Sapper Companies were ready to deploy to Afghanistan this Spring and although the deployment order for the 571st Sapper Company was recently rescinded, their training was certainly worthwhile and has prepared them to assume other responsibilities related to First Corps' recent regional alignment with Pacific Command. In the previous quarter, training locations ranged from the NTC in California; Yakima Training Center (YTC) in Washington State; the home of the engineers at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and even Fort Bliss, Texas.

In January, the 570th and 571st Sapper Companies conducted their final route clearance focused Mission Rehearsal Exercise at McGregor Range near Fort Bliss, Texas. Concurrently platoons from the 610th Engineer Support Company (ESC) constructed firing positions for the newly fielded Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (CRAM) weapon system in the 17th Fires Brigade; provided engineer support to 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) at the NTC; and supported JBLM Garrison Command by restoring a prairie that will allow for the relocation of the Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly, Streaked Horned lark, and Mazama pocket gopher. This relocation will ultimately free additional training area space for the entire installation's

use. The major focus during the month of February was our Range Density period which qualified all our Soldiers on the M4/M16 rifle, M249 squad automatic weapon, M240B machine gun, M2 machine gun, and the MK19 grenade launcher. Other notable events included Battalion Drivers Training, Combat Life Saver Training, and a Field Training Exercise conducted by the Forward Support Company (FSC) which increased their training proficiency on basic shoot, move, and communicate skills. Similar training continued through March and April but the highlights were the chemical reaction training, rappelling, a stress shooting event featured



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. James Bunn, 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Lt. Col. Douglas Brown, Battalion Commander, leads a discussion of engineer battlefield tactics as the battalion prepares for a summer rotation at the National Training Center with 2-2 Stryker Brigade.**

on the local KOMO 4 News Network, and a demolitions range.

The transformation process from the 14th Engineer Battalion into the 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division has already begun. On March 28th, our Battalion paired up with representatives from the 2nd Brigade 2nd Infantry Division and we conducted Engagement Area Development Training at Rumble Hill.

The 610th ESC's 3rd Platoon supported this training effort by constructing a company defense which included constructing hull defilade positions for 2-2 SBCTs Stryker Vehicles, individual fighting

positions, and the emplacement of defensive obstacles. The event culminated with a live practical exercise in which Rugged Leaders observed 610th ESC defend Rumble Hill as the enemy element advanced through the Engagement Area. This training event was signifi-

cant in not only preparing us for the transition to a BEB but also allowed us to build relationships with our future 2-2 SBCT brothers in arms.

Looking toward the future, the most significant events include the Battalion Headquarters rotation to the NTC at Fort Irwin, CA in June which is in support of 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the redeployment of the 22nd Engineer Clearance Com-

pany (ECC) from Afghanistan in early July, and of course our transformation and LTC Doug Brown's change of command in August. At NTC we will be responsible for all engineer efforts which includes reserve com-

ponent companies from Guam, New Mexico, Nevada, and California. We are excited for the transformation and ready for whatever the future of the 14th BEB holds. Remember, even after our BEB transformation is complete, we are still RUGGED!

*At NTC we will be responsible for all engineer efforts which includes reserve component companies.*



## 864th Engineer Battalion Quarterly Update

Greetings from the Pacemaker Battalion! The battalion has been working hard to re-establish our basic systems in training, maintenance and personnel readiness. Our leaders have put in some long hours to ensure our Soldiers and their Families are cared for and able to support the mission. The Pacemakers continue to rise to the challenge!

In addition to re-establishing systems and completing RESET, the Pacemakers simultaneously conducted numerous training and support events. As part of re-integration process, the Pacemakers conducted weekly Sergeant's Time Training, focused on individual Warrior Skills. Sergeant's Time Training is hands-on, practical training for Soldiers given by our NCOs. Across the Pacemaker footprint, Soldiers were seen training on several tasks that

*Across the Pacemaker footprint, Soldiers were seen training on several tasks that included Combat Lifesaver Skills, Land Navigation, and Basic Rifle marksmanship.*

included Combat Lifesaver Skills, Land Navigation, and Basic Rifle marksmanship.

In order to emphasize and strengthen our junior NCOs (Sergeants/E-5), the battalion conducted a four-day training event, Junior Leader Development Course (JLDC). Over the course of four days, some of our newest Sergeants learned an array of subjects from personnel and equipment management to Soldier and Family care. The training combined both classroom instruction and practical application. Additionally, the Sergeants were able to conduct daily Physical Training, which incorporated Combat Lifesaver Skills and Combatives.

The Pacemakers also recently conducted Range week, which consisted of marksmanship training and weapons qualification. Units worked before the break of dawn till late night to

ensure Soldiers were qualified on different weapons systems, which included: M4/M16 Rifle, M2 .50 Cal Machine Gun, MK 19 Grenade Launcher, and M249/M240B Machine Guns.

7th ID called upon the 617th Engineer Company (Trailblazers) to perform Stryker recovery missions for 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) as they convoyed to and from Yakima Training Center from February through April. The Trailblazers recovered at least three Strykers and a Howitzer M777. Trailblazers were presented with the difficult task of placing an oversized load on a trailer and hauling it back to JBLM and succeeded.

Additionally, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company conducted a Company Change of Command and Change of Responsibility on April 11 as we bid farewell to both CPT Joles and



1SG Wong, while we welcomed the new Regulator team, CPT Morris and 1SG Ash.

In the upcoming quarter, there will be many changes within the battalion, most notably the reception and integration of three companies that currently belong to our sister battalion, the 14th Engineers. The rear-detachments of the 570th Sapper Company, who deployed to Afghanistan in April, is attached to us, and in June we'll prepare to receive the redeploying 22nd

*In the upcoming quarter, there will be many changes within the battalion.*

Clearance Company. As part of the battalion restructuring, we'll continue preparations to inactivate all of our current line companies and detachments over the next eighteen months, starting with the 557th Horizontal Company this October. We understand that there will be many questions about the inactivation process, and what it means to individual Soldiers and their Families, and strongly encourage all of you to engage your command teams and FRGs for the latest information.

Lastly, the Pacemakers would like to extend a special thank you to all of the Family readiness groups in the battalion. Over the past few months, each FRG conducted a number of their own events ranging from routine meetings to organizational days, always taking care of our Families and Soldiers.



**Soldiers from 557th Engineer Company stand at Parade Rest during their recent change of command ceremony on Able Field, when Capt. Daniel Larson assumed command from Capt. Richard Mahn.**



By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Kurt Peterson  
3rd EOD Bn. Public Affairs

Here's to another successful quarter of Soldiering Night-hawks! The powerful 3d Ordnance Battalion (EOD) continues to train and deploy capable units to Kuwait, Kosovo, and Operation Enduring Freedom, conduct Homeland Defense Operations, and participate in NTC rotations.

HHD and the 710th Ordnance Company (EOD) went to NTC in January. The Soldiers led the first ever CBRNE Task Force during rotation 14-03. Difficult training exercises were faced and completed successfully. The work did not end in California, thanks to all who labored through property recovery and cleaning.

Companies diligently ensured good order of Battalion property this quarter. The entire

## 3d EOD Battalion Quarterly Update

Battalion began Operation Reclamation 2 in January. All Aztec Containers and ISU 90s received a thorough tidying and inventory. These efforts are reinforced by an aggressive equipment turn-in schedule. Heavy lifting and burnt calories were put forth by all to achieve the goal.

The 53d Ordnance Company at Yakima Training Center is on deck for NTC rotation 14-08. Preparations and coordination with 110th CBRNE Battalion are ongoing. To their credit, the extra duties haven't stalled the 53d's Homeland defense support to 82 counties throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. The 53d reached out to their local community in February as SGT Billie Elkins presented an Explosive Hazards brief to citizens of Selah, WA.

Our recently deployed 707th Ordnance Company spent part of February training at YTC. The unit underwent two weeks of Special Operation Forces Situational Awareness Training (SOFSAT), Homemade Explosives courses, and a Capstone event.

Additional community outreach was put forth by the 710th



**A 3d EOD Soldier is evaluated on disposal procedures for an improvised explosive device during the battalion's recent Team of the Year competition.**

and 759th Ordnance Companies. Five Soldiers judged the Lakeside High School science fair in Lakewood, WA. A robotics exhibit and demonstration by the Soldiers dazzled students and faculty alike. Meanwhile in California at Hemet High School, SFC Brie Kotula from the 759th Ordnance Company shared experiences with attentive students

during a recruiting display. Alongside her, SPC Justin Nieto and PFC Nicholas Mohr assisted bold students as they tried on Bomb Suits.

Visits from BG Burton, COL McDonough, CSM Valk, and

SPC Jonathan Allen, SSG Scot Chipman, SFC Lonnie Mixon, and SFC Christopher Phillips, earned Senior and Master EOD Badges. Their experience and dedication to EOD professionalism are invaluable. In the next quarter we welcome CPT David Ayers and 1LT Jason Crawford as future Commanders of the 759th and HHD. Their predecessors Captains Bill Smathers and Jerome Tatum exemplified leadership to all serving in their Commands. Many thanks and job well done to 1SG Ryan Hayes as SFC Jeremiah Gorsuch assumes the Responsibilities of HHD First Sergeant.

**To their credit, the extra duties haven't stalled the 53d's Homeland defense support to 82 counties.**



**A 3d EOD Soldier shows children how to operate the control panel for one of the unit's EOD robots during a recent community event.**

SGM Boehme highlighted the 759th's Quarterly Training efforts at Fort Irwin, CA. Candid discussions with our Group Commander and the Soldiers took place. CPT Smather's and 1SG Anderson proudly welcomed Heather Bowers onboard as their newest FRG leader. Her first meeting took place on 29 January and she plans the way ahead confidently.

In February the 787th Ord-



# 110th Chemical Battalion Quarterly Update

What a great time it is to be a part of the Iron Dragon team. We have been busy training over the past three months; events have ranged from local training events to sending teams and one company to execute Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC, Fort Polk, LA) and National Training Center (NTC, Fort Irwin, CA) rotations. I am especially proud of the training accomplished during the CTC rotations as this really represent the first time that we have been able to train with our combat arms counterparts in earnest for approximately ten years. Not surprisingly, we have learned quite a few lessons from this valuable training that will enable us to get better as a team.

HHC: The Company has been executing an aggressive training and mission schedule over the past three months.

Major events have included, the battalion weapons range week, a convoy live fire exercise, and a battalion field training exercise at Yakima Training Center. In addition, the company sent a small team to Fort Riley, KS to support the 172d Chemical Company's short notice mission to Europe. The quarter was capped off with the battalion staff deploying to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, CA for the leader training program (a primer for the June training rotation).

9th Chemical Company (TE): Immediately following the New Year Holiday, the Bounter Hunters launched CRT 3/9 to NTC for our first training rotation of the year. They followed this up by sending CRT 1/9 to NTC in February and in March they sent CRT 4/9 to JRTC. They used the little bit of breathing room in April to recover from

their multiple deployments and conduct inventories.

11th Chemical Company (TE): Over the past 90 days, the Dragon Masters have been focusing on certifying an additional CRT. Congratulations to CRT 3/11 for coming together as a team and successfully completing the certification exercise in March. CRT 1/11 has also been busily preparing to deploy with the battalion to NTC in June. Finally, the 11th has been preparing for a change of command between CPT(P) Mike Padden and CPT(P) Christopher Wong on 22 May 14.

172d Chemical Company: The past quarter started out quietly for 172d but very shortly after returning from the Holiday break the company was notified to be prepared to deploy to Europe in as little as 24 hours. The company pulled together and prepared equipment and personnel and launched a focused training effort to prepare the Soldiers for OCONUS opera-

*"I am so proud of our Soldiers, Leaders and Iron Dragon Families for the efforts of the past three months."*



tions. After three weeks of heightened readiness the company was relieved of the tasking long enough to catch its breath before deploying to the NTC for 40 days of combined training with 1st Infantry Division.

In addition to the great training the Iron Dragons have been focused on, we have still been able to take some time out for fun with our Families and teammates. On 24 April, the battalion hosted the annual Spring Fling and Easter egg hunt. Over 200 Soldiers and Family members attended and enjoyed a great time with food provided by the USO, games and of course the Easter egg hunt. I also want to highlight the battalion's sports teams that have been representing us well on JBLM's fields, courts, and bowling alley. We have had great success with our football, basketball and bowling teams, but perhaps the greatest success to date has been our soccer team which is currently in fourth place. Additional activities over the past quarter have included the BOSS trip to Mt. Bachelor, OR and Strong Bonds retreat to Mt Hood, OR.

Finally, as we head into the summer PCS season, I want to let each of you know how proud I am of your accomplishments and sacrifices. It has been my distinct pleasure and privilege to serve with you over the past year. I am excited to see what the next year brings.

**IRON DRAGONS! UTMOST!**  
LTC Brant Hoskins  
Battalion Commander



Photo courtesy of 2-2 Stryker Brigade Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 110th demonstrate their capabilities during a WMD-Exploitation symposium with 2-2 Stryker Brigade, as they prepare for a summer rotation at the National Training Center in California.



# Brigade Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC) — Command Update



Paralegal Spc. R. Fernando Salcedo (right) receives a coin for Excellence from Lt. Gen. Flora D. Darpino, Army Judge Advocate General, for his work during deployment to Afghanistan and reintegration.



Capt. Christina Harjo, former company executive officer, receives her Army Commendation Medal during the company's April hail and farewell, which bid goodbye to several key members of the company and brigade staff.

## Greetings Families and friends of the Triple Nickel HHC!

This quarter we have the privilege of adding to our team of teams, unfortunately that meant we have lost or will lose some equally great Soldiers and Families; LTC Bullock & Family, CW2 Buterworth & Family, LTC Diciro & Family, MAJ London & Family, SPC Lockrage & Family, MAJ Piazze & Family, LTC Richards & Family, LTC Ring & Family, SSG Sidley & Family, and LT (USN) Young & Family.

Let's continue to make this a great organization. We have finished our reset mission and now look forward to preparing for the summer months and upcoming training events. Let's continue to build on our successes and find ways to improve HHC and spend time with friends and Families.

**Willing and Able!  
Strength in Numbers!**  
**-Capt. Nathan Magee  
Commander**  
**-1st Sgt. Kerry Wiles  
Company 1st Sgt.**

## 787th EOD 'Patriots' deploy to Afghanistan

Story & Page 1 photo by Jake Dorsey Northwest Guardian

JBLM — The 787th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 3rd Ordnance Battalion is deploying to Afghanistan, likely for the last time of the current conflict.

The around 50 Soldiers assigned to the company watched as their leaders cased its colors May 1 for the trip to Southwest Asia. Commander Capt. Corey W. Harris pointed out how appropriate the nickname "Patriots" was for a company deploying "to continue defending (the U.S.)."

Soldiers of the 787th EOD Co. will be one of the last units downrange for Operation Enduring Freedom because of the continuing drawdown. The unit will

support 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Carson during its nine-month tour. The company supported the 4th IBCT during its last round at the National Training Center this winter.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Kavanaugh, 3rd Ord. Bn. commander, said the company was a veteran one that had succeeded each time it went downrange, and that he expected no less this time.

Operations NCOIC Staff Sgt. Anthony Shaw said the unit would reorganize into around 10 teams upon arrival in Afghanistan, prepared to send technicians to wherever they are needed while primarily responding to direction

from the 4th IBCT.

Unlike previous deployments, Shaw said this time the company will operate as a reserve element. The Afghan military and police will take the lead on all missions, unless ordnance is found on a U.S. base or property.

This is Shaw's fourth deployment during the Global War on Terrorism, all with ordnance units, and his second with the 787th to Afghanistan.

"I enjoy the hell out of it over there," he said.

"Right here, we do a lot of training, we do a lot of real ordnance incidents, we deal with IEDs in Washington all the way down to the coast of Oregon. When you go overseas, you see how you

**"When you go overseas, you see how you employ the training you receive here in the real world."**

employ the training you receive here in the real world."

EOD teams typically have a lot of independence in the field, Shaw said. During an IED response operation the team leader, usually a staff sergeant, has full authority over the situation until it's solved.

And though the company is prepared to back up a team during an operation, team leaders are on their own on patrol.

"He may go out for an entire year and not see the command team except for flight visits to check equipment," Shaw said. "He has to have a wide responsibility and knowledge to support a mission by himself."

At least one Soldier in the company soon will experience that responsibility. William Rohler, 23, was promoted from corporal to sergeant just before the casing ceremony. This will be his second deployment.



# ‘Willing and Able Justice’

Public Service Announcements from the Brigade Legal Office



## Military Justice News: Recent Courts Martial

Sergeant First Class Xavier C. Bowie, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, pled guilty at a Summary Court Martial to one specification of violating a lawful general regulation, and three specifications of making a false official statement. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Staff Sergeant, and to forfeit \$1843.00 pay for one month.

Specialist Joseph Chase Jr., 710th Explosive Ordinance Disposal Company, 3d Explosive Ordinance Disposal Battalion, pled guilty at a Special Court Martial to one specification of larceny, and selling government property of a value of more than 500.00. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Private (E-1), to be confined for 90 days, and to be discharged from military service with a bad-conduct discharge.

Specialist Edward Vargas Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 864th Engineer Battalion pled guilty at a General Court Martial to one specification of sexual assault, and making a false official statement. The Soldier was sentenced to be reduced to Private (E-1), to be confined for 15 months, and to be discharged from military service with a bad-conduct discharge.

## For Your Information

The 555th Engineer Brigade legal office can provide notarial services and draft powers of attorney on a walk in basis.

Please return all adjudicated actions to your battalion para-legal before the first of each month for accurate reporting.

## Contact Information

The 555th Engineer Brigade legal office is located in Building 12737 in room 213. Our numbers are: Paralegals – (253) 967-4019; Senior Paralegal NCO – Staff Sergeant Goins (253) 966-9362. Submit your comments or suggestions about this content via e-mail to [david.i.goins.mil@mail.mil](mailto:david.i.goins.mil@mail.mil).

## Sales of artwork, \$20, benefit the 555 Able Soldier and Family Fund

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

The Able Fund recently commissioned world-renowned combat artist Patrick Haskett to create a print titled “Clear-Hold-Build.” This print, shown to the right, depicts the 864th Engineer Battalion constructing a combat outpost in Afghanistan.

This print is being offered at \$20, with proceeds going directly to the Able Fund.

*More information, including how to order, is available at [555Soldierfund.com](http://555Soldierfund.com).*



CLEAR - HOLD - BUILD

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

FROM THE PRINTING BY PATRICK J. HASKETT

UNITED STATES ARMY ENGINEER REGIMENT



# 555th Medical Corner

*A public service  
announcement from  
the Triple Nickel  
Medical Team*

## **Summertime Health Tips to keep you safe as it heats up**

- ◆ *Stay hydrated! Drink plenty of fluids, especially water or sports drinks.*
- ◆ *Maintain a full, healthy, balanced diet, including foods with sodium.*
- ◆ *Wear loose, light-weight clothes. Do not wear too many layers.*
- ◆ *Avoid being in a hot car or under the sun for an extended amount of time.*
- ◆ *Exercise early in the day, before it gets too hot out.*
- ◆ *Take breaks if outside and move into the shade or an air-conditioned area.*
- ◆ *To avoid sunburn, use sunblock or hats when working outdoors.*

## **Missing medical appointments: A problem for Soldiers and Families that is easily prevented**

*When medical, dental, and other related appointments are missed, it causes problems for Soldiers and Families alike. Here's some information to keep in mind.*

- 1) If you cannot make it to your appointment, please call ahead to cancel.
- 2) By doing this with advance notice, not only will the Soldier (or Family member) ideally be able to reschedule if the appointment is still needed, but also that appointment slot will not be wasted.
- 3) Madigan loses about \$1,000,000 a month in lost productivity from no-shows - Please stress this to your Family members.
- 4) Family member no-show rates are much higher than those of Soldiers.
- 5) All these no-shows often cost not only that one lost appointment but that person often needs to schedule a make up one taking a future appointment slot while the one they no-showed could have gone to someone else who ALSO likely had to make a future appointment.

## **Don't Just Not Show Up...**

**Appointments  
can be cancelled  
by calling  
800-404-4506,  
going onto  
Tricare online or  
calling the clinic  
directly.**



### Triple Nickel unit named best chemical company in the Army

*9th Chemical Company, 110th Chem. Battalion, was awarded The U.S. Army Chemical Corps' Major General William L. Sibert Award.*

*The annual Sibert Award gives recognition to the best chemical company in the Active Army, United States Reserve, and the National Guard.*

*The objectives of the program are to provide recognition for excellence in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, and to instill pride and reinforce the essential elements of mission readiness, leadership, discipline and organizational excellence in a quality force.*

### Chaplain's Closing, Major Kelvin Todd

Springtime is a transition. Winter gives way to sunshine.

Another school year is almost complete. PCS season is upon us. Yet, this transition occurs every year. Other realities seem never to change. TRAINING is one. The Army trains. Soldiers PCS but training continues. EDUCATION is another. High school graduates ponder college in the fall. Soldiers study year-round to earn a coveted degree. Inherent in Army training is education; learning a new skill set. A third unchanging reality is FAITH. Not everyone looks at the world through a particular faith lens. However, I would argue most individuals do. The reality of faith in a person's life is not necessarily religious. You and I have faith



Uncle Sam will deposit our wages into our account. Yet, a faith does exist that addresses the more transcendent, eternal realities in life. I will talk about these realities in upcoming articles. For now, consider this:

**TRAINING prepares us for the EXPECTED.**

**EDUCATION prepares us for the UNEXPECTED.**

**FAITH prepares us for the INEVITABLE.**

I encourage you to exercise your personal faith this spring. Pray, attend your house of worship, fellowship with others, read Scripture. You will be reminded again how much TRAINING and EDUCATION come from the practice of FAITH!

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness..."*  
2 Timothy 3:16



### We Remember.

*Whether May 26th or any day of the year, we remember and honor our Fallen who gave their last full measure of devotion. We're thankful for their sacrifice in defense of our Nation.*

# MEMORIAL DAY 2014

Photo courtesy of thelightisall.com

Firing detail from 864th Eng. Bn. at Memorial Day ceremony in Spanaway.

# TRIPLE NICKEL



Questions or comments? Email  
1st Lt. Bryan Perrenod  
Public Affairs Officer  
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## 555th Engineer Brigade

### Mission

The 555th Engineer Brigade provides technical and tactical expertise and Mission Command to modular formations. The brigade plans, supervises and coordinates combat, general, and geospatial engineering in support of unified land operations.

### Vision

A Disciplined unit, built on Trust, Committed to team, Family and Fun.  
Ready, Willing and Able.

### *'Willing and Able'*

### Values

*Trust* – I will always display impeccable character and tell the truth regardless of the outcome.

*Discipline* – I consistently do the right, necessary, and sometimes painful tasks in order to accomplish the mission.

*Family* – I will always be available for my Family to meet their relational, spiritual, and emotional needs.

*Commitment* – I am committed to doing my mission to the highest possible standards; I will never quit on myself, my family, or my unit

*Fun* – I will frequently laugh and always make my job and home enjoyable places to work and live.

### Imperatives

*Leader Development* – Utilize engaged leaders to Teach, Coach, and Mentor in order to develop the next generation of adaptive leaders that possess creative and critical thinking skills; Develop leaders, enabled by Mission Command, that are capable of operating in any Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous environments.

*Training* – Plan tough, realistic, and well resourced training; focus from the "Basics" to Mission Essential Tasks to develop individuals, teams, and leaders to provide World-Class Engineer Support to Unified Land Operations.

*Maintenance and Logistics* – Treat maintenance and logistics as training by assigning ownership and enforcing accountability of our resources and readiness.

*Health of the Force* – Provide our Soldiers and their Families the BEST (Medical, Sponsorship, Resources, Protection, Resiliency) the Army has to offer.

*Readiness* – Resilient Soldiers and Families, Disciplined Soldiers and systems, Superior Training, Personnel Readiness, and Disciplined Supply and Maintenance Programs.

