

The Castle

Fall/ Winter
2016



The Castle

Fall/Winter 2016



Commander:

Maj. Gen. Tracy A. Thompson

Command Sergeant Major:
Command Sgt. Maj. Richard
Castelveter

412th TEC Public Affairs:
Maj. Patrick Bishop
Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley

The Castle is a quarterly, unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of Army regulation 360-1. The opinions and views expressed in this publication are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or Department of the Army.

Letters and comments are welcomed by the staff and should be sent to:

The 412th TEC
Public Affairs Office
ATTN: The Castle
1265 Porters Chapel Rd.
Vicksburg, MS 39180-5790

To contact the 412th TEC Public Affairs staff: Call the PAO at (601) 631-6103 or the NCOIC at (601) 631-6176 or Email
[usarmy.usarc.412-eng-cmd.mbx.
public-affairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.usarc.412-eng-cmd.mbx.public-affairs@mail.mil)

Contents

A Word from the Commander.....	4
The Command Sergeant Major's Corner.....	5
Reserve Soldier wins Bronze.....	7
Soldier's life-saving helmet returned	8
Heroism forged by fire.....	10
Army Olympian Soldiers-on	12
Active shooter training	14
Army Reserve retirement.....	16
Army Family Programs	20
Army Fitness/ poor diet.....	22
88th RSC hosts SHARP training	24
Impaired driving.....	26
CPX prepares Soldiers.....	28
Building fences brings community/ military together	30
Operation Resolute Castle.....	32
Medical Proficiency Overseas	34
Soldiers renovate orphanage.....	36
Engineers deploy to support Spartan Shield	38
841st leave mark.....	40
FEST teams deploy to South Korea	42
Know your leaders	44

The 412th Theater Engineer Command 'Build To Serve'

About the Front Cover: Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, Chief Army Reserve and his wife, Mrs. Julie Luckey pose with Mrs. Melissa A. Gillespie from the 391st Engineer Battalion, Greenville, S. C., after completing the 32 annual Army Ten-Miler Race October 9, 2016. Luckey assumed duty as the Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command on June 30, 2016. Turn to page 44 to learn more about our chain of command.

HERE IT COMES

Frontal Collisions

In a collision, you can't escape the laws of physics. Always leave room to maneuver.

READY ...OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead - both the known and unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



<https://safety.army.mil>

Major General Tracy Thompson

Commanding General, 412th TEC

A word from the Commander

You don't get a second chance at making a first impression, and I'm afraid many units are not making very good first impressions on their new Soldiers. If you doubt this statement, I would ask each of you to recall how you were greeted at your unit: Did you get a welcome letter or packet before your first Battle Assembly? Did you get a sponsor? Were they friendly, well-informed and –most of all – helpful? I'm not sure I would want to know how many of you answered “no” to most of those questions, and that's not good.



Our units have many excellent leaders, and the vast majority are true professionals at their core mission. But if new Soldiers aren't properly cared for from the start, even those units can appear disorganized -- and the new Soldiers can waste valuable time in the wrong places with the wrong people.

Every unit must have not only a sponsorship program, but a good sponsorship program. That is not a request.

Don't just assign a sponsor, assign the right person to be a sponsor. Give that sponsor a list of specific things to do and ensure he or she is someone you know will do those things well. Also, sponsorship should start before battle assembly, not at sign-in. This is not meant to be the comprehensive list for how to do sponsorship right, but just the foundation for my intent.

The 412th TEC as of today has 12, 841 Soldiers, so why am I as the CG talking about Sponsorship? Because the sponsors are our ambassadors to all our new unit members. They will set the stage for us. You work hard to create great units and cohesive teams, so start it off right by bringing your new teammates on board with the dignity they deserve.

Thanks
Essayons!

Command Sergeant Major Richard Castelveter

Command Sergeant Major, 412th TEC

A word from the CSM

Earlier this year, Department of Defense Secretary Ash Carter, in his summer safety memorandum stated that last summer; our military lost 71 Service members to fatal accidents, mostly motor vehicle and water sports accidents, many that likely could have been avoided. While 71 deaths might seem like an insignificant and small number of fatalities, given the total size of our military force, one death, one that could have been prevented, is one death too many.



We live in a fast paced world, inspired by a need for speed and shrouded by a surplus of distractions, like our obsession to use electronic devices and processes that have become a normal part of our daily lives. For example, texting has all but replaced email in many age groups; texting while driving. "Selfies" have become another new norm, unfortunately, in some social media circles, we see these photos taken by drivers in moving motor vehicles.

With developing technology, the continued proliferation of the use of hands free devices, global positioning systems, and the likes, it is becoming a common sight to see people driving while distracted, talking on the phone behind the wheel at high rates of speed where reaction time is critical. Pokémon Go, the latest rage in our nation alone has resulted in numerous deaths and injuries as user attention appears to be hyper focused on the game and not the consequence of the distraction. I was horrified when I read that two young men walked off a California cliff while playing the game. It is even more perplexing knowing that this game is being played while driving.

In our world, the U.S. Army, recently an 18-wheel vehicle, carrying ammunition as part of a military convoy, overturned, killing nine soldiers who died in that unfortunate and unnecessary Texas accident. This is an all too familiar story and a narrative that must change.

I sense that most of us believe that we are immune from such accidents. Sadly, we are not.

-CSM continued on page 6

-CSM continued from page 5

We can make a difference – we must make a difference -- in preventing any loss or injury of our military family, whether on duty, en route or returning home from service. We have an obligation to train, and carry out that training, employing the fundamentals of that training before engaging a moving vehicle, government or privately owned.

Of equal importance is eradicating the irresponsible actions of driving under the influence of alcohol or while taking medications. Impaired driving kills innocent people, make no mistake about it. If you are a participant in such reprehensive actions, stop it now ... save a life, especially yours.

So what can we do?

- As leaders, we must emphasize, every day and in everything we do, the importance of safety. This is a top to bottom responsibility, a clear demonstration of our commitment to a safe work environment.
- Responsible decision making is essential. I strongly implore you to establish situational awareness in carrying out your mission. Think about where you are and where you are going and what is happening around you and what might occur along the way. Ask yourself, how can I complete my mission remaining safe and keeping my fellow soldiers and my family safe?
- Commitment to safety is a shared responsibility, an essential leadership quality at all levels, regardless of rank. We must educate ourselves though sustainable training.
- Rewarding safe acts and reducing workplace accidents will go a long way.

In more practical and common sense terms, drive with consciousness; do not drink while driving; conduct all required maintenance on your vehicles, pre and post departure; always maintain a safe speed and distance between vehicles; wear your seat-belt; and do not use electronic devices while behind the wheel.

Making smart choices is imperative. We all make choices, some good and some bad, at times resulting in undesired consequences. It is incumbent on all of us to make responsible decisions.

You can save a life, especially yours.

Thank You and God Bless America!
CSM Castelveter

U.S. Army Reserve Soldier wins bronze medal in men's pole vault at 2016 Olympic Games

Army Reserve 2nd Lt. Sam Kendricks earned the bronze medal during the men's pole vault final at his first-ever Olympic competition with a jump of nineteen feet and two inches.

Thiago Braz da Silva (Brazil) won the gold medal, and current world record holder Renaud Lavillenie (France) took silver medal honors.

Kendricks came a long way last night as an accomplished Soldier-athlete from a small Mississippi town. Excelling as a track and field athlete throughout high school, his military and pole vaulting careers took off as a freshman at the University of Mississippi.

He joined Ole Miss' ROTC program to earn money for tuition, enjoying continued success as a pole vaulter on the school's track team. Kendricks also won NCAA championships in 2013 and 2014 while breaking the university's indoor pole vault record. He began his rise to global prominence at the 2015 World Championships in Beijing, placing ninth in the finals.

Kendricks set an Olympics trials record during the 2016 World Indoor Championships, taking first place in the men's pole vault at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials in Eugene, Ore., securing a spot on Team USA.

His best jump this season was 19 feet and five inches — second only to 2012 gold medal winner Lavillenie, who set the current world pole vaulting record in 2012 with a height of 20 feet and three inches.



U.S. Army Reserve 2nd Lt. Sam Kendricks strives to make his way over the bar as he trains for the Rio 2016 Olympics at his former high school, Oxford High School, in Oxford, Miss., July 27, 2016. Kendricks, a member of the Army Reserve 655th Transportation Company in Millington, Tenn., will be competing in the pole vault event for Team U.S.A. *(Photo by Franklin Childress)*

Soldier's life-saving helmet returned

Maj. Pat Bishop

New York-area Army Reserve Soldier, Staff Sgt. Frankie Hernandez from the 668th Engineer Company, Orangeburg, New York, received a personally important piece of his military equipment back, the Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH) that saved his life at a ceremony at the Orangeburg Reserve Center. Sept. 10.

This event is part of PEO Soldier's Personal Protective Equipment Returns program to build confidence among military personnel regarding the safety and dependability of their gear.

Several members of Staff Sgt. Hernandez's unit attended the event and the 668th chain of command took part in the presentation ceremony that reunited Hernandez with his life-saving ACH. Hernandez was also awarded the Purple Heart in July of 2012 for the wounds he received due to injuries sustained.



On May 18, 2012, Hernandez was driving an up-armored D7 bulldozer in Afghanistan during an operation to build a road that would serve a U.S. Army infantry unit. Hernandez remembered, "It was towards the end of the mission when we came to a point where we needed to adjust the direction we were going."

Hernandez stepped out of his up-armored bulldozer to consult with two Army infantry officers on how to proceed with the construction mission. While he was consulting the map with the infantry captains, they heard a loud noise coming from the engine compartment of the bulldozer. All three turned to look. "The captain that was on my right asked me what it was," Hernandez said. "As I turned to answer -- I don't remember what I was going to say to him -- I felt the impact on my helmet, and on my head."

Hernandez had been fired upon, but his advanced combat helmet had stopped the bullet from hitting his head. "I was kind of numb. I didn't know what had happened," Hernandez said. "So I told the captain to my right, I told him, 'I think I got hit.'" The captain confirmed for Hernandez that he'd been hit on the helmet. At that point, the men dropped to the ground and sought cover on the other side of the bulldozer. Hernandez called for the other bulldozer to pull up to provide additional cover. An infantry captain called for gun support.

Today, Hernandez finds it hard to describe exactly what was going through his mind after being hit by gunfire. "One second you're talking normal," he said. "And then the next your whole body goes numb. You get like a ringing sensation in your ear. ... I thought about a lot of things: family, friends, my Soldiers. Everything was going through my head at the same time."

One thing Hernandez knows for sure about the moments immediately after being fired upon is that his battle buddies were there for him when he needed them most. "It felt like I

was alone,” he said. “Then all of a sudden, out of everywhere, I had back up. They came and they had my back and they helped me. That was such a relief.” He remembers feeling angry at being shot, but concerned for the other troops and concerned for his own welfare, because he had no idea of the degree of seriousness of his injury. “I didn’t know whether or not we were going to get back up, or get cover fire, or get support,” he said. “Everything goes through your head really fast.”

Back home in the United States, Hernandez said, he had a fiancée, Deborah Galdames. He knew she was worried for his safety. Since Hernandez and Galdames had become a couple, Hernandez had already served two deployments. This was the third. It was the first time he had been seriously injured. She was the first person he told that he had been shot. She wasn’t pleased. “I started picturing different things in my head, like how serious is it? Is he coming home?” she said. “Is this it? Is it ending his military career? Luckily, it’s not so serious. He’s okay. And he’s able to continue to do what he has to do.”

Galdames said that the best advice she can offer to other fiancées of service members and for military spouses is just to be there for their Soldiers to provide support and understanding. “Even though we’re together and building a life together, the military is his life too,” she said. “I try to stand by his side and be there for him and be understanding.”

During his Afghanistan tour, Hernandez was able to return home on leave to visit his friends and family, knowing full well he would eventually have to go back, even though he had been shot. He said that was difficult for his friends and family to accept, especially his mother. “They weren’t too happy about that,” Hernandez said. “But they have been with me through thick and thin since I joined the military. If it wasn’t for the love and support and encouragement, I probably wouldn’t have been able to come back.”

For Hernandez, serving in the Army was about more than a fulfilling a contract, or earning a paycheck -- it had to do with his brothers in arms. “It has to do with the guys I go back to,” he said. “That’s it.”

When protective equipment like Hernandez’s helmet fulfills its role in combat -- by taking fire -- the Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier bring it back to evaluate how well the gear performed. At the return ceremony, Col. Dean Hoffman, Program Manager of Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment at PEO Soldier, spoke on his agency’s Life Cycle management efforts in developing, producing and fielding the best possible PPE.

Hoffman explained that such events remind Soldiers of the value of their personal protective equipment. “When we do a ceremony like this, what it does is it says, one, you’re going to get the best equipment the Army can provide, and two, that it works,” Hoffman said. “And that’s the big takeaway. But you’ve got to wear it and use it to your advantage, with that same heart and dedication we saw with Hernandez. He’s been shot, been through two improvised explosive devices, but he still continues to be in the fight. He does what he loves.”

Hoffman said that Hernandez is alive today because of the work of the PEO Soldier team, Army scientists and engineers, and places like Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Army Research Laboratories and the Defense Logistics Agency. “Everybody in the lifecycle plays a key role,” Hoffman said. “We can’t do it alone. We need that total team working together to provide the best equipment.”

Heroism forged by fire

By Staff Sgt. Jason Proseus

Sgt. Logan Sutherland, a horizontal construction engineer with the 801st Engineer Company (Horizontal), received the highest award for valor while not engaged with an enemy, Aug. 7, 2016.

Sutherland is a modest Soldier with a big heart, a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, a student at Santa Rosa Junior College, California, and according to a quote from California Highway Patrol Officer Jonathan Sloat, given to KRON4, San Francisco, “just a citizen that happened to be driving by.”

Sutherland received the Soldier’s Medal for his heroism after risking his life, Jan. 1, 2015, by pulling a man from his burning car, and just narrowly escaping the impending conflagration which happened moments later.

It all started with Sutherland, his sister, and his girlfriend at the time, returning from a family get-together at his brother’s house. “We came up to a stop sign, and there was this kid, with a skateboard, flagging down drivers.” Explains Sutherland, “Then I saw the SUV with the engine compartment on fire.”

Sutherland and the skateboarding kid went to the driver’s door, and saw the driver, unconscious, had no way to get the door open. Thinking fast, Sutherland had the kid bash the back window of the SUV. They broke the back window so that the falling glass wouldn’t injure the driver. He then climbed through the still burning SUV to get to the unlock button on the door. He got the door open, and wrestled to get the seat belt off the driver. He and his fellow rescuer pulled the driver from the car and dragged him to the opposite side of the road.

“Once we got him down to the ditch, across the street, and away from the SUV, I looked up and the whole passenger area was completely on fire.” said Sutherland.

“From the moment we got there, to the time the police or the emergency vehicles



Col. William Morgan Jr., commander of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, decorates Sgt. Logan Sutherland with the Soldier’s Medal, Aug. 7, 2016, in Vallejo Calif. Sutherland, a horizontal construction engineer assigned to 801st EN CO (H), 315th EN BN, 301st MEB, on Jan. 1, 2015, risked his life by forcing himself into a burning vehicle, in order to evacuate an unconscious driver, and pulled the driver from the vehicle just before the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames, saving the driver’s life. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Timothy Neal/Released)

got there, it was no longer than five minutes,” said Molly Sutherland, Logan’s sister, “and the entire vehicle was in flames.”

Sutherland served on active duty from 2010 before transitioning to the Army Reserve to pursue a full-time education. He feels the training he got from being in the Army helped a great deal with saving the driver of the SUV. “I didn’t hesitate. My training helped with that.” Sutherland said. “I am definitely more confident in my abilities, because they’ve been tested and proven.”

Despite how close he came to injury or death in the rescue, Sutherland said he’d do it all again rather than standing by helplessly on the side of the road. “I don’t want to be that guy. You know. The guy who pulls out his cell phone to record. I want to help.”

“Logan has always been such a great kid.” said Molly, “I just watched him grow up to become this great guy, you know. I always know he’s there to help.” Molly, Sutherlands older sister by six years, recalls his metamorphosis from, that “annoying two year old,” to “goofy teenager,” to the “awesome kid he grew up to be today.”

Sutherland’s desire to help people is increasingly evident in his actions and aspirations. Sutherland researched the ongoing suicide dilemma facing Veterans and Soldiers. He saw the need to help. “I heard the stories about people calling the suicide helplines for Soldiers and Veterans, and they would get an answering machine.” Sutherland said, “I want to be there on the other line, giving them the help they need.”

Sutherland is studying psychology and is directing his studies to get the education needed to help veterans cope with PTSD, help with their transition into civilian life, and become a suicide counselor. “That’s the very Logan thing to do.” His sister proclaimed. “He joined the Army because he wanted to help people, and Logan studying psychology is right up there in the realm of Logan things.”

The award ceremony was held on Mare Island, an old Navy base located in Vallejo, California. Col. William Morgan Jr., the commander of the 301st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, the 801st EN CO’s higher headquarters, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Perry, were on hand to present Sutherland with the award.

“It was probably the best ceremony I’ve ever been to.” Said Sutherland. “All of what the speakers said was important, but short, and the actual ceremony was grand.” The event featured a ceremonial cake that was cut by the youngest and oldest Soldier, along with the 301st MEB command team. “That was pretty cool to watch.”

Sutherland is a modest guy that really didn’t want anyone to make a big deal out of his actions, and didn’t even want anybody to know he was involved. But, the news is out, and a hero has been recognized.

Army Olympian “Soldiers on” to complete 50K race walk at Rio Games

By Tim Hipps



Staff Sgt. John Nunn of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program competes in the men's 50-kilometer race walk Aug. 19 at the Rio Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. *U.S. Army photo by Tim Hipps, IMCOM Public Affairs*

Three-time Olympian Staff Sgt. John Nunn soldiered through an assortment of body cramps to finish 42nd in the men's 50-kilometer Race Walk at the Rio Olympic Games.

On a hot and humid day in Brazil, with temperatures rising into the upper 80s during the 31-mile race along an oceanfront course in Pontal, only 48 of the starting field of 67 competitors completed the race.

Reigning world champion Matej Toth of Slovakia won the race in 3 hours, 40 minutes and 58 seconds, followed by silver medalist Jared Tallent (3:41.16) of Australia and bronze medalist Evan Dunfee (3:41.38) of Canada.

Nunn, 38, a Soldier in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program who lives and trains in Bonsall, California, finished in 4:16.12 -- 35.14 minutes behind the gold medalist. Just past halfway through the race, he began to cramp.

"I went through halfway in 1 hour 59 minutes and felt comfortable with it and thought things were OK," Nunn said. "About 5K later, it felt like the wheels were falling off. I was able to hold a 5:30 [pace] the rest of the way in, but it just wasn't the 4:45 that I needed."

"I never stopped, but I certainly slowed," Nunn said. "It just wasn't what I was looking for. It was just a rough day."

Nunn said that the cramps were in his elbow, locking it up completely, his neck, and most critically, his hamstrings. “A couple times I had to slow down because the cramps would get so severe I couldn’t straighten the leg,” Nunn said.

The situation prompted Nunn, as he’s done many times, to call on Soldier training to help him complete the mission.

He said the Army teaches values in basic training that are still with you 20 years later. “They break you down and they rip you apart and they build you up the way they want you. I remember being a kid going through it and just thinking, ‘I want to quit. I don’t want to do this.’ but it just helps you to learn how to get through things in life that aren’t fun.”

Nunn welcomes the opportunity to Soldier through both the mental and physical challenges of the sport.

“I really enjoy the mind over matter,” Nunn explained. “You’re just fighting and fighting and you keep having to block out pain and push, but when you finish a 50K there’s a sense of accomplishment that you can accomplish anything in life if you put your heart to it.”

When Nunn crossed the finish line and tried to break stride into a normal walk, he nearly collapsed and had to be placed in a wheelchair and iced down for a few minutes before walking away under his own power. “My right hamstring seized up,” Nunn said. “I thought I could walk and then it started seizing and I was going to fall over.”

Nunn, who plans to apply for the Army’s physician assistant program, already is talking about the prospects of competing at the 2020 Tokyo Games at age 42. “The Olympics is always a great experience to be a part of, I just wish the end had gone a little better this year,” he said.

“You don’t keep going just to keep making Olympic teams, you keep going because you believe you can get better,” he said. “I would like to go to Tokyo. I feel like I’m better than this. I want that absolute perfect race when it finally just falls into place.

“I still would like to find that elusive perfect day.”



Active preparation

By Spc. Brianna Saville



FBI Special Agent Michael Culloton, left, and Lt. Col. Tim Tyler, chief financial officer with the 416th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) and Illinois State Trooper, demonstrate proper movement techniques with the M9 pistol, during active shooter training at the 416th TEC headquarters, Darien, Ill. The training provided by Special Agent Culloton gave Soldiers tools to react and protect themselves in an active shooter situation, Aug. 6, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brianna Saville/Released)

The 416th Theater Engineer Command conducted Active Shooter Training August 6, 2016 because of the threat of active shootings becoming more and more common. This is a sad reality that we have to face and properly prepare ourselves.

Being military, some people may think that we are automatically trained for these types of situation. Right? Wrong! This is a different ballpark. We're in our own backyard. It makes a difference. The point was stressed that we have to be prepared for the shooter to look just like us. Maybe even in uniform.

The briefing was conducted in a joint effort by Michael Culloton, FBI special agent and a former military police officer; Lt. Col. Tim Tyler of the 416th TEC, chief financial officer and an Illinois state trooper; and Sgt. Eric Urbanski of the 416th TEC, chemical biological radiological nuclear noncommissioned officer and an immigration and customs enforcement deportation officer.

Interestingly, Culloton was, at one point, Tyler's company commander when Tyler was a 2nd lieutenant. Today's reunion was a shock to both of them but that did not stop them from joining forces to give the most effective training possible, to the Soldiers of the 416th.

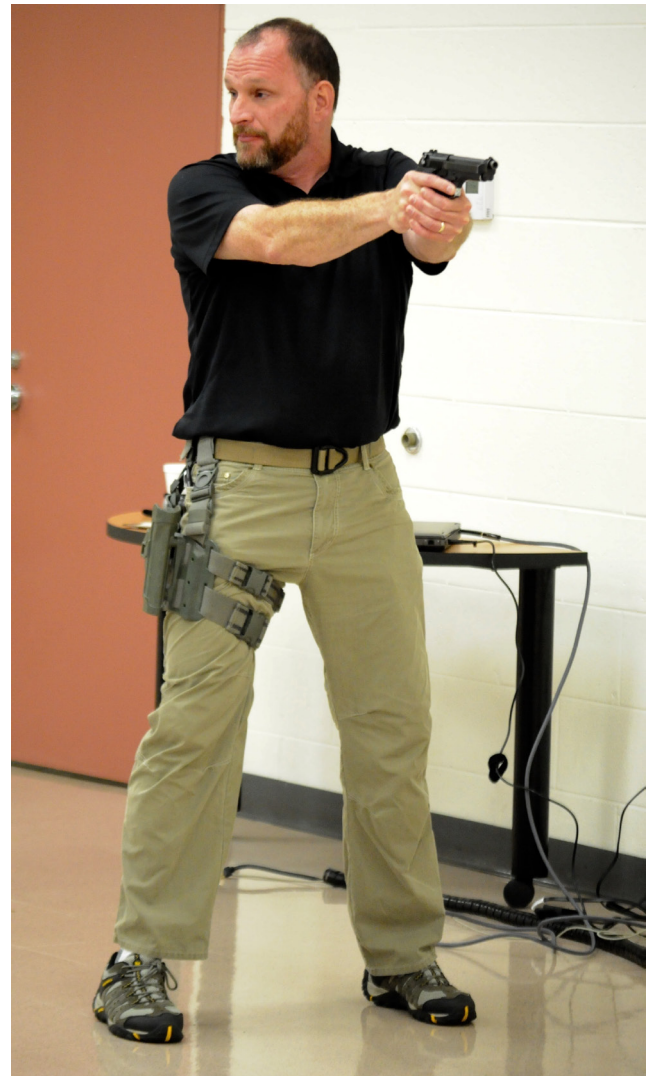
"It's important training to get out to the first responders and anyone that could potentially be in this situation. It's very important for all of us to be able to address this issue nowadays," said Culloton. There are three immediate steps that were stressed throughout the training. The steps are different ways to protect oneself during an active shooter situation. Run-Hide-Fight!

RUN: First and foremost, run. If you can get out of harm's way, do so and act quietly and swiftly. Help encourage others to move with you, but don't let them slow you down.

HIDE: If you don't have access to an immediate exit, hide. Barricade yourself if you can. Form a completely enclosed barrier that will protect you from the shooter and the shooter's weapon. Silence your phone, and stay as quiet as you can until you are given a signal that everything is all clear.

FIGHT: If you can't find an exit or there is nowhere for you to take cover, fight. Do everything you can to protect yourself and those around you. The shooter has already threatened your well being, by putting you in this situation. Don't be afraid to threaten theirs.

FBI Special Agent Michael Culloton demonstrates proper pistol handling and drawing techniques during Active shooter training at 416th Theater Engineer Command Headquarters, in Darien, Ill. The training provided by Special Agent Culloton gave Soldiers tools to react and protect themselves in an active shooter situation, Aug. 6, 2016. *(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brianna Saville/Released)*



In addition to those three points, Soldiers were taught a few more tactical hands-on approaches to help the situation. Soldiers learned to stop whatever they are doing when law enforcement arrives on scene. Keep their hands visible and clear at all times, identify themselves and follow any command given.

With the joint effort of the instructors, Soldiers of the 416th TEC were provided with very effective Active Shooter Training. "It really impacts the day to day operations here. It's kind of like bad weather, you can't really predict it but you have to stay prepared for it," said Spc. Michael J. Smith of the 416th Theater Engineer Command.

Soldiers have to always be prepared for any situation. They can't be stuck in the mind-set that something like this will never happen to them. Soldiers of the TEC must prepare like they know it will happen to them.

Preparation is key to Army Reserve retirement

By Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Chlosta

The 7th Mission Support Command hosted the 99th Regional Support Command Retirement Services Office bi-annual preretirement brief Aug. 20, 2016.

The 99th RSO briefs U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard military retirees and potential military retiree communities across Europe about USAR and NG retirement benefits and services twice a year with the 7th MSC providing support.

“As the only USAR command in Europe, 7th MSC drilling reservists, 7th MSC Active Guard Reserve and Soldiers who have retired from USAR while serving the 7th MSC attend this brief, “ said Philip Freeborn, G1, 7th Mission Support Command, who helped organize and promote the recent RSO brief.

The events are open to USAR Soldiers and spouses interested in receiving the latest information to assist in retirement or in preparation for retirement, with the 99th RSC RSO mostly gearing towards “Gray Area” retirees (USAR retirees before age 60), Freeborn said.

The purpose of the briefing is to make sure the knowledge and understanding of all the programs and opportunities afforded to retirees so that they can make informed decisions as they plan for retirement, he added.

The brief covered many topics included the survivor benefit program, reserve retirement points, discharge vs. the retired reserve, final retired pay, Space A availability, VA benefits, commissary and Post Exchange accessibility.

“I am a ‘gray area’ retiree and I just want to make sure I do the retirement pay process correctly and the survivor benefit program so my spouse is covered,” said retired Capt. Marvin Hoffland, who was a SETAF [Southern European Task Force] augmentation unit member and a former commander of the 663rd Movement Control Team.

“What I learned from today is to make sure my online accounts are up to date including my HRC [Human Resources Command] login, DoD [Department of Defense] Self-Service login,” Hoffland said.

“I feel really good about today’s turnout,” said Master Sgt. Kevin Watts, noncommissioned officer in charge, RSO, 99th Regional Support Command. “We were able

to reach out to some key leaders and get the word out to increase our numbers. Our goal is to reach as many USAR and National Guard Soldiers in Europe which is our area of responsibility for retirement support services.”

My tip to any Soldiers approaching military retirement is for them to update their AKO contact information and maintain a copy of their personnel and medical files, Watts added.

Another very important part of meeting was the VA benefits for retirees brief given by Kelly Griffitt, the VA Benefits Advisor at Soldier for Life in the Transition Assistance Program at U.S. Army Garrison-Vicenza.

“I appreciated the timelines they gave us for [VA] educational benefits,” said attendee Master Sgt. Elisabeth Hipolito from the 7th MSC.

“The importance of this brief is not to be taken lightly,” said Freeborn.

The brief is sponsored by The Army Soldier for Life Retirement Services Program which provides assistance to Soldiers and their Families preparing for, transitioning to or already in retirement.

Through a network of RSOs, the program provides counseling to these groups on their rights, benefits and entitlements, assists with Survivor Benefit Plan [SBP] elections, assists with Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan [RCSBP] elections and keeps the retiree population informed of law and benefit changes, Freeborn said.

“This brief is important because many Reserve Component Soldiers generally have a good idea of the benefits they are to receive,” said Col. Christopher Kuduk, 7th MSC. “The briefings the transition team conducts informs

-Continued on page 18



Master Sgt. Kevin Watts, noncommissioned officer in charge, Retirement Services Office, 99th Regional Support Command, right, speaks during the 7th Mission Support Command hosted bi-annual 99th RSC RSO preretirement brief, Aug. 20, 2016 (*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Chlosta*)

-Continued from page 17 Soldiers including retirees and their families on how, when and to whom they must apply to receive what they have earned through their time in service.

“A Soldier needs to know the onus is on them to submit the paperwork for the benefits,” Kuduk added. “The Reserve component and retiree community is simply too large and too geographically separated to reach down to each and every individual.”

“The Army wants the retiree to stay engaged with the organization, tell the Army story, and remain Army Strong as an example in their community about what it means to be a Soldier,” Freeborn said.

“I think the transition briefs have three main audiences,” Kuduk said. “The first are the Soldiers who are approaching 20 good years of service.”

When a Soldier gets his 20-year letter they will have to make some decisions, he added. The briefs inform Soldiers on the different options they should consider, Kuduk said. The transition team is able to perform points corrections, if Soldiers register ahead of time and bring documentation with them to validate their missing points.

“The second group are Soldiers who are past 20 years of service and will enter the ‘gray area’ of retirement where they are eligible for some benefits and not others,” Kuduk said. “This group probably benefits the most since they have questions pertaining to their individual situations the transition team can help to answer.

“The last group are ‘gray area’ retirees who are approaching age 60 or the age where they are eligible to receive retired pay,” Kuduk said. “They need to be informed on the process and timelines required to receive retired pay. The spouses of Soldiers and retirees in all three groups can benefit by asking questions pertaining to their particular situations.”


Preparation is key to Army Reserve retirement.

“I highly recommend all Army Reserve component Soldiers make the time and effort to attend one of these day-long briefings,” Kuduk said. “It’s about your future when your military career comes to a close. The briefings give you the tools to make informed decisions that will impact not only your life but those of your loved ones. Give this the time and effort it deserves. You won’t be disappointed.”

HERE IT COMES

The Great Outdoors

Autumn and winter offer a number of exciting activities for outdoor enthusiasts. However, they also present challenges unique to the cooler-weather months. Whether hunting, hiking or riding an ATV, ensure you're prepared for all the hazards the change of seasons bring.



READY ...OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their readiness for what lies ahead - both the known and unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?

<https://safety.army.mil>



U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs integral part of deployment process for Soldiers, Families

By Sgt. Christina Dion



Soldiers and Families gathered for the 99th Regional Support Command Yellow Ribbon event at the Weston Tyson Corner hotel in Falls Church, Va., June 10-12. Yellow Ribbon, a Department of Defense effort, promotes Soldiers and families by connecting them to community partners and with resources throughout the deployment cycle. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Christina M. Dion)

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey has stressed over the past couple years that unit and individual Soldier readiness is not

only a priority, but a necessity in today's Army. One way the U.S. Army Reserve Family Programs contributes to readiness is through the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

This effort is vital to readiness, said Brig. Gen. José R. Burgos, deputy commanding general of the 99th Regional Support Command headquartered at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

More than 300 Soldiers and Family members attended the Yellow Ribbon event June 10-12 at the Westin Tysons Corner Hotel to learn about Veteran's Affairs benefits, Tricare information, and legal assistance, as well as participate in classes and workshops that focused on communication and the reintegration process.

Since 2008 when the National Defense Authorization Act established the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, units from all over the U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard have been striving to make each event better than the last, said Cheryl Davis, 99th RSC Family Programs director. Although Family Programs does not own the Yellow Ribbon Program, those working with Yellow Ribbon support the program and assist with coordinating speakers and support services.

Some attendees have noticed the effort. Staff Sgt. Jacob Davis, a military police officer with the Military Intelligence Readiness Command, and his wife Lindsay said they appreciate all that's gone into making the event more helpful than ones they've attended in the past.

Davis, a Richmond resident who deployed to Cuba with the 88th Military Police Company out of Fort Eustis, Virginia, has deployed three times. This was a first for his

The Yellow Ribbon event was a Department of Defense effort through the 99th Regional Support Command June 10-12, enabling Soldiers and families to connect to community partners and with resources. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Christina M. Dion)

new wife, though.

Lindsay attended the pre-deployment event in El Paso, Texas, where he was doing his pre-deployment training, she said.



“I had done a lot of research on my own, so I had a lot of the information already, but it was at the very least nice to meet the other families that were also going to go through this,” she said. “I wish we had that experience sooner so we could have exchanged information sooner.”

“But, with this specific Yellow Ribbon, it has been exceptionally better in organization, scheduling, the information being provided,” she said. “While I still think it’s similar to what we’ve heard before, it’s been presented in different ways. Mr. William Freeman was excellent in his communications class.”

Both Lindsay and Jacob enjoyed Chap. (Lt. Col.) William Steen’s class and said he was terrific. “His perspective and his ability to humble himself enough to say that even as a chaplain he had significant issues coming back from his first deployment ... it made me feel better about the difficulties and challenges that we had faced.”

Although Lindsay said she and her husband thought the issues they were dealing with were really big at the time, they both said the chaplain put a perspective on it to help them understand that the issues weren’t as big as they thought.

Lindsay added that the individual who spoke on resiliency put a different perspective on the material as well.

“Although the activities seemed really unusual to draw pictures on the back of the paper, and do a little quiz to test your own resiliency, it brought forth a lot of ‘ah-ha’ moments, which are always positive,” she said.

“These events are vital. Not just for the Soldier, but for those of us at home navigating the challenges. If it weren’t for programs like this, we wouldn’t know where to start or where to go,” said Lindsay.

Overall, both Jacob and Lindsay said that they really enjoyed the Yellow Ribbon event and the program is important to their family to successfully get through all of the cycles of deployments. Jacob said this is why the program is so important to unit and Soldier readiness.

Even Master Fitness Training can't overcome a poor diet

By Capt. Matthew Collins



U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Scott Baranek assigned to 94th Training Division at Ft. Knox, Ky. talks about how to make good nutritional choices to improve personal performance on Aug. 23, 2016. (U.S. Army Reserve Photo by Sgt. Zechariah Gerhard, 345th Public Affairs Detachment) (Photo by Capt. Matthew Collins)

Baranek showed common grocery items to the class which most people would classify as healthy choices. As he explained they are not all created equal, "I think this is something we are all doing really wrong".

"What I found a lot of interest in teaching when this course began in 2014 was nutrition and the use of supplements. An old saying goes 'You can't out-train a bad diet' According to the U.S. Surgeon General two out of three deaths are a direct result from bad nutrition," Baranek explained. Heart disease, cancer, and obesity rank as the top three causes for death in the U.S. and are largely preventable.

Baranek spoke to students about how sugar consumption and inactivity have contributed to a "quadruple increase in obesity for kids 10 to 19 years old in the last 30 years. Every year since 1997 American obesity has risen, with only 30% of America currently achieving body mass index weight standards". In a powerful demonstration, Baranek held up two clear bags of sugar cubes and said that while the American Heart Association recommends a maximum daily intake of 35 grams of sugar for men and 28.5 grams for women we actually consume around 200 grams daily through added sugar food and drinks."

Over two years ago, Baranek set a goal to become a U.S. Army Reserve master fitness instructor to make a positive impact on the U.S. Army team and create unit level experts to further the program. "The biggest impact these students will have especially within the Army Reserve community is in program design. We teach them to create personal plans for each of their Soldiers that are gym based, civilian based, nutrition based and that can continue during the week."

Master fitness training student Staff Sgt. Saugat Brookshire, an Active Guard Reserve recruiter from Manassas, Virginia. mentioned that she has been in the Army for 12 years but would still like to learn more about calorie intake and improving her fitness

performance. “As a recruiter we don’t perform physical readiness training everyday due to our various schedules. What I plan to do with this training is to put the master fitness instruction into our unit training schedule to teach my fellow non-commissioned officers and Soldiers what good PRT looks like, how to improve our nutrition and what we need to do to improve our physical fitness.”

The master fitness course held this August 2016 was the last class at Fort Knox, Kentucky. before the class moved to Fort Dix, New Jersey to resume in 2017. For more information, prospective students can review the master fitness Facebook page by searching “USAR MFTC” and consult their unit schools representative.

MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES

Proper nutrition plays a major role in maintaining total fitness. Good dietary habits greatly enhance your ability to perform at your maximum potential. Eating a variety of foods and maintaining adequate energy balance are basic guidelines for a healthy diet. For Soldiers to get enough energy from the food they eat and to obtain the variety of foods needed for nutritional balance, they eat three meals a day. Even snacking between meals can contribute to good nutrition if the right foods are eaten. Another dietary guideline is to consume enough calories to meet your energy needs. Proper weight is maintained as long as the body is in energy balance, or, when the number of calories used equals the number of calories consumed. The following guidelines may help build lean muscle mass and create more energy:

- ☐ Eat high protein, low fat items such as: fish, beans, whole wheat pasta, egg whites, skim or 1 percent milk, and low fat yogurt. Avoid items such as: fried items, high fat meats, egg yolks, and whole milk.
- ☐ For a good source of vitamins eat a diet rich in raw or steamed vegetables, green leafy romaine, whole grain breads, and fruits with skin. Avoid fried vegetables, iceberg lettuce (no nutrients), white bread, and canned fruits in syrup.
- ☐ Good fats versus bad fats: Try to choose non-trans fat bread spreads and heart healthy margarine. Cook with olive oil or sunflower oil, omit or use less lard and meat fat. Limit or omit creamy salad dressings high in fat content, cookies, cakes, pies, and pastry goods. Furthermore, avoiding fast food is always a good way to help cut down on your fat intake.

The most accurate way to control caloric intake is to control the size of food portions you eat. You can use standard household measuring utensils and a small kitchen scale to measure portions of foods and beverages so you have a better idea of exactly what your portion sizes are. It may also be helpful to keep a daily record of all the foods you’ve eaten and physical activity you’ve done so you can balance your calorie intake against your physical output. A high intake of fats, especially saturated fats and cholesterol, has been associated with higher levels of blood cholesterol, so experts recommend eating less fatty food for better overall health.

This information on Army nutrition was provided by the United States Army recruiting website (GoArmy.com)

88th RSC hosts SHARP training course

By Zachary Mott



Sergeant 1st Class Justin Abbott, a student in the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Foundation Class and a member of the 76th Operational Response Command, conducts a practice counseling session with Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Gomez, a Soldier from 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), who was portraying sexual assault victim for this scenario, August 9 at Fort McCoy, Wis. The two-week course, presented by the 88th Regional Support Command, prepares Soldiers to serve as victim advocates at their assigned units. *(Photo by Zachary Mott)*

“Collateral duty victim advocates are normally the ones that are tasked with refresher training within the unit,” said Penny Gietzen, the command SARC for 88th RSC. “We try to prepare them with different tools, different videos and resources in general that they can use.”

Gietzen, who was also one of the instructors for this course, said the Foundation Course lessons begin with the basics. “We start with the legal movement, victim’s rights and how that’s progressed over the years,” she said.

From there, Gietzen said, the course tackles the intricacies of being a victim advocate and how to make a positive impact on preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault, starting at the lowest level. The course is divided into 15 chapters with practical exercises and role-playing scenarios helping to drive the points of each lesson home. Finally, students must pass an evaluation that tests their knowledge of the SHARP program and the lessons learned during the two weeks of training as well as a role-playing scenario where a victim advocate meets with a sexual assault victim.

Soldiers learned the depth and breadth of the U.S. Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program during a two-week course at the 88th Regional Support Command Headquarters at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, from August 1-12.

The course, titled the SHARP 80 Hour Foundation Course, prepares Soldiers to serve in victim advocate roles within their assigned units as well as to assist regional Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs). In total, there were 25 Soldiers in the second of two courses offered by the 88th RSC during the summer Annual Training season.

After graduating this course, many of these Soldiers will fill unit-level victim advocate roles. Additionally, victim advocates are often the face of the SHARP program at that level.

“(The instructors) were very thorough,” said Staff Sgt. Felicia Moore, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Florida Army National Guard. “It was refreshing to have instructors that were currently fulfilling the roles as SARCs. Being able to know that they’re not just teaching us something, they’re actually in the position now. They’re able to share their experiences with us.”

There are now more victim advocates to fill roles that were either vacant or filled by someone without the foundational training provided here because these two courses are complete.

“This course is great because it’s helping to educate myself and I’ll be able to educate other Soldiers in my unit,” said Staff Sgt. Shawnda Roberts, from the Florida Army National Guard.

Two iterations of the same class in one season are rare but, Gietzen said, it shows the importance being placed on the SHARP program.

“It’s great when we start seeing that our voices are being heard and they’re taking the feedback we’re providing and incorporating it into the program it’s a big sense of satisfaction knowing that you’re making an impact,” she said.

There are more planned Foundation Courses at various locations across the U.S. Army Reserve Command footprint for Fiscal Year 2017. Gietzen says the 88th RSC will play a prominent role in those courses once again. “It’s important for those victim advocates to get trained and go back to their units and make sure the training is being conducted consistently,” she said.



Penny Gietzen, standing, the command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for 88th Regional Support Command, takes questions from the Soldiers attending the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Foundation Course at Fort McCoy, Wis., August 9. The two-week course was the second of two taught at the 88th RSC Headquarters and helps prepare Soldiers to fill the duties of a victim advocate at their assigned units. *(Photo by Zachary Mott)*



A paper with possible Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) month activities stands on a desk at the back of the classroom during a SHARP Foundation Course being taught by Penny Gietzen, the command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for 88th Regional Support Command, at Fort McCoy, Wis., August 9. *(Photo by Zachary Mott)*

Impaired driving: Why take the risk?

By Lori Yerdon

In 2012, an inaugural presidential proclamation designated December as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month in an effort to promote responsible decision-making and encourage Americans to prevent impaired driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (those with blood alcohol concentrations of .08 or higher). During 2014, 9,967 people were killed.



"It's important that we observe National Impaired Driving Prevention Month for a number of reasons," said Diana Wigle, chief, NHTSA Impaired Driving Division. "It helps remind all drivers that driving after drinking is dangerous not only to themselves, but to everyone else on the road."

Wigle added that the observance happens at a time when Americans are typically attending celebrations and parties during the holidays. "The observance helps increase general awareness that drunk driving is still a very significant problem in this country," she said.

Army accident reports show that to date for fiscal 2016, four Soldiers have died in alcohol-related private motor vehicle accidents. The following are summaries of those accidents:

- A Soldier apparently lost control of his PMV and crashed. He was wearing a seat belt but later succumbed to his injuries. Authorities cite speed and alcohol as contributing factors to the accident.
- A Soldier hit a curb while driving his PMV. He was found dead at the scene along with another Soldier injured in the front seat. Three civilian passengers were ejected from the vehicle; two were killed and one was listed in critical condition. Speed and

alcohol were factors in the accident.

- A Soldier died from injuries suffered as a passenger in a PMV accident. The driver, also a Soldier, drove at an excessive speed and collided with a tree. The unbelted Soldier passenger was thrown from the vehicle. An investigation revealed the driver, who suffered minor injuries, was under the influence of alcohol.

- A Soldier was found having crashed his motorcycle into a roadside ditch after his co-rider noticed he was no longer trailing him. The Soldier was wearing full PPE and was licensed and trained, but suffered fatal injuries. Alcohol was a factor in the accident.

“It’s imperative that Soldiers look out for each other and practice risk management in all aspects of their lives,” said Robert Myrick Jr., Driving Directorate, USACRC. “Stepping up to prevent a driver from driving impaired will not only save their life, but also the lives of innocent victims.”

While the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities has fallen over the past five years, the nation is still averaging 10,000 alcohol-related fatalities a year. “Alcohol-related fatalities have declined some, but all highway fatalities have declined as well,” Wigle said. “What’s important to look at is not the overall numbers, but if there’s been any change in the percentage of overall motor vehicle fatalities that are alcohol impaired. That number has not changed.”

Myrick said there are still common misconceptions about impaired driving such as “It’s only one drink,” “I’m only driving a short distance,” or “I have a high tolerance for alcohol, so I’m good.” Wigle added that there is a common misperception when it comes to blood alcohol concentration levels. “Most people equate impaired driving to a .08 or above blood alcohol concentration,” she said. “Most people think they cannot get arrested for impaired driving with a BAC under .08. Law enforcement officials observe a person’s behavior and if that person is impaired, unable to drive safely and they drive, then they could be arrested.

“Many studies have shown alcohol impairment begins at .02,” Wigle explained. “While impairment begins at .02 with a decline in visual functions and performing two tasks at the same time, at .05 it becomes more evident with reduced coordination, ability to track moving objects and response to emergency driving situations.”

Myrick said, “The key is to have a plan prior to a night out on the town. Keeping your family, friends and future at the forefront of your planning will help ensure you have an enjoyable evening rather than ruining your life.”

CPX prepares Soldiers for deployment

By Maj. Patrick Bishop

The 412th Theater Engineer Command and 926th Engineer Brigade conducted a “Command Post Exercise” with the 75th Training Command, Gulf Training Division to simulate managing logistics and engineer units in a forward-deployed environment from June 17-24, 2016. The commands have not trained together in this fashion since 2009.

Col. Mark Cook, Commanding Officer, 926th Eng. Bde., said, “The active Army cannot go to war without the Army Reserve” and engineer commands provide the backbone for USAR engineer capabilities. The 412th TEC is a United States Army Reserve unit that conducts theater-level engineer operations. It is vital that U.S. Army Reserve units continually work to improve because a large percent of the Army’s engineer support lies within the Army Reserve structure.

The 926th Eng. Bde., consists of over 5,000 Soldiers assigned to 47 modular units and organized into six combat engineer battalions, and five other direct-reporting units, distributed throughout eight states in the southeastern United States. Cook is responsible for the health, welfare, leadership development, and military training of Soldiers in units within the brigade, to include synchronizing, coordinating, and making preparations for mobilization and deployment of Soldiers and units to worldwide contingency areas to execute assigned missions across a range of military operations at time of conflict. He is also responsible for leadership of staff to provide coordination, training, formulation and dissemination of policies.

“My favorite part of this exercise is sharing my engineering knowledge with my brigade staff, interacting with Soldiers, and observing how they all come together has a team solving problems and developing products that support the fight!”, said Cook. “The training was fantastic! The Gulf Division has taught our Soldiers on how to operate the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) so that the brigade staff can better communicate with higher and lower units utilizing email, intranet, and share point to meet the battle commander’s intent.”

With the assistance of the 75th Training Command, Gulf Training Division, General Dynamics, Booze-Allen, the 926th Eng. Bde., and the 412th TEC was provided expert Soldiers, role-players, and observers. The 926th and 412th was able to practice processes and staff coordination through realistic scenarios designed to challenge the staff to grow as a team to the next level.

Maj. Eddie Compton III is assigned to the Gulf Division as the Simulation Operations Officer. His responsibilities include developing, delivering, and integrating complex Live, Virtual, Constructive, and Gaming Simulation Environments using the

most current Army Battle Command Systems and Operational Knowledge Management Principles to provide both the Operating and Generating Force the ability to successfully conduct Full Spectrum Operations and Training.

Using a closed computer network, the 926th operated a command post within a simulated theater of operation, complete with inputs and feedback from notional higher, lower, adjacent, and adversary units. The Gulf Training Division and contractors designed the scenario to include hypothetical nations with a realistic storyline founded on geopolitical events which could happen in several regions around the globe. Within this training setting, the Gulf Training Division simulated U.S. forces transitioning from type of operations to another. This required planners to anticipate and often skillfully react to changing situations.



The exercise is part of the 926th's preparations for the uncertainty of a deployment at any given time. Cook asked his Soldiers, "Looking at what's going on in the world.... If we have to deploy to any of the troubled areas around the world, are we ready to go?"

Since returning from their 2008 deployment, the 926th has undergone significant personnel changes. With this exercise, more than 50 staff members worked together, training for their deployment mission for the first time. "The number one priority for the Army is to be individually and collectively ready to deploy and fight the nation's wars," said Compton.

Much of the mentorship for the exercise came from the Gulf Training Division, out of Birmingham, Alabama. Soldiers from the Gulf Division routinely participate in exercises with units that require training. Their recent training events include Global Lightning, Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian which roll up as many as nine different exercises in multiple partner nations. They also join in subject matter expert exchanges with several nations.

Much of the mentorship for the exercise came from the Gulf Training Division, out of Birmingham, Alabama. Soldiers from the Gulf Division routinely participate in exercises with units that require training. Their recent training events include Global Lightning, Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian which roll up as many as nine different exercises in multiple partner nations. They also join in subject matter expert exchanges with several nations.

"My favorite part of the CPX is in the middle of the exercise when the training unit really begins to mesh and understand their roles and establish a rhythm to the MDMP process. It awesome to watch the transformation.", said Compton. "It has been great planning this mission with the 926th and the 412th. From the very beginning, I have been impressed with their professionalism and expertise."

Building a fence brings community, military together in Lithuania

By Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Chlosta

Lithuanian and American service members worked together to make an orphanage safer and more beautiful for children living there. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 7th Mission Support Command helped coordinate the construction of a new fence and gate and sign for the local 'infant' or 'baby' orphanage with Soldiers from the 412th Theater Engineer Command and Lithuanian Soldiers and Airmen and local national contractors, Aug. 8-25, 2016.

The four Soldiers from the 7th MSC's 457th Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Longare, Italy, and 10 Soldiers from the 375th Engineer Company, out of Huntsville, Alabama, partnered with six Lithuanian Airmen and Soldiers and local national contractors each day to build the new fence and interact with the local population.

"I am impressed they did their job professionally with no impact on the neighbors. The old fence was built almost fifty years ago," said Audrone Kardasiene, the orphanage director. "It had broken pieces and it was heavy, and the new one is beautiful. I am amazed with the work they did and how they communicated with the Lithuanian Soldiers."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new fence was held on Aug. 25, 2016 and was attended by more than 40 people, including the Mayor of Siauliai and Mr. Christopher Volciak, the acting deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania. "During the last two years, we had nice relationship with the U.S. Embassy and military about the type of fence it would be and the scope of the work," Kardasiene said.

Everyone took the work very seriously, she said. "I am happy," Kardasiene said. "The kids and the neighbors and the whole community is happy with this fence." The new fence that is now within the Lithuanian government regulations, said Lithuanian Air Force Air Base Public Affairs Officer Capt. Ieva. "It was very important that the Soldiers from the United States came here and made the environment safe for the kids with the new fence," she said.

The orphanage worked for seven years to get this fence project completed, Ieva said. The old fence was unstable and now the kids can run around the entire play area without issues, she added.

The 'baby' orphanage or 'infants' home facility runs on donations only, relying on



Army Reserve Soldiers from the 7th Mission Support Command helped coordinate the construction of a new fence and gate and sign for the local 'infant' or 'baby' orphanage with U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 412th TEC and Lithuanian Soldiers and Airmen and local national contractors, Aug. 8-25, 2016. *(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Chlosta, 7th MSC Public Affairs Office)*

the community to support kids ranging from infant to 6 years old, including kids with special needs, according to said Sgt. Elizabeth Prairie, with Co. A, 457th Civil Affairs Bn. The facility has a 50 percent adoption rate, she said.

"I think they have an awesome staff and facility here," Prairie said. "The kids here are well taken care of and they are loved." There are 55 kids currently in the facility with a maximum up to 65, according to Ieva.

"We also did community outreach by going door to door around the orphanage to invite them to the [ribbon cutting] ceremony," Prairie said. The Soldiers from the 457th were in the city for 20 days, said Spc. Stephanie Lish, civil affairs specialist, 457th Civil Affairs Bn., Co. A. "One of our accomplishments was we were able to bring out an interpreter for the engineers to better interact with the local national contractors," she said. The civil affairs team also coordinated with the Lithuanians, to get a commemorative plaque designed and donated by a local sign company, she added. "It was fantastic to see how excited the kids were to see the Soldiers and to play with them and receive their attention," Lish said.

"The Lithuanian Soldiers and Airmen worked side by side with the Americans to complete this project which is great example of military and civilian cooperation at its best," Ieva said.

U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard maintain strength during Operation Resolute Castle

By Capt. Kimberlee Lewis

The 841st Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve and 194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, are maintaining the strength during Operation Resolute Castle, a United States Army Europe-led, construction operation that spans from constructing roadways to infrastructure improvements across Eastern Europe which includes Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, and Hungary.



Soldiers from the Army Reserve and Army National Guard bring a unique set of skills to the Army as they work in a wide variety of civilian occupations. Their military training often comes on the weekends, though they are in no way “weekend warriors”. This group with its unique civilian skillset is always on call to respond to threats to our nation’s security, at home and around the world.

Operation Resolute Castle is an opportunity to refine their knowledge and sharpen their skillset. Sgt. Shane Tardieu and Spc. Andrae Bell of the 841st Eng. Bn., both construction workers, agreed that it was a good opportunity to come out to work on this project in Bulgaria. Sgt. Tardieu, who works as a police officer in his civilian job, says he’s relieved, “great cross training with other Soldiers and have used equipment that I never thought I will be using for this mission.” Bell added, “good post for receiving hands-on training and great environment that accommodated soldiers to build morale.”

Many Soldiers enjoy training at different locations which makes it a memorable experience and rewarding to know that they are completing a project that is going to benefit other military personnel for their training purposes. Spc. Steven Cao, 841st Eng. Bn., heavy equipment operator, says, “loves the mission...being able to work on the equipment is great!” Cao works as a retail sale consultant for a major corporation on the civilian side and enjoys the opportunity to come out and work on heavy equipment during Operation Resolute Castle.

Novo Selo Training Area (NSTA) health care on post is critical for sustainment of personnel strength. The Reserve and National Guard Soldiers make up the medical care strength here at NSTA to treat and sustain health care. Spc. Jessica Wilcox and



Soldiers from 841st Eng. Bn., U.S. Army Reserve and 194th Eng. Bde., Tenn. Army National Guard bring a unique set of skills to the Army as they work in a wide variety of civilian occupations. They constantly train to sharpen their skillset and sustain their combat strength during Operation Resolute Castle. *(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Kimberlee Lewis, 841st Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve)*

Pvt. Samuel Durda, both health care specialists for 841st Eng. Bn., said they received a good deal of training from the Combat Life Saver Course (CLS) and Intravenous (IV) class here at NSTA.

Wilcox is currently pursuing studies as an occupational therapist and says, “enjoying the mission here, the ability to help others and learning new things is a great experience.” Durda, is a EMT and Paramedic at his civilian job, brings a wealth of medical expertise to the health care team. He stated, “I can relate my military job to my civilian because I do it every day.” Durda was asked, what he like most about his job, he said, “the ability to help others and ultimately save lives if emergency event occurs.”

The medical staff are not the only Soldiers gaining life support training. Any Soldier that is willing to take the class is eligible to certify as a combat lifesaver or they can take the class to refresh their knowledge. Staff Sgt. John Draper, 194th Eng. Bde., military police, has taken the CLS course in the past and now a refresher at NSTA. When asked how he felt about the course, he replied, “I learned a lot...it was a great refresher.” Staff Sgt. Draper, a K-9 officer for a sheriff department, knows the importance of keeping and hone his skills and saw the class as a great opportunity to re-familiarize himself.

1st Lt. Matthew Gilbert, 194th Eng. Bde., lead public affairs coordinator attended the course as well. He says, “it was excellent training”. Gilbert’s civilian job is an attorney. When asked why he opted to take a medical course, he replied, “medical skills can be applied to our everyday lives...and having these skills can help respond to a situation, the right way.”

The U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard are definitely meeting milestones here at Operation Resolute Castle. Their continued efforts and training are clearly highlighted by the results of their work which displays a high level of professionalism by leading from the front.

Medical proficiency overseas

By Capt. Jose Lopez Jr.

The 841st Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve and 194th Engineer Brigade, Tennessee Army National Guard, medical personnel sustain life saving skills, July 23, 2016, during Operation Resolute Castle. Operation Resolute Castle is a United States Army Europe-led military construction operation that includes constructing roadways and infrastructure improvements. These efforts span Eastern Europe taking place in Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia and Hungary.

During Operation Resolute Castle, the construction teams improve tank maneuver lanes to increase the capacity and capability of training areas; as well as improve the longevity of roads that lead into the construction sites at the Novo Selo training area. While construction is the main focus, there are other mission essential support personnel that use extended combat training to increase their proficiency and skill craft. Each construction site at NSTA has a medic, referred to in the Army as a "68W," in order to provide immediate care should the need arise.

Whenever a unit goes overseas the option to dial 911 no longer exists. Units rely on assigned and attached medical personnel to provide critical care in the first crucial moments after an injury occurs. The medical Soldiers assigned to the units during Operation Resolute Castle are constantly monitoring their fellow Soldiers from sunrise to sundown and are available 24 hours a day. They are first responders for all types of medical situations, from a case of dehydration to a catastrophic vehicle accident.

In order to maintain proficiency and exercise standard operating procedures the medical teams recently conducted a simulated casualty evacuation drill, which included medics from the 841st Eng. Bn., and the 194th Eng. Bde. Both units mutually support each other in times of medical emergencies. This drill specifically focused on how to



Cpl. Alexandra Jordan, a medic with the 766th Eng. Co., (Horizontal), 841st Eng. Bn., U.S. Army Reserve, and Pfc. Steven Armes, a medic with the 268th Military Police Co., 194th Eng. Bde., Tenn. Army National Guard, lift a simulated casualty during a casualty evacuation drill as they prepare to move him to the Troop Medical Clinic at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria as part of Operation Resolute Castle 16, July 23, 2016. The drill was designed to validate procedures and protocol for both the battalion staff and personnel in the field as well as exercise communication and cooperation between the two units. *(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jose F. Lopez Jr., 841st Eng. Bn., United States Army Reserve)*

assess, prepare and transport a Soldier with a cervical-spine injury, an injury that requires stabilization of the Soldier in order to avoid further injury.

Cpl. Alexandra Jordan, 766th Engineer Company (Horizontal), 841st Eng. Bn., and Spc. Jorge A. Arcineigas, a medic with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 841st Eng. Bn., were the responding medics. Jordan inspected the casualty, played by senior 841st medic Sgt. Tyler Paxton Davis, to check for injuries and assess the situation.

Spc. Arcineigas took control of the radio relaying pertinent information back to the operations center and requesting a transport vehicle. Without any prior warning, Pfc. Steven Armes and Spc. Michael Santiago of the 268th Military Police Company, 194th Eng. Bde., received a call over the radio that there was a medical emergency that required transport. Arriving quickly, they immediately integrated with Jordan and Arcineigas, secured the casualty, and were headed to the Troop Medical Center within minutes.

After arriving at the medical center, they escorted the Soldier inside for more advanced treatment. Overseeing the events inside the medical center was Col. Cynthia J. Moriarty of the Tennessee Medical Command, Tennessee Army National Guard.

At the brigade operations center the battle captain, Capt. Donald M. Cesarone III, jumped into action by directing the staff to act in accordance with standard operating procedures. The operations center coordinated response efforts and gauged how long the actual response was taking. Once they received the initial report that there was a casualty, Cesarone informed the medical center that they would be receiving an injured Soldier and gave details about their condition. This allowed the medical center to be ready with specialized equipment to treat the c-spine injury.

After the drill was complete a quick after action review of events was conducted with all participants. "It was a fantastic exercise that utilized a realistic and repeatable drill that functioned well," said Cesarone, "everybody performed extremely well and we learned more of each other's capabilities and limitations."



Medical Soldiers from the 841st Eng. Bn. and the 268th Military Police Co., 194th Engineer Bde., Tenn. Army National Guard, prepare to lift a simulated casualty onto a stretcher. These types of injuries require minimal movement of the casualty and enhanced care. The Soldiers executed this battle drill in order to ensure familiarization and efficiency in coordinating between units. This training was held at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria as part of Operation Resolute Castle 16, July 23, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jose F. Lopez Jr., 841st Eng. Bn., United States Army Reserve)



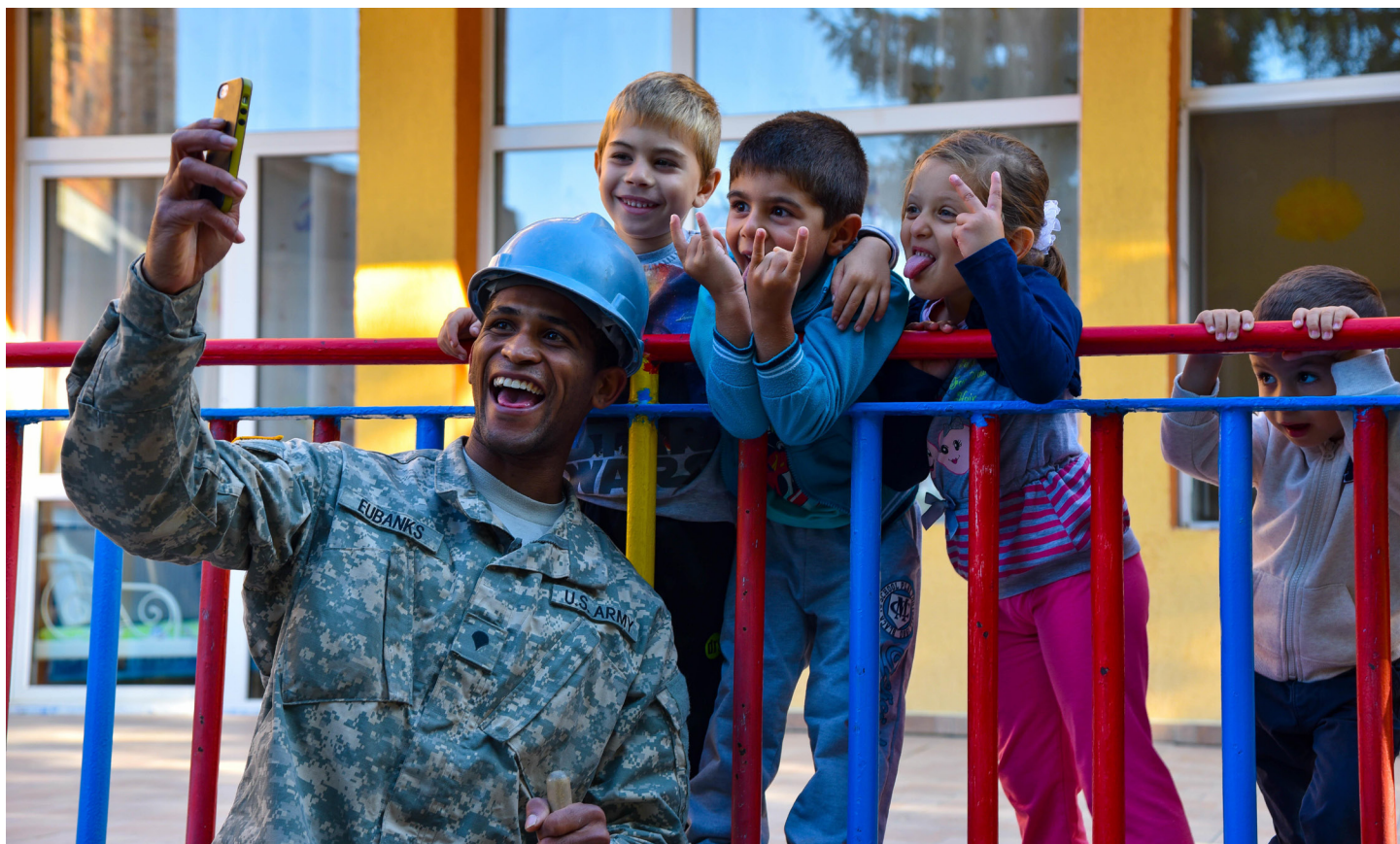
A U.S. Soldier with the 375th Engineer Company, Huntsville, Ala., gives a high-five to children during a Humanitarian Civil Assistance project, Kalifarevo, Bulgaria, Aug. 26, 2016. As a part of the European Command's (EUCOM) Humanitarian a Civic Assistance Program, the U.S. Army Reserve 457th Civil Affairs Battalion, the 375th Engineer Co., U.S. Air Force National Guard 164th Civil Engineer Squadron and the Bulgarian Army collaborate to renovate a kindergarten. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathanael Mercado)

U.S. Soldiers with the 375th Engineer Co., and 457th Civil Affairs Bn., assist with the kindergarten renovation during a Humanitarian Civil Assistance project, Kalifarevo, Bulgaria, Aug. 25, 2016. As a part of the European Command's (EUCOM) Humanitarian a Civic Assistance Program, the U.S. Army Reserve 457th Civil Affairs Bn., the 375th Engineer Co., U.S. Air Force National Guard 164th Civil Engineer Squadron and the Bulgarian Army collaborate to renovate a kindergarten. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathanael Mercado)



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Dorian Pekarcik (left) and Staff Sgt. Gerald Francis (right), both with the 457th Civil Affairs Bn., assist with the kindergarten renovation during a Humanitarian Civil Assistance project, Kalifarevo, Bulgaria, Aug. 25, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathanael Mercado)

Reserve Soldiers join forces during a Humanitarian Civil Assistance project, Kalifarevo, Bulgaria



A U.S. Soldier with the 375th Engineer Company, Huntsville, Ala., takes a selfie with kindergarten children during a Humanitarian Civil Assistance project, Kalifarevo, Bulgaria, Aug. 26, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathanael Mercado)

U.S. Soldiers with the 375th Engineer Company, Huntsville, Ala., work on a sidewalk during a Humanitarian Civil Assistance project in Kalifarevo, Bulgaria, Aug. 25, 2016. The Humanitarian and Civic Assistance Program is a series of medical and engineering engagements in several European countries in support of strategic, theater, operational and tactical objectives. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathanael Mercado)



Engineers of 368th Eng. Bn., 475th Eng. Co., deploy in support of Spartan Shield

By Ismael Ortega



Soldiers with the 475th Eng. Co., both U.S. Army Reserve, switch the flag patch on their shoulders for the tactical one prior to boarding a flight to U.S. Central Command at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group here July 20. *(Photo by Ismael Ortega)*

Deploying in support of Operation Spartan Shield, the 368th Engineer Battalion based out of Londonderry, New Hampshire, and the 475th Engineer Company from Ponce, Puerto Rico, both U.S. Army Reserve units, departed from the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group to support construction missions throughout U.S. Central Command's area of operations for the next nine months.

The 368th Eng. Bn. will serve as the construction management element and will provide resources and support to line companies while the 475th Eng. Co. will provide horizontal support. They will be joined by additional vertical, survey and design assets while in country.

With over half of the Soldiers from each unit deploying for the first time, time training here was invaluable to hone their craft and tactical skills. Those skills included armored convoys, securing an area and operating in a full loadout.

"A lot of them do this kind of work in the civilian side, so that prepared (them for this deployment)," Capt. Samuel Turner, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters, 368th Eng. Bn. said. "We've also gone through multiple training exercises ... to become technically proficient in their Soldier and construction skills."

Building on the relationship they established during a command and staff exercise held in February, the Soldiers furthered their expertise during the mission readiness exercise.

Immersing themselves in tactical environments throughout the installation and McGregor Range, New Mexico, that simulated the conditions they would experience overseas, they operated up-armored vehicles and heavy machinery they don't normally have access to.

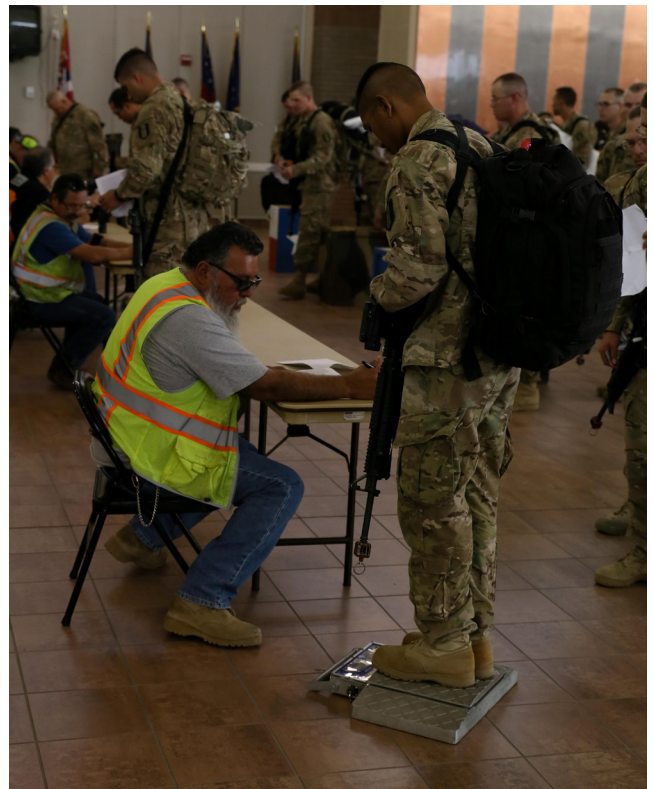
The construction management team was tested on their decision making skills and ability to track the progress of projects, while the leaders from the 475th Eng. Co. used their time to refine their lateral communication and roles within the unit.

"It was a really good experience for the lieutenants. They learned how to delegate and work hand-in-hand with the noncommissioned officers. That's where the success lies for this deployment," Capt. Jackelyn Ruiz, commander, 475th Eng. Co., said. "The noncommissioned officers are the ones with the experience and they're the ones who will guide you with your planning."

In addition to improving facilities in the CENTCOM AOR, the unit plans to promote as many Soldiers as possible. To achieve this, a large number of Soldiers have completed their structured self-development course prior to departing for their mission and many plan to attend the Basic Leaders Course while overseas to increase their chances of promotion.

"The biggest thing is just to take care of each other. There's a lot of external factors that can make this kind of things difficult," Turner said. "As long as the people from the top down are looking out for each other, making sure that everyone has everything they need and are taken care of ... then we'll be alright," Turner said.

"Everybody's had a really good attitude. We haven't had any real issues with discipline or anything," Lt. Col. Joseph Cox, battalion commander, 368th Eng. Bn. said. "They're great Americans, every one of them. They're doing a great job and I'm just happy to have them here."



Soldiers assigned to the 368th Eng. Bn. and the 475th Eng. Co., both U.S. Army Reserve, are weighed, manifested and processed prior to boarding a flight to U.S. Central Command at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group here July 20. (Photo by Ismael Ortega)

841st Hurricanes leave their mark in Eastern Europe

By Capt. Jose Lopez Jr.

The 841st Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, out of Miami, Florida participated in Operation Resolute Castle from June to August 2016 as part of their extended combat training. Operation Resolute Castle is a United States Army Europe-led military construction operation that includes constructing roadways and infrastructure improvements.

These efforts span Eastern Europe taking place in Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia and Hungary. Soldiers from several companies rotated through over a span of several weeks from a variety of military occupational specialties including medical, vertical and horizontal construction.

The 841st Eng Bn. has a long and storied history in regards to entering foreign countries to improve infrastructure. Designated the 841st Engineer Aviation Battalion (EAB) on August 1, 1942, the battalion is credited with building runways and airfield support facilities in the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea and Luzon during World War II.

During the Korean War, the battalion is credited with participation in three separate campaigns consisting of airfield construction projects at different bases including what is now Osan Air Base. The battalion has seen one tour to Afghanistan involving route clearance missions.

During their time in Europe as part of Resolute Castle, the 841st Eng. Bn. was involved in seven projects in Bulgaria and one project in Romania. During the battalion's first rotation the 758th Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve, completed a quality assessment/quality control inspection consisting of four subject-matter experts verifying construction work for 14 days.

In Novo Selo specifically, the battalion assumed responsibility for the construction of Non Standard Firing Lanes (NSFLs), laying the foundation of the Ammunition Holding Area (AHA) and the construction of culverts. Upon assumption of the mission, the battalion took a quick survey of where the projects stood and determined the best course of action to accomplish the assigned mission.

When the first battalion Soldiers touched ground, the main projects at Novo Selo were at 18% completion. The battalion's organic units, the 758 Eng. Co. and the 766 Eng. Co. worked jointly to emplace two low water crossings that resulted in increased maneuverability and will aid in erosion prevention.

Altogether, the battalion achieved a 79% completion of the Non-standard firing lanes, went from 12% to 44% on the Ammunition Holding Area (AHA) and a 56% completion on a culvert construction mission.

In order to accomplish the impressive amount of construction work that the battalion completed, it was necessary to have soldiers cross train on equipment. Both horizontal and vertical construction Soldiers trained extensively on the backhoe loader, skid steer loader, 10 and 20-ton dump trucks, the heavy excavator and various sizes of forklifts. This equipment was vital to transporting the materials that enabled the unit to construct 5.8 miles of rock road and emplace 250 Articulated Concrete Mats (ACB) weighing 7,000 pounds each.

In addition to focusing on laying rock, the battalion maintenance teams supplied by the Forward Support Company kept the dump trucks and heavy equipment rolling. During the rotations, maintenance teams repaired and or replaced approximately 50 tires on the 10 and 20-ton dump trucks per rotation, working an average of 12-hour days. This allowed the engineers to focus just on the construction projects and not have to be delayed with maintenance.

In the medical section, battalion medical personnel reinforced critical skill sets by conducting two simulated casualty evacuation exercises and teaching Combat LifeSaver (CLS) recertification classes.

The battalion was the first unit at Novo Selo to conduct such drills during Resolute Castle 16 and received praise from both Resolute Castle staff and Novo Selo staff.

The battalion operations officer, Maj. Dave Ridenour, oversaw the battalion operations center. Utilizing a battle captain and battle non-commissioned officer, Capt. Don Cesarone III and Staff Sgt. Brian Stahle, ensured the operations center was alert 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The battalion performed superbly and ensured that all goals were met and projects were on track, ensuring that the Hurricane battalion is leaving a lasting mark on Resolute Castle and Eastern Europe.

The 841st Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, out of Miami, Fla., participated in Operation Resolute Castle from June to August 2016 as part of their extended combat training that included constructing roadways and infrastructure improvements. These efforts took place in Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia and Hungary. Soldiers from several companies rotated through over a span of several weeks from a variety of military occupational specialties including medical, vertical and horizontal construction. *(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jose F. Lopez Jr.)*



34th Forward Engineer Support Team – Advance (FEST-A), comprising active duty Army engineers as well as USACE civilians, conducts WHNS site assessments in vicinity of Gwangyang Port in order to facilitate contingency operations planning of III MEF and 3rd Marine Logistics Group. Maj. Green (OIC, Civil Engineering), Mike Suh (Environmental Engineering, NWS), and Scott English (Civil Engineering, NWP) conduct suitability assessment of potential Contingency Ammunition Holding Area with Maj. Ko of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Defense Installation Agency (DIA).



368TH Forward Engineer Support Team – Main (FEST-M) is deployed to the Republic of Korea (ROK) from August 10 to September 3, 2016 to provide engineer technical reconnaissance, planning and design support to USFK, 8th US Army, USACE Far East District and MARFOR-K for Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) 2016.



The 368th FEST-M provides command and control to four subordinate teams during UFG16. The 334th, the 791st FEST-A and the 452nd FEST-A are all strictly comprised of Army Reserve personnel. The 34th FEST-A is from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Northwest District (NWD) and has both military and USACE Civilian team members.

Each team has a unique mixture of engineering experience not found in other units in the Army. These include college degrees and practical professional experience in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, structural engineering, electrical engineering, architecture, hydrology, project management, utility engineering and environmental sciences. Each team provides division level and above commanders a critical enhancement to their staff and unit planning.

Forward Engineer Support Teams deploy to Republic of Korea to provide support



452nd FEST-A participates in their second week of supporting UFG 16 in Korea.

This week involved continued development of 2 different projects: Capacity assessments of Camp Humphreys and the preliminary design and course of action development for a 300+ Theater Detention Facility.

452nd FEST-A members Capt. Roach (Civil Engineering), Capt. Proctor (Geotechnical Engineer), Capt. Carney (General Engineer) and Sgt. 1st Class Stachowiak (Electrical Engineer) listen while USACE Project Manager Ruben Del Rio briefs members of the design team and customer on the 30% design of the current planned detention facility at Camp Humphreys.

As part of UFG16, the 368th FEST-M has partnered with the ROK Defense Installation Agency (DIA) and the DIA FEST across Korea. This partnership allows the U.S. FEST to cross train the DIA FEST and promotes combined missions and analysis. With DIA FEST involvement and coordination with the ROK Army, a greater level of analysis and design can be presented to U.S. commanders.

Know your leaders

Barack Hussein Obama, Jr., the 44th president of the United States

Senator Barack Obama was elected on Nov. 4, 2008. He took the oath of office on Jan. 20, 2009, and became the first black U.S. president. Four years later, on Nov. 6, 2012, Obama was re-elected.



Ashton B. Carter, the 25th Secretary of Defense.

Secretary Carter assumed office on Feb. 17, 2015 replacing Chuck Hagel and is the former deputy secretary of defense from 2011 to 2013.

Mr. Eric K. Fanning, the 22nd Secretary of the Army

Mr. Eric K. Fanning was appointed 22nd Secretary of the Army by President Obama on May 18, 2016. As Secretary of the Army, he has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the United States Army: manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management.



General Mark A. Milley, the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army

Gen. Mark A. Milley assumed duty as the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army August 14, 2015 after most recently serving as the 21st Commander of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, the 15th Sergeant Major of the Army

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey was sworn in on January 30, 2015. Dailey is the Army chief of staff's personal adviser on matters affecting the enlisted force. Dailey is the public face of the U.S. Army's noncommissioned officer corps.



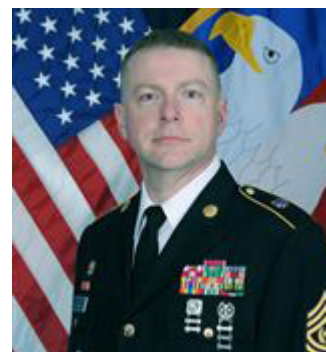


Lieutenant General Charles D. Luckey, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General

Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey assumed duty as the Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command on June 30, 2016. As the Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General, United States Army Reserve Command, he leads more than 200,000 Soldiers and Civilians with a “footprint” that includes 50 states, five territories, and more than 30 countries. *(U.S. Army photo by Monica King/Released)*

Command Sergeant Major James Wills, Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserve

Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills officially assumed the duties on January 8, 2016. Wills also serves as an Army Reserve Technician as the G-3/7 Staff Operations and Training Officer (SOTO) for the 80th Training Command, Richmond, Virginia.



Major General Tracy A. Thompson, Commander of the 412th TEC

On July 1, 2014, Thompson was promoted to major general and took command of the 412th Theater Engineer Command, headquartered in Vicksburg, Mississippi and is responsible for nearly 13,000 Soldiers in three brigades, fifteen battalions and multiple direct reporting units spread over 20 states in the Eastern United States.

Brigadier General Donna R. Williams, Deputy Commander of the 412th TEC

Brig. Gen. Donna R. Williams a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, is the Deputy Commanding General of support at the 412th Theater Engineer Command in Vicksburg. Prior to this assignment she was the Garrison Commander at Fort Hunter Liggett, California.



Command Sergeant Major Richard Castelveter, Command Sergeant Major of the 412th TEC

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Castelveter assumed the duties of the 412th TEC senior enlisted adviser Dec. 1, 2014, after being the senior enlisted adviser at the 99th Regional Support Command, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

