

The Voice of Sustainment in the West

Provider Base

13th Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

Spring 2014



Commander's Corner

Greetings to the Soldiers, NCOs and officers of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of the Provider Base.

This quarter our theme is Medical operations. Our Army Medical professionals provide responsive and reliable health services and influence health to improve readiness, save lives, and advance wellness in support of our Soldiers, civilians, and their Families.

Sustainment of the Force starts with our most valuable commodity: our Soldiers. We can easily replace a truck, a tank or a helicopter, but it is impossible to replace personnel, and our Medical folks are at the “tip of the spear” in this fight. After almost 13 years of sustained combat operations, Army Medicine has led this effort in the most austere environments.

With overseas contingency operations still ongoing, the spotlight is justifiably on the Army’s medics, evacuation units, surgical teams and field hospitals. Army Medicine is a seamless chain of care stretching back from forward deployed areas to fixed hospitals in Europe and the United States, where Soldiers receive state-of-the-art care. Field medical units are fully-integrated combat multipliers, and their movements and functions are directly nested with our fighting forces.

Our Nation’s longest conflict is coming to a close, and our Medical personnel will be in even greater demand than ever. It is incumbent upon leaders at all levels to ensure that our heroes, in and out of uniform, receive the quality care they deserve. Resiliency of our Soldiers is paramount.

As part of the Army’s Ready and Resilient Campaign efforts, Army Medicine is advocating a culture shift by encouraging every professional Soldier to develop a mindset that drives them to optimize their own health, in order to improve their performance and resiliency. There must be an effective way to change mindsets, not just dictate behaviors. As Army Medicine continues to evolve, we must look at where health is truly influenced.

Recently, the Army’s Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, conveyed her vision for the future of Soldier health and resiliency in the form of the “Performance Triad.”

Long term success in the Army lays in the ability of Medical professionals to effectively impact the “Lifespace.” The Lifespace is where we make decisions on Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition (SAN). Army Medicine’s operational approach to these three key components of health is the Performance Triad.

The Performance Triad is bringing together the US Army Public Health Command (PHC), US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC), US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), Army Medical Department Center and School, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), and the US Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM). The people who have the greatest impact on Soldier behaviors do not reside in military hospitals and clinics – they are the unit leaders, mentors, and Family in the Lifespace. The goal is to make this a part of the DNA of the Army – sleep discipline, daily activity, and good nutritional decisions.

As Soldiers, it is our duty to remain physically and mentally fit in order to fight and win our Nation’s wars; wherever and whenever we are called upon. Our Medical professionals are at the forefront in ensuring we have every resource available to ensure we can do just that. Unit leadership must understand the signs when a Soldier requires assistance – physically, mentally and spiritually – and must also know the resources available to those in need.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to tie in a key message on safety. I know you are all looking forward to summer after an unusually cold winter at the “Great Place.” I encourage each and every one of you to get out and enjoy all of the warm weather activities Central Texas has to offer.

The annual Army Summer Safety Campaign is underway. This year’s campaign, “Know the Signs,” provides Soldiers, civilians and their Families with helpful information for ensuring safe summer activities. As the “dog days” of summer approach, I challenge each of you to use risk management and safety tools to maintain safety awareness and minimize risk. This year’s Army Summer Safety Campaign offers products and information on a wide variety of off-duty topics from boating to climbing safety. Visit <https://safety.army.mil> and click on the “Know the Signs” logo to access these products and bolster your summer safety fun.

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



CSM's Corner

Greetings Provider Family and Friends,

As the Army continues to enhance and shape the readiness for a Vision of 2020. We must all do our part to improve our Comprehensively Soldier Fit level by staying Physical, Emotional, Spiritual, Social, and Family Strong. We, as individuals, must have Strong Minds and Bodies as we represent American’s Army by performing our Profession.

Collectively, we must collaborate to find new and innovative ways to resource the most out of the wide array of equipment we are issued, no matter what your Force Sustainment Specialty is. Whether that is the tool sets in your motor pools, the automation equipment in offices, or the C4ISR system in vehicles, the fluidity to purchase new equipment may no longer be funded for future endeavors.

With medical equipment, this rings true as well. Although technology typically will drive new equipment into the field, leaders across the formations must adhere not only to Department of Defense regulations but also the many various regulations that cover medical endeavors. It is our job to be aware of the capabilities that make us functional and able to perform and provide the expertise when the time comes, that makes the true difference between life and death.

As a result of the recent events at Fort Hood, we faced deep tragedy within the 13th SC (E) footprint. However, due to the strong resiliency of our Soldiers, Civilians, and Good Neighbors whom used courage, competence and commitment, I am compelled to say we at Fort Hood are Stronger than ever!

Leaders, the answer is not simple but the tools are in your toolkit. Sometimes it’s as simple as Be. Know. Do. Expressed to and by every noncommissioned officer to ever pin on hard stripes, knowing your troops is the most important part of being a leader. Caring about your troops is the second part of the dynamic to put their basic needs above your own. If you combine these two simple elements, you are on a good path in being a 21st century Leader and a Soldier that should set the positive examples, and mentorship, for our young Sustainers we need every day in Today’s Army.

As you read through the articles in this edition of the Provider Base, consider that when put to the test, these highlighted Soldiers were able to rise to the challenge and accomplish that which was required. Our Soldiers will continue to be tested in trying situations. Rarely will we know when that day will come that our Soldiers will be truly tested. We must do our due diligence to ensure that our training and equipment maintenance is up to standard and beyond so our Soldiers will have the best chance available to ensure mission success. Remember, the difference between a click and a bang is logistics. It can very well be life saving.

Over the past couple months we have celebrated two holidays very important to our Family units, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. I would like to send a special thank you to those mothers and fathers within our ranks. The military is a challenging profession and requires a strong person to juggle the different obstacles that come from both serving your country and your children.

Additionally, I would like to thank the mothers and fathers of our Soldiers. Your love and support of our military is unmatched by providing your sons and daughters the opportunity to serve. You have entrusted us to look after and protect your children while they protect our country, and, in turn, it is our responsibility to provide them the best in training and equipment to complete their missions. I ensure you that we are doing our best to maintain those standards and provide an excellent career opportunity for them.

Last month we also observed the Memorial Day holiday. This was an excellent opportunity to pause and reflect on the lives of all those veterans whom gave their final breath in service to our country. It was a touching occasion to witness the several community driven events in our local area in honor of this day of remembrance. It further solidifies my belief that Fort Hood is named “The Great Place” because of the outstanding ties between the post and our great neighbors.

Lastly, I would like to recognize a great former leader to the 13th SC(E) and the entire sustainment community. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Benson Bufford Jr. passed away May 9, 2014, at the age of 80. Command Sgt. Maj. Bufford was drafted into the Army in 1953 and served honorably for 30 years before retiring while serving as the command sergeant major of the 13th COSCOM. Command Sgt. Maj. Bufford was an exemplary leader within our Army and will truly be missed.

Phantom Support
Command Sgt. Maj. Terry D. Burton
Command Sergeant Major



Taken at face value?

It might not be worth much.



The Face of Indiscipline

He's a current and qualified MRAP driver and takes his job very seriously. He has read about some of the 25 Soldiers who have died in MRAP rollovers since the vehicle was fielded more than a decade ago. He swears he'll never put himself, or his passengers, in an unsafe situation when he's behind the wheel. During the next four-day weekend he plans to take his friend's jet ski out for a ride. He's never been on one but figures it has to be easier than driving an MRAP. He'll also ask his girlfriend if she wants to go too. What a thrill. 50 m.p.h. on the open water.

Will he have the forethought to think about the wellbeing of his passenger, or his own for that matter, when he tries to make that 180-degree turn with the throttle full open.

Discipline takes many forms, as does indiscipline. Know what's right and do what's right.



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Hood finds strength as lives honored

By Heather Graham-Ashley
Fort Hood Sentinel

Faced with another tragedy, the Fort Hood community again showed its strength as Soldiers and Families joined the nation Wednesday in mourning and honoring the lives lost April 2.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez and Sgt. Timothy Owens were killed in last week's on-post shooting.

The three were remembered and honored during a memorial ceremony attended by President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, Army Secretary John McHugh, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and other national and state dignitaries and leaders.

The president spoke about love – love in the midst of joy and sorrow, and love that inspires Soldiers to serve.

"It was love, tested by tragedy, that brings us together again," Obama said, referencing a similar memorial service held Nov. 10, 2009, following the shooting at the Soldier Readiness Processing Center on Fort Hood that killed 13.

Love, the president said, led Ferguson, Lazaney-

Rodriguez and Owens to serve.

"It was love for country that inspired these three Americans," Obama said, noting that the three had nine deployments among them. "They lived those shining values – loyalty, duty (and) honor that keep us strong and free."

With their different backgrounds and with varied interests, their service bound the Soldiers together, III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General Lt. Gen. Mark Milley said.

"They were united by a single desire," Milley said, "the desire to serve their country."

Odierno said the loss of any Soldier is terrible, but a loss at home is even more distressing.

"The loss of any Soldier, in any circumstance, is a tragedy for a unit or a Family," the Army chief said. "That these Soldiers were lost on American soil at the hands of one of our own makes this tragedy heartbreaking and inexplicable."

Odierno also offered words of support and comfort, for the Families, the wounded and the Fort Hood community.

He pledged the support of the entire Army Family for those affected by the shooting.

Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez



Lazaney-Rodriguez, 38, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, entered active-duty service in February 1995 as a unit supply specialist. He was assigned to the 21st Combat Support Hospital, 1st Medical Brigade, since February 2012, where he served as a unit supply sergeant. Lazaney-Rodriguez deployed to Kuwait, from December 1998 to April 1999. He also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from April 2007 to April 2008 and from July 2009 to July 2010.

His awards and decorations include four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, Army Superior Unit Award, six Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, U.S. Army Basic Recruiter Badge-Silver with two Gold Achievement Stars, Combat Action Badge, U.S. Army Parachutist Badge, and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Sgt. Timothy Owens



Owens, 37, of Effingham, Ill., entered active-duty service in July 2004 as a motor transport operator. He was assigned to the 49th Trans. Bn., 4th Sust. Bde., 13th SC(E), where he served as a heavy vehicle driver. Owens deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from January 2005 to December 2005 and to Kuwait, from January 2010 to December 2010.

His awards include three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson



Ferguson, 39, from Mulberry, Fla., entered active-duty service July 1993 as a transportation management coordinator. He was assigned to the 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), where he served as a transportation supervisor.

Ferguson's deployments include serving in Kuwait, from January to August 2003, and from October 2004 to September 2005; Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from September 2009 to May 2010; and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, from June 2012 to March 2013.

Medical services officer recognized for exceptional leadership

By Capt. Monika Comeaux
13th SC(E) Public Affairs

Maj. James Maker, the chief of the 1st Medical Brigade current operations cell, received the Capt. John R. Teal Leadership Award surrounded by his Family at his brigade headquarters building Dec. 13 on Fort Hood.

The award recognizes medical services officers and noncommissioned officers who have made significant contributions to the medical community and displayed exceptional leadership and management skills.

The award is named after the first medical officer killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom serving with the 4th Infantry Division. Teal died from injuries he sustained on Oct. 23, 2003, near Baqubah, Iraq, after a roadside bomb detonated near his convoy. Upon his death, the Army Medical Command established the John R. Teal Award, which annually recognizes MSC officers and noncommissioned officers who have proven themselves as exceptional leaders.

“Maj. Maker is one of the best officers I have ever been associated with in my nearly 23 years of service,” said Lt. Col. Roy Vernon Jr., the deputy operations chief for the European Regional Command in Sembach, Germany. Vernon is also a mentor for Maker, and he was the one who recommended Maker for the award. Maker was unaware of the nomination.

“I have known Maj. Maker since he was a second lieutenant, and he served as a platoon leader for me when I was in company command,” Vernon said.

Vernon also had the chance to work with and personally observe Maker’s leadership skills at Fort Hood and during their 2012 deployment to Afghanistan.

Vernon is full of compliments about his prodigy.

“Maker is a caring officer who will always put the needs of his Soldiers and the mission above himself,” he said. “(He) is passionate about his work as an operations officer and is always seeking self improvement.”

The former supervisor listed Maker’s dedication to mission and Family, and his ability to build a team and his sense of humor, as Maker’s great strengths. Vernon also complimented Maker on having the ability to balance his professional and personal life, and making sure that he makes time for important Family events.

Family and the care for his Soldiers are the No. 1 things on Maker’s list, indeed. He said



Maj. James Maker, 1st Med. Bde. current operations cell chief, poses for a photo holding the Capt. John R. Teal Leadership Award at the 1st Med. Bde. headquarters Dec. 13. His wife, Alison, and children, Gavin and Riley, are each holding up a coin Maker received in addition to the award.

he was much honored to receive the award and immediately explained that the award is to reward the accomplishment of his Soldiers, leaders and Family collectively.

Maker said his greatest strength is his ability to always remember that “Soldiers expect and deserve the absolute best leadership I can provide. Our collective efforts impact the lives of many. ... I think this helps to guide my conduct and professional expectations.”

He said he feels obligated to invest the same amount of attention and effort in his Soldiers and subordinates he received as he grew up in the ranks as a medical officer.

“I was extremely humbled and honored to even be mentioned as a possible candidate. It reminded me just how fortunate I am to have benefited from the incredible guidance, mentorship and coaching I have received throughout my career from the stellar officers and NCOs I have served with,” Maker said. “My nomination is owed to their collective investment in leader development; an investment that I continue to pay forward.”

Maker also said that he shares the award with his wife and Family.

“My ability to serve,” he said, “is directly attributed to the support Alison and my children provide me every day.”

1st Med. Bde. Soldier honored as Army’s top pharmacy tech



Spc. Timothy Burnell, a Providence, Ore., native and a pharmacy technician with 582nd Medical Logistics Company, 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade, was awarded the Department of the Army Larry C. Nesmith Enlisted Pharmacy Technician Award Dec. 11, 2013, at the 1st Med. Bde. Headquarters in recognition of his performance as the pharmacy narcotics vault custodian during his unit’s deployment in Afghanistan from June 2012 until March 2013.

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

The Larry C. Nesmith Enlisted Technician Award is a Department of the Army level award presented annually to a Soldier who goes above and beyond their duties and responsibilities as a pharmacy technician.

Spc. Timothy Burnell, a Providence, Ore., native and a pharmacy technician with 582nd Medical Logistics Company, 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade, was presented with this award on Dec. 11 at the 1st Med. Bde. Headquarters by the brigade’s commander, Col. Bertram Providence.

Burnell was recognized for his job performance during his unit’s recent deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from June 2012 until March 2013 where he ran the only narcotics pharmacy vault in the country.

“For me, it didn’t feel like I was doing anything special. I was just there doing my job and doing what I was supposed to do,” said Burnell. “However, it was a special feeling to know that I was recognized above and beyond all the other pharmacy technician’s in the Army.”

During his time as the vault technician, Burnell implemented a new filing and tracking system which effectively maintained 100 percent accountability of all prescription medications on hand.

In addition, he also established a recycling program that allowed units to turn in unused medications to be recycled through the military’s Pharmaceutical Returns Management Program which, Burnell said, enabled his unit to receive close to \$1 million in return credits for reprocessed medications.

“Spc. Burnell is an exemplary Soldier that exceeded my expectations,” said Capt. Norman Tuala, a pharmacist who served as Burnell’s officer in charge during the deployment. “While deployed together, I got to witness first hand this Soldier’s work ethic, professionalism and dedication. He was willing to put in the long hours required as the only pharmacy vault custodian at the only medical logistics company in theater.”

“I have had the pleasure of working with many Soldiers from different backgrounds and different experiences,” continued Tuala. “Spc. Burnell shines above them all with his attitude, dedication, passion and execution. This Soldier was able to persevere despite all the trials and tribulations that he has gone

through and for that I am extremely proud to have worked with him.”

In addition to his duties at the pharmacy vault, Burnell volunteered more than 200 hours during the deployment to assist the pharmacy technicians at the Heathe N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital on Bagram Airfield.

“While working with a medical logistics company, I don’t always have an opportunity to work in the pharmacy doing what I trained to do,” said Burnell. “It was a great opportunity for me to practice my skill and maintain my proficiency on the job.”

Burnell said it was an honor to receive the recognition and is looking forward to an extended career in the Army as a pharmacy technician.

“For me, I hope the award will be a symbol for my future Soldiers,” added Burnell. “As I move forward with my career, and become a noncommissioned officer and leader, I’ll want to encourage other Soldiers to strive for excellence and motivate them to try to achieve this same recognition.”

Health services maintenance technician honored by Medical Services Corps

By Capt. Daniel Davis
1st Med. Bde.

The Health Service Maintenance Technician Award of excellence is a Medical Service Corps award presented annually to a health services maintenance technician warrant officer for making significant contributions to the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) mission and having performed in an exceptionally outstanding manner.

Chief Warrant Officer-2 John Passmore, a Holley-Navarre, Florida, native, and a health services maintenance technician with 582nd Medical Logistics Company, 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 1st Medical Brigade, was presented the Award of Excellence on May 1, in San Antonio, Texas, during the Medical Service Corps, Junior Officer of the Week, Award of Excellence Dinner hosted by Brig. Gen. Dennis D. Doyle, chief of the Medical Service Corps.

Passmore was recognized for his job performance from January 2013 through January 2014, where he served as the unit maintenance officer for 582nd Med. Log. Co., medical maintenance officer for 61st MMB, and the medical maintenance officer for 86th Combat Support Hospital.

"I enjoy teaching my Soldiers about how equipment and technology management fits into the Army Healthcare System and mentoring them on how to apply it to our mission to ensure patient care capabilities are not diminished," said Passmore. "I appreciate that my leadership recommended me for this award and am honored to be selected."

As the maintenance officer for 582nd Med. Log. Co. and 61st MMB, Passmore was directly responsible for the welfare of 30 Soldiers and equipment worth \$3 million. He was instrumental in the area support of one medical maintenance contact repair team (CRT) for the Boy Scouts of America 2013 National Boy Scout Jamboree and one rolling and non-rolling CRT for the III Corps/Fort Hood Expert Field Medical Badge competition.

"He took a marginally performing section and established processes resulting in a 72% increase in maintenance utilization within the SAMS-1E box, improvement in all equipment service packets resulting in the increase in the unit's organizational readiness rating exceeding 97%," said Capt. Daniel Davis, commander of the 582nd Med. Log. Co.

"Passmore epitomizes what all our best Health Service Maintenance Technicians aspire to become,"

said Lt. Col. Dirk D. LaFleur, commander of the 61st MMB. "Passmore is always eager to lead others while being a consummate team mate. John is always willing to take on more responsibility with the assigned additional duty as battalion medical maintenance officer".

"There are so many talented and hardworking junior health service maintenance technicians in the Army that are passionate about our field and it's difficult for me to compare myself to them," said Passmore. "You can ask anyone that I have worked with and they will tell you that I am very passionate about my job."

"I believe it is also important to establish medical skill readiness training with the Installation Medical Supply Activity so that our low density skills sets are not diminished," added Passmore.

"We must take advantage of these training opportunities as they are essential for maintaining unit readiness, medical proficiency, and the morale of the unit. We must accomplish this while still executing the mission and supporting other professional development training."



Col. Bertram Providence (center), an orthopedic surgeon and the commander of the 1st Medical Brigade, discusses the operations and common practices of the 1st Med. Bde. with a group of foreign partner military health professionals during a tour of Fort Hood March 27. The tour was part of the Medical Strategic Leadership Program hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

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

1st Med. Bde. hosts int'l medical professionals for info sharing

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

Leaders from the 1st Medical Brigade hosted a group of 11 senior foreign military health professionals for a discussion of field medical practices and unit organization within the U.S. Army at the brigade's headquarters March 27.

The delegates hailed from 10 partner nations including Afghanistan, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Moldova, Norway, Georgia, and Saudi Arabia.

The delegates visited as part of the Medical Strategic Leadership Program hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The MSLP is a joint, multi-national, postgraduate, continuing medical education program designed for senior international and U.S. military medical officers.

Ken Knight, the program director, said this training program is an excellent opportunity to not only gain knowledge about the medical profession, but also a chance to build on partner nation relations between the United States and other foreign militaries.

"We all have information to share, and we all come from different medical backgrounds," said Knight. "Between everyone in the class,

we have more than 250 years of experience in the medical field. It would be a waste of assets if we did not share our knowledge. Additionally, one of the primary goals for the attendees is to encourage and promote networking."

The MSLP provides healthcare related training to prepare the attendees for the strategic leadership challenges of combined health service support operations and operating within coalitions and alliances.

Col. Bertram Providence, an orthopedic surgeon and the commander of the 1st Med. Bde., is also a graduate of the MSLP.

"The MSLP is likely the best training that I've received in the military," said Providence. "There's a lot of different countries and militaries represented here, but one thing that joins us all together is the health care aspect of what we do."

"There's a saying from a long time ago, 'the only winner in war is medicine.' Some of the life-saving practices we use were discovered in wartime."

"It is imperative that we all continue to cross talk and share as much information as we can," Providence continued.

"If there is a lesson learned from one medical professional or another that could help save someone's life, it is our responsibility, working as a team, to save that person's life."

EFMB candidates endure tough training



*By Spc. Paige Behringer
1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div.*

More than 200 Fort Hood Soldiers, spent 10 days working through their own limitations to find out what it takes to become an expert in their field.

From May 10 through 20, Soldiers in medical professions endured pouring rain, mud, a challenging land navigation course, three Combat Testing Lanes, a written test and a 12-mile ruck march during training and testing for the Expert Field Medical Badge.

Regardless of the outcome, these candidates experienced the training and witnessed what it takes to earn the EFMB, a badge signifying physical fitness, mental toughness and proficiency in medical and Soldier skills.

For many participants, including Sgt. Cindy Rojas, a combat medic, and Spc. Lawrence Echon, a dental specialist, both assigned to the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, Saber, of the Ironhorse Brigade, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, this isn't their first trip through the EFMB lanes.

Rojas, a Salinas, California, native, excelled during her two previous attempts, scoring high in each lane, but tragedy struck during the 12-mile ruck march on her first EFMB.

On mile eight, I started running, Rojas said, I was still on time, [but I] tripped and fell on my tibia. [I] broke my tibia and tore a calf muscle.

It took Rojas a year to get back into shape after her injury, but she went after the EFMB once again. After making it through the lanes her second time, she missed the ruck march cutoff time by only a few seconds.

Although disappointed, Rojas trained even harder for the ruck march this time, determined not to let the near miss stop her from earning the badge she strived for since she trained to be a medic at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Aside from not making it in the past, Rojas said she believes the training is still valuable. She said there are things she would not have had the opportunity to learn without participating in EFMB.

Echon, who is shooting for the badge for his fourth time, agreed.

It's good training, great training, said Echon, a native of



Yigo, Guam., you learn a lot of new stuff, [and] you get to know a lot of people.

Echon said he feels an advantage this time around having been through the training before. He had a hard time with day and night land navigation and the written test in previous attempts.

"You have to be physically fit, because everything here is a smoker," Echon said. "You have to know what to do when you are tired".

Basic Soldier skills like land navigation, weapons knowledge, movement and communication account for a large portion of the EFMB qualification, so Echon's unit used Sergeants Time Training to prepare months in advance.

"I think if you study hard and listen to whatever they teach you, then you will pass," Echon said.

With high hopes, Echon said, "it's always possible for everybody to succeed. He said he has wanted to wear the badge ever since he saw a drill sergeant wearing it in initial entry training.

Rojas said her favorite part of the EFMB is completing the lanes, because she knows she tried her best.

"It is great training, and it is always good to get out and see people from different groups. Different ranks all come together, try and teach each other to get something," Rojas said.

1st Med. Bde. welcomes new CSM

By Staff Sgt. Lisa Eaton
1st Medical Brigade PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas- The 1st Medical Brigade hosted an assumption of responsibility ceremony May 1 at Sadowski Field to mark the assumption of senior enlisted leadership at the brigade.

During the ceremony, Families, Soldiers, and community partners welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. William H. O'Neal II as the newest member of the 1st Medical Brigade's command team.

"The spine column or backbone like the NCO holds up the Army, it supports the Army; it protects the Army and allows the Army to fight the enemy and win wars," said Col. Bertram Providence, commander of the 1st Med. Bde. "A mission simply cannot happen without the efforts of noncommissioned officers — hard working NCOs loyal to their unit and their Soldiers, focused on the unit's success and focused on their Soldier's well-being over their own."

O'Neal joins the 1st Med. Bde. after serving as the senior enlisted leader of the Dental Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"Soldiers are our number one asset, leaders of this unit will engage with persistent involvement, accountability and hard work of their day to day activities," said O'Neal. "We will develop our future leaders and prepare them for any mission they may encounter, we will take the time to understand the difference between Urgent vs. Important and engage in the physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing of each member of the team."

O'Neal originally from Lawrenceville, GA, joined the military Oct. 1991 as a combat medic and has held positions ranging from Platoon Sergeant 3-504 PIR 82nd Airborne Division to first sergeant and from Troop Command CSM to MEDCEN CSM. O'Neal has previous overseas tours in in Germany and Iraq.



Above: Command Sgt. Maj. William H. O'Neal II, the incoming command sergeant major for 1st Medical Brigade, accepts the noncommissioned officer saber from Col. Bertram Providence, the commander of the 1st Med. Bde., signifying the assumption of responsibilities as the command's senior enlisted leader during a ceremony at Sadowski Field May 1.



Left: Command Sgt. Maj. William H. O'Neal II, the incoming senior enlisted leader of 1st Medical Brigade, assumes control of the formation of Soldiers from the 1st Medical Brigade following an assumption of responsibility ceremony at Sadowski Field May 1.

Below: Command Sgt. Maj. William H. O'Neal II, the incoming senior enlisted leader of 1st Medical Brigade, assumes control of the formation of Soldiers from the 1st Medical Brigade following an assumption of responsibility ceremony at Sadowski Field May 1.



Patient Safety Week at CRDAMC promotes working relationships between providers, patients



Photo by Kim Zamarripa, CRDAMC Public Affairs

Triella Stallings, CRDAMC Patient Safety, Col. Roger Gallup, CRDAMC deputy commander of clinical services, and Lisa Kelly, CRDAMC patient safety manager, cut a cake in recognition of National Patient Safety Awareness Week.

By Brandy Gill
CRDAMC Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas – This past week Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center participated in Patient Safety Awareness Week, an event that was founded by the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF) and celebrated by healthcare organizations worldwide.

This annual education and awareness campaign for health care safety highlights the continued need to make both patients and health care professionals aware of the importance of reducing errors in health care.

Each year, organizations participate by prominently displaying the NPSF campaign logo and promotional materials within their organizations, creating awareness within the community while educating hospital staff and patients.

According to Lisa Kelly, the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center's patient safety manager, this year's theme for National Patient Safety is "Navigate Your Health...Safely."

"This is a week to recognize the advancements that have been made in the patient safety arena, while acknowledging the challenges that remain and committing to work on them every day," Kelly said.

One of the big focuses this year is on preventing errors in diagnosis which, according to Kelly, requires patients to be active participants in their healthcare.

"This is a collaborative effort that includes encouraging patients to be assertive and ask questions as well as trust their instincts when it comes to their health. Providers are also encouraged to make patients a partner in the diagnosis process," she said.

According to Col. Roger Gallup, the CRDAMC deputy commander for clinical services, efforts to promote this type of working relationship between providers and patients at CRDAMC is also endorsed by the National Patient Safety Foundation.

"Patients need to be informed and engaged in their care. The National Patient Safety Foundation has an education program that is called "Ask Me 3." It encourages a dialogue between the patient and the provider," Gallup said. "The three questions are: what is my main problem, what do I need to do, and why

is it important for me to do this. These questions help patients be engaged in their care and take better care of themselves. It also helps improve the outcomes of chronic medical conditions."

According to Kelly, CRDAMC has seen success by implementing NPSF techniques.

"There is still work to be done, but we've come a long way, and we've come out better because of all the support we receive from all of our staff to ensure that CRDAMC is providing a safe environment for our beneficiaries."



Photo by Kim Zamarripa, CRDAMC Public Affairs

Lisa Kelly, CRDAMC patient safety manager, hands out bags and informational material to CRDAMC staff during Patient Safety Awareness Week.

Food service specialists compete



Photo by Sgt. Kyle Fisch, 14th PAD

Spc. Jose Perez, a food service specialist with the 4th Sust. Bde.'s Mobile Kitchen team, serves lunch to Soldiers during the Phillip A. Connelly competition.

**By Sgt. Kyle Fisch
14th PAD**

Food service specialists on Fort Hood competed in the U.S. Army 46th Annual Philip A. Connelly Award Competition Feb. 12-13.

Soldiers with the 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) competed at the Department of the Army level, while Soldiers with 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade competed at the United States Army Forces Command level. This program is the legacy of Philip A. Connelly, who became a leader in his chosen profession – food service management. It was his goal to promote professionalism of food service in the civilian industry and military services.

The Philip A. Connelly Program was established in March of 1968 to support and improve Army food service while encouraging and recognizing deserving units for superior performance.

“Each year, we hold this competition to determine the best dining facility and the best field kitchen in the Army,” said Master Sgt. James Moore, program manager. “Our goal is to promote excellence in food service and to elevate the quality of food service at the units, all the way down to the lowest user level.”

Culinary Soldiers of 69th ADA competed at the Patriot Inn Dining Facility for the title of best garrison dining facility, while Soldiers of the 4th Sust. Bde.

were competing for the title of best active Army field kitchen.

While the competition is limited, they are competing against the Army’s best.

There are a total of six Army dining facilities and four Army field competitors this year, Moore said.

Units were selected by their higher headquarters command to compete in this prestigious competition.

“The teams in this competition were nominated by III Corps to compete at the DA level Philip A. Connelly competition,” said Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Herring, III Corps’ food service sergeant major. “They first had to pass a III Corps-level food service evaluation. The winners of that evaluation

were then nominated to represent the installation at the FORSCOM level.”

These III Corps units were nominated because of their outstanding service.

“What this competition does is validate the food service Soldiers of the 4th Sust. Bde. as the best at what they do,” said Lt. Col. Keith Kruelski, commander of 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sust. Bde. “These guys have spent a lot of time out in the field; whenever there is an extended field exercise where food service support is requested, they are the go-to guys.”

The Connelly competition is a chance for dining facilities across the Army to show-off their food service skills and professionalism. It gives the well-deserved recognition to units that go above and beyond the standard.

“We are honored to be able to represent the installation at this level,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Chontrelle Sturdivant, 69th ADA Bde. food service advisor. “This competition is based on the team effort and on the overall ability to provide good customer service, a nutritional meal and proper food sanitation.”

The Philip A. Connelly Awards Program has helped to instill in Army food service workers a sense of prestige and dignity. As a result, the Army Food Service Program is rapidly assuming its place of honor among other military professions.

Wranglers win Philip A. Connelly award

**By Sgt. Adam A. Erlewein
4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs**

Soldiers from the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade were awarded first place in the Philip A. Connelly competition in both the United States Army Forces Command level and the III Corps level, during an award ceremony at the III Corps Headquarters Building April 22, 2014.

The Connelly award is one of the highest awards to be presented to food service specialists and consists of two separate categories, field food service and garrison food service.

Wranglers competed in the field portion of the competition and won at the FORSCOM level overcoming the challenges of teams from across the United States. The Wranglers also won the III Corps competition and are awaiting the results for the ultimate prize, the Department of Army level.

Sgt. Vidal Velez, a native of Bridgeport, Conn., from the 4th STB was one of the winners of the competition. He said it takes approximately 40 to 60 days of preparation but the judging is a one day event consisting of, but not limited to, site setup, food preparation and service.

“Basic construction of the landscape, setting up of the containerized kitchen, sanitation center, rations tent, dining area, and various other things such as a burn pit to dispose of trash, and is important to show how it would be simulated in the field,” said Velez.

“We are not just cooking the food to be judged but we are also judged for the site setup as well”.

The Wrangler team competing built strong camaraderie and were able to share their own ideas and suggestions regardless of their rank.

Pfc. Tiffany Giles, a native of Pontiac, Mich., from the 4th STB, 4SB, and new arrival to the unit, participated in the competition. At first, Giles believed she would not be ready for the competition but the Soldiers from the 4th STB Battalion not only encouraged her but helped her to prepare for the competition.

“I didn’t think coming out of AIT that I would be able to be a part of something like this. I thought it would take years to do,” said Giles. “They taught me a lot of stuff and they brought me in and showed me the ropes and showed me stuff that I didn’t learn in AIT.”

The Soldiers were each presented with a certificate by Brig. Gen. Clark LeMasters, Jr., commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and a plaque acknowledging them as first place winners in the competition.

Velez also received an award from FORSCOM for Outstanding Achievement, presented by LeMasters.

“It feels good to know that out of the whole group I was pulled out, and I know it in my heart that my hard work didn’t go unnoticed. I was just doing my job and being a leader and having fun while I was out there,” said Velez.



Photo by Sgt. Adam A. Erlewein, 4th Sust. Bde. PAO

The first place award for the United States Army Forces Command 46th annual Philip A. Connelly competition was presented to Wrangler Soldiers from the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade during an award ceremony at the III Corps Headquarters Building April 22, 2014. The Connelly award is one of the highest awards to be earned in food service.



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

Fort Hood logistics Soldiers complete Army's first GCSS-A training course

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

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers from Fort Hood graduated from the inaugural Global Combat Support System – Army training course at the Education Center March 25.

The GCSS-Army is an all-encompassing system, designed to replace several aging and outdated Army management information systems across tactical logistics environments within the Army that contains the functionality associated with the areas of supply, maintenance, property, and tactical finance.

“It is no small task to combine systems that have been around for decades,” said Col. John McCoy, the chief of Support Operations for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). “I know that you cannot field a system that is this technically complicated to just anybody in the world; it takes a special class of educated, motivated, and determined personnel to take a complicated system and make it work in the field.”

The training class was the first of its kind for the Army after beginning to phase the new systems into



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

Sgt. Rachanda Dell, an honor graduate from the 1st Cavalry Division, receives her certificate of completion from Col. John McCoy, the chief of Support Operations for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during the graduation ceremony for the inaugural Global Combat Support System – Army training course at the Education Center March 25.

unit operations late 2012.

“It’s important, now that we have this new, high-class system, we need to ensure our Soldiers are fully trained and capable to operate this system,” said Leslie Parker, an instructor for the course. “This was a great experience to be part of this first course as not only did we, as instructors, teach the class a new system, we also learned much more about the new system for ourselves.”

“Today was a celebration for the students on the successful completion of this very technical course,” said McCoy. “Also, since this was the very first course taught here, I want to congratulate the instructors who were able to plan and prepare to teach this material.”

“This system is going to be around for a long while to come,” McCoy continued. “Those of you in this room have the opportunity to be on the leading edge of the Army’s newest logistical system and will be the generation of leaders in the years to come with the most technical knowledge and experience of the GCSS-Army system for our future Soldiers.”



Officers from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) pose for a photo in front of the battle monument at the Battle of San Jacinto state historic site following a staff ride April 17 in La Porte, Texas.
Photo by Maj. Joe Odorizzi, 13th SC(E) PAO

13th SC(E) officers conduct LPD at historic battlefield

By Maj. Joseph Odorizzi
13th SC(E) PAO

LA PORTE, Texas -- Officers from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) visited the Battle of San Jacinto state historic site here April 17 to conduct a leader professional development session; the culmination of a three-part study on the fight for Texas independence.

Lt. Col. Craig Martin, 13th SC(E) intelligence officer, began planning for the event in February and developed a three-phase approach in order to study the entire scope of the battle and the events leading up to it. Officers analyzed the strategic and operational levels of the campaign in two classroom sessions on March 27 and April 10 and focused on the tactical aspects of the battle during the staff ride.

“The Battle of San Jacinto and the greater Texas campaign for independence was chosen for its proximity and because a lot of the lessons learned from that campaign apply to U.S. Army war-fighting doctrine of today,” said Martin. “A three-phased event would allow the staff to gain a perspective and appreciation for all three levels of war. Ultimately, this was our goal since the 13th SC(E) operates as an operational headquarters and must understand and coordinate up, down and across these levels.”

Dr. David Chrisman, history professor at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, assisted in the event. He led the first phase in the classroom by providing a lecture which covered the strategic context surrounding the campaign and the greater operational environment. Additionally, Chrisman attended the staff ride, adding insight, a historical perspective, and intimate details not generally found in history books through expertise gained from his extensive study of Texas history.

“It was refreshing to see Soldiers engaged in active learning and the application of history,” said Chrisman. “It was also very nice to see so many of the 13th

[SC(E)] prepared for the staff ride. The Soldiers of the 13th Sustainment Command are wonderful, and it was an honor for me to participate in the exercise.”

The key to success of the entire professional development session, according to Martin, was the integration of the staff into the research and analysis of the battle.

“The staff ride deepened the staff’s understanding of each other and the terrain surrounding San Jacinto, including the importance of how the terrain and long supply lines affected the logistical challenges,” said Martin. “It also provided a great example of what it means to have a militarily dominant force overcome by extended lines of communication, poor morale, and even poorer decision-making.”

The 13th SC(E) staff was divided into groups representing the six war-fighting functions: movement and maneuver, intelligence, fires, sustainment, command and control, and protection. During the second classroom session and at the battlefield site, the groups presented their analysis based on the war-fighting function assigned to them. This allowed for every officer to have direct involvement in the learning process.

“My greatest take away from the event was the camaraderie built with the other officers who attended,” said Maj. Lou Castillo, assistant operations officer with the 13th SC(E). “Texas has a long, proud history that provides Texans with a strong sense of independence and state pride.”

The Battle of San Jacinto, fought on April 21, 1836, in present-day Harris County, Texas, was the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution. Led by Gen. Sam Houston, the Texan Army engaged and defeated General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna’s Mexican army in a fight that lasted just 18 minutes. Approximately 630 Mexican soldiers were killed and 730 captured in the battle, compared to only nine Texas soldiers killed.

Fueling the Fight

Wrangler Soldiers train to refuel on move

By Spc. Adam A. Erlewein
4th Sust. Bde Public Affairs

Wrangler Soldiers from the 53rd Quartermaster Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, set-up a Refuel on the Move (ROM) training exercise on Fort Hood.

The training event was for Soldiers to set-up in the field as quickly and efficiently as possible to gain experience on how to properly assemble a ROM.

“Preparing a ROM is not the same as setting up a fuel point,” said Sgt. Charles Plater, a native of Westland, Mich., and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the event, as he explained that a fuel point is an operation that fills vehicles completely and is performed in a relatively safe environment. “A ROM is used during a combat environment to quickly fill vehicles with enough fuel to finish their mission, using a timing method for different vehicles.”

Humvees that came to the ROM site were only given 30 seconds of fuel before they were told to leave the fueling area, but medium vehicles were given one minute to refuel.

The ROM site consisted of one fuel truck, with several hoses, leading out to different areas approximately 50 feet away from the truck and 20 feet from each fueling point. Because this was supposed to be treated as a tactical

environment Soldiers were also placed along the perimeter of the truck to provide security, just like a real combat situation.

According to Warrant Officer Ricardo Silva, from the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a ROM is supposed to be fully operational in approximately 15-20 minutes. Wrangler Soldiers were able to assemble their ROM in approximately 20 minutes even though most of the Soldiers have never assembled a fuel point and were dealing with difficult weather conditions.

“We are trying to get back to the basics of MOS (military occupational specialty) specific training by doctrine, in a tactical environment. We have trained on this in the motor pool but never in a field environment, timed, with different weather conditions,” said Silva.

With the last vehicle fueled, Soldiers began to quickly disassemble the ROM with speed and precision, knowing exactly what to do, after they had filled approximately 24 vehicles.

“It was a success for us, and if we ever have to come do this again we are going to be able to set this ROM up even faster than we did today,” said Plater.

Wrangler Soldiers from the 53rd Quartermaster Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade fuel a vehicle during a Refuel on the Move (ROM) training event near training areas Brook Haven and Curry Mortar Complex Nov. 22, 2013. This was one of several fueling points being used during the training event to train Soldiers how to properly assemble a ROM.

Photo by Spc. Adam A. Erlewein, 4th Sust. Bde PAO



Soldiers from the 53rd Quartermaster Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade set-up a Refuel on the Move (ROM) using a fuel truck on Fort Hood.

Photo by Spc. Adam A. Erlewein, 4th Sust. Bde. PAO

Wranglers partner with Dutch Army

4th Sust. Bde. Soldiers conduct sling load ops

By Spc. Adam A. Erlewein
4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs



Photo by Spc. Adam A. Erlewein, 4th Sust. Bde. PAO

Sgt. Steven Freeman, a native of Elizabeth, N.J., from the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, attaches a hook to a UH-47 Chinook helicopter during a sling load operation with members of the Dutch military at Training Area 42, Fort Hood, Texas, March 7, 2014. A sling load operation is conducted by attaching supplies or vehicles to the bottom of a hovering helicopter by using hooks or straps.



FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers from 553rd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion and the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade assisted Soldiers from the Netherlands during sling load operations at Training Area 42, Fort Hood, Texas, March 7, 2014.

The joint sling load training was performed by Dutch pilots flying a UH-47 Chinook Helicopter while U.S. Soldiers conducted the ground operations.

Sling load operations are quick methods of transporting large items, such as vehicles, food, and water supplies by attaching the “load” to the bottom of a UH-60 Blackhawk or Chinook helicopter using straps and hooks.

Wrangler Soldiers helped to guide the Dutch pilots to a water container weighing approximately 500 pounds; the Wranglers displayed their expertise and speed by working in a three man team, attaching two of the containers to the helicopter.

Spc. Jonathan Washington, a native of Los Angeles, from 4th STB, was one of the team members on the ground hooking the loads to the helicopters for the Dutch pilots. Washington was tasked with ensuring the water containers were equally balanced on the aircraft by properly attaching the hooks to the front and rear straps.

“We hooked up one to the front and one to the back so the loads won’t get tangled together. It’s important because it’s a safety issue, it can cause it to crash because it’s off-balance,” said Washington.

Sgt. Steven Freeman, a native of Elizabeth, N.J., from the 4th STB, was one of the experienced Wrangler Soldiers assisting with the sling load attachment. Freeman was also responsible for the overall safety of the crew working to attach the containers underneath the helicopter.

Freeman, Wrangler Soldiers, and Dutch Soldiers conducted more than 10 sling load operations, hooking up the water containers in various fashions; the Wranglers were excited and eager to help out their foreign allies.

“Everyone was excited to be out there working with the Dutch. It wasn’t the usual training, it was something out-of-the-box different where we can get some hands on experience and work with the aircraft coming in, and also rigging training, that we don’t get to do a lot of and it was good working with them,” said Freeman.

Sgt. Maj. Edwin Pater, a native of Harderwijk, Netherlands, in charge of Helicopter Operations at the 21st Cav., said his soldiers will be conducting various training operations over the next nine weeks, executing more difficult sling load operations as the training progresses.

“Without the 4th Sustainment we would not be able to do our training on this level,” said Pater. “So many details are changing because of the difference in regulations, you can see they are specialists, same as the sergeant. It’s safe, it’s clear. No question marks...it gives us rest and good feeling to know ‘Hey guys it’s good,’” said Pater.



Wrangler Soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade move to the safety area after loading a Chinook helicopter, piloted by the Dutch military, with two 500 gallon water containers during a joint sling load training missions at Training Area 42 landing strip March 7.

Photo by Spc. Adam A. Erlewein, 4th Sust. Bde. PAO



Photo by Maj. Joe Odorizzi, 13th SC(E) PAO

Col. Matt Melvin, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) assistant chief of staff for operations, provides opening remarks at the Expeditionary Sustainment Command conference March 20 at Fort Hood.

13th SC(E) hosts expeditionary sustainment command conference

By Maj. Joseph Odorizzi
13th SC(E) PAO

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) hosted an Expeditionary Sustainment Command conference with leadership from two Army National Guard and one Army Reserve sustainment commands March 20 at the unit's headquarters building.

Senior leadership from the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Alabama National Guard, the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Mississippi National Guard, and the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, an Army reserve unit from San Antonio, participated in the two-day conference. The purpose of the conference was to synchronize sustainment functions across the four units in order to leverage training opportunities and solidify professional relationships.

"The conference complies with the Total Army Force policy set forth by the Chief of Staff of the Army," said Col. Keith Sledd, deputy commander of the 13th SC(E). "We hope to gain an understanding of capabilities, highlight and establish training opportunities, and gain an understanding of the differences and similarities between active, reserve and National Guard component ESCs."

The Total Army Force policy, signed by Secretary of the Army John McHugh on Sept. 4, 2012, integrates the Army's three main components and represents the realization of the total force concept.

Its goal is to facilitate a more balanced total force and ensure that the three components learn and build upon experiences gained in the last decade of war. "This was an excellent opportunity to interact with points of contact from the other ESCs and exchange ideas between commanders and staffs," said Lt. Col. Mark Holland, operations officer for the 135th ESC. "I hope that we can establish regular teleconferences and training synchronization opportunities to build upon the relationships we established here."

The conference began March 19 with a social event at a local barbeque restaurant in Harker Heights. The bulk of the conference was held in the 13th SC(E) conference room on March 20 with breakout sessions held in the afternoon to discuss various topics; command and control, training opportunities, lessons learned and logistics support.

Based on discussions held at the conference, officers from the 13th SC(E) operations section attended the 4th ESC's yearly training brief in San Antonio. This is the type of interaction that leadership from the four units hopes to increase moving forward.

"We hope to hold an event like this at least annually, if not semi-annually," said Sledd. "At a minimum, we would like to conduct it by video teleconference, but we would also like to hold it at rotating locations in the future to visit each unit's footprint."

21st CSH Soldier receives Purple Heart



Photo by Maj. Joe Odorizzi, 13th SC(E) PAO

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), pins the Purple Heart on Sgt. Richard A. Blackwell, 21st Combat Support Hospital, 1st Medical Brigade, during a ceremony Monday at Fort Hood. Blackwell sustained combat wounds in June 2007 while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By Staff Sgt. Lisa Eaton
1st Med. Bde.

Nearly four years after sustaining wounds during a mortar attack in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sgt. Richard A. Blackwell of the 21st Combat Support Hospital, 1st Medical Brigade, received the Purple Heart in a ceremony at the unit's motor pool June 2.

Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., commanding general of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), presented the award to Blackwell in front of a formation of 21st CSH Soldiers at the 1st Medical Brigade motor pool.

"I called my wife and told her that I was getting one of those 'purple' clothed medals," said Blackwell. His wife was also on hand at the ceremony to witness the award presentation.

Blackwell, a medical maintenance technician, was on

his third deployment to Iraq in June 2007 when he sustained his injuries. At the time, he was working as a biomedical maintenance technician with the 28th Combat Support Hospital out of Fort Bragg, N.C., based in Mosul.

On June 21, 2007, Blackwell was performing his duties on a routine rotation with his unit at the Iba Sina Hospital located in the "Green Zone" in Baghdad. At approximately 9 a.m., the alarm on the installation sounded, indicating incoming indirect fire rounds. Blackwell was running to seek shelter with other Soldiers when a 120 millimeter mortar detonated 25 meters behind him. In the ensuing explosion, he was sent through the air and thrown into a T-wall barrier.

Following the aftermath of the attack, Blackwell was treated for shrapnel wounds and mild traumatic brain injury. Shortly after treatment, he returned to duty and completed his tour; returning to Fort Bragg with his unit in August 2007.

"Knowing that he remained in Iraq and completed the mission is a testament to Sgt. Blackwell's true character," said Chief Warrant Officer-2 William Sexton, Blackwell's supervisor. "He has always placed his Soldiers, his unit, and the Army first and is a true example of selfless service."

Sexton has known and worked with Blackwell for over four years.

"Do not be afraid of how you will act when things happen. You will react the way you are trained and suppose to," Blackwell told the assembled Soldiers at the ceremony. "If you get hurt just remember we have the best combat support hospital and medical personnel in the world. Last but not least take the time to take care of yourself and your battle buddies for that is your Family while you are down range."

Fort Hood maintenance chiefs train on engine diagnostic equipment

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

Senior maintenance warrant officers from across several units on Fort Hood attended Caterpillar maintenance training at the Regional Training Site – Maintenance here.

Jimmy Lundy, the senior technical instructor for Holt/Caterpillar, based out of San Antonio, said the training week started with classroom discussions about the Maintenance Support Device and Electronic Training Manuals followed by several days of hands-on practical exercises diagnosing mechanical issues in several different vehicles.

Lundy said the training was important for the maintenance technicians who had little to no previous experience with the Caterpillar engine systems to have an opportunity to really dig into the systems and gain some firsthand familiarity working on the engine.

The training was coordinated through the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s Support Operations section by working with the U.S. Army's Ordnance Regiment's Chief Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Terry Hetrick, and Rich Gardner of Caterpillar, according to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Douglas Evans, maintenance chief with the 13th SC(E) SPO's Materiel Readiness Branch.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph Thomas, the squadron maintenance technician for Fires "Steel" Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, said the training was beneficial for him to be able to gain a wider knowledge of the equipment capabilities.

"We've had this equipment in our motor pools, but now we can have a better understanding of how it works and what it can do for us," said Thomas. "I can take back this knowledge and share it with my motor sergeants and Soldiers and improve our individual motor pool operations."

"This equipment (Maintenance Support Device) will certainly save us both time and money," Thomas continued. "We can plug in the computer and, through reviewing the codes, we can determine where a fault is



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

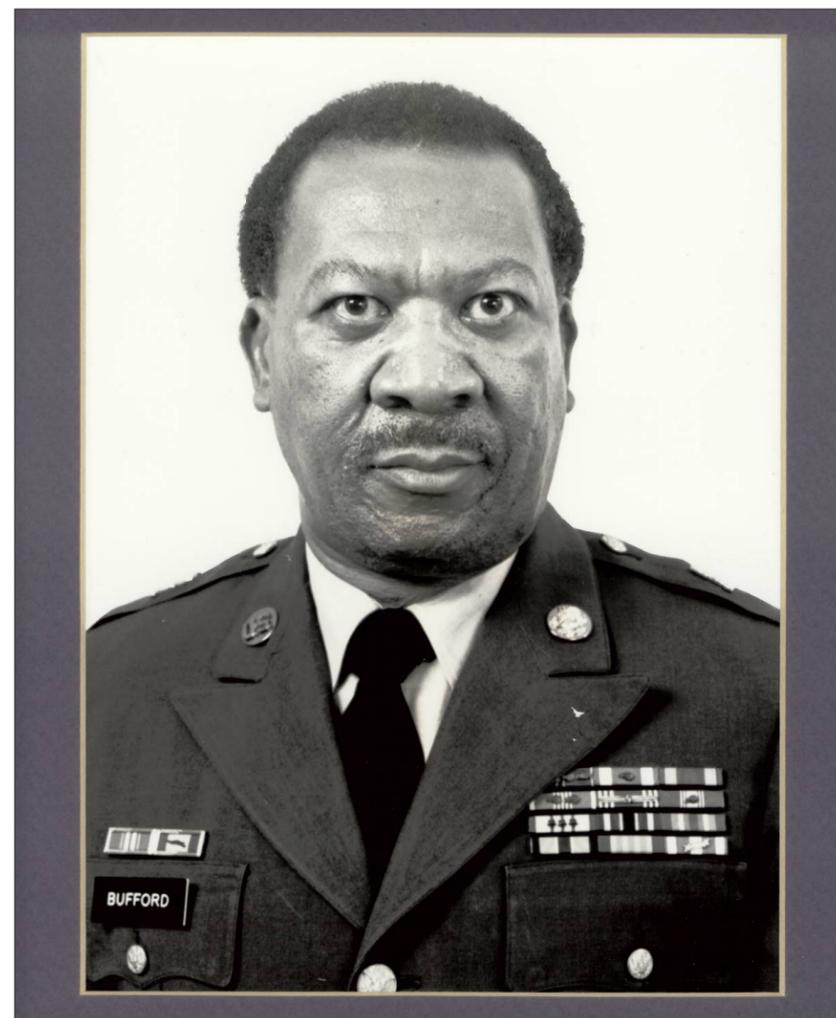
Jimmy Lundy, the senior technical instructor for Holt/Caterpillar, based out of San Antonio, reviews error codes with a group of warrant officers attending Caterpillar Engine maintenance training at the Fort Hood Regional Training Site – Maintenance. The training week started with classroom discussions about the Maintenance Support Device and Electronic Training Manuals followed by several days of hands-on practical exercises diagnosing mechanical issues in several different vehicles.

located in the engine and repair that part. The alternative would be to dig through the engine in hopes of finding a small issue and if not being able to find that problem having to replace the entire engine. It is simple math; being able to replace a \$10 part, versus an entire engine is going to save a lot of money and will save the mechanic a lot of time trying to repair a vehicle. In turn we can get the vehicle back into the fight quicker so the Soldiers can accomplish their missions."

Evans said coordinating this training for Fort Hood will be valuable for those warrant officers and well worth the time away from their units.

"Taking this many warrant officers away from their units is challenging with all of the competing requirements of gunneries, field training and daily operations," said Evans, however also adding that the training provided will be beneficial for those warrant officers in attendance and their units. "I believe this training will help us diagnose these engines and save the Army money. If we avoid replacing one engine by repairing it, then the training has paid for itself. All of this will increase readiness as we diagnose faster with better accuracy. Bringing this type of training to our Soldiers will help us cut contractor cost and build confidence in their abilities."

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Benson Bufford Jr. September 2, 1933 - May 9, 2014



The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was saddened by the recent passing of one of our former leaders, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Benson Bufford Jr., who died May 9, 2014, in Killeen at the age of 80.

Born September 2, 1933 in Camden, Ala., Command Sgt. Maj. Bufford was drafted into the United States Army in October of 1953, serving honorably until his retirement on Sept. 2 1983.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bufford served in a variety of positions during his 30 years of service

to include Supply Specialist, Personnel Management Specialist, Administrative Supervisor for the Depot Property Division, Personnel Sergeant, Chief Pay NCO, Records Branch NCOIC, and a Management Supervisor. Progressively working his way up the ranks, he was promoted to the Army's highest enlisted rank of Sgt. Major on November 27, 1968.

Bufford served his combat duty in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division from March 1970 until May 1971. Upon his return to Fort Hood he was assigned as the Personnel

Sergeant Major, 546th Personnel Services Company, and on Dec. 2, 1974, he was appointed to Command Sgt. Maj. of the 1st Personnel and Administration Battalion, where he remained until he was reassigned to Thailand in August 1975.

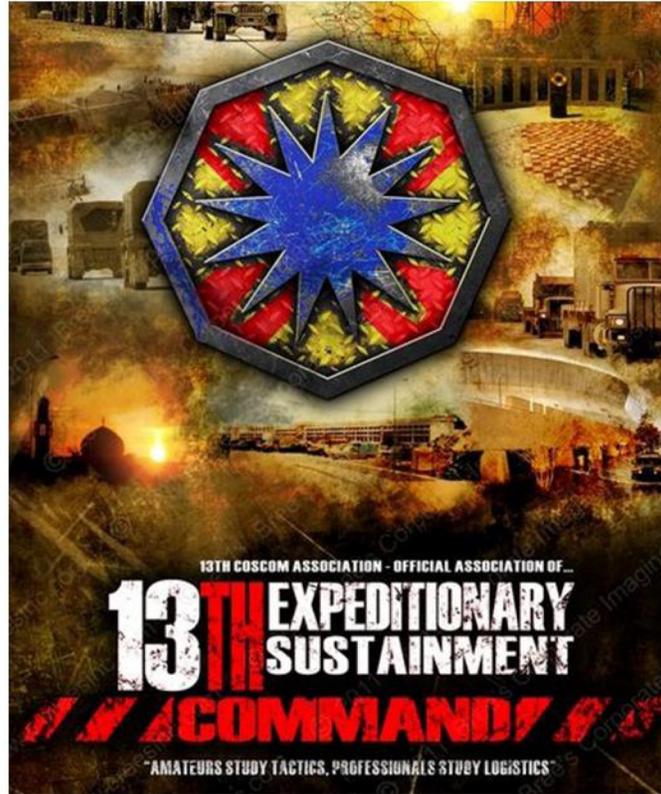
He served as the Command Sgt. Maj., USMACTHAI Support Group and Camp Samea San, until February 1976 when the unit was deactivated. On May 17, 1976, following his assignment as Command Sgt. Maj. with 4-9 Cavalry, 6th Cavalry Brigade, he was selected as Command Sgt. Maj., 13th Support Command (Corps) and served in that position until retirement.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bufford is survived by two sons: Joseph Benson Bufford III (Heidi) and Larry Leonard Bufford (Loretta) of Killeen; two sisters: Jessie Mae of Camden, Ala., and Beatrice Davis (Alphonso) of Killeen; brother-in-law: Curtis Watson; nieces: Leonore Johnson (Leo) and Anna Pickens; nephews: Leonard Marshall and Daryl Pickens; and a host of extended family members, loved ones and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Willie and Joseph Benson Bufford Sr.; his loving wife of fifty-nine years: Odessa Bufford; one sister: Bessie Mae Bufford; and one granddaughter: Ursula Lilley.

Funeral Services were held May 19, 2014 at the Marlboro Heights Missionary Baptist Church in Killeen. He was buried with Full Military Honors at the Central Texas State Veteran's Cemetery in Killeen. For more information on memorials, please visit the Chisolm's Family Funeral Home website at www.chisolmfuneral.com.



13TH COSCOM ASSOCIATION



WHO WE ARE:

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

WHAT WE DO:

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

HOW TO JOIN:

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

HOW TO CONNECT:

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

HOW TO SUPPORT:

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

www.13cca.org