



The Official Magazine of The U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)

PEACEMAKER

Vol.1, 2017



**Operation
Toy Drop XIX**

**USACAPOC (A)
participates in 2016
Army Warfighting
Assessment**

PEACEMAKER

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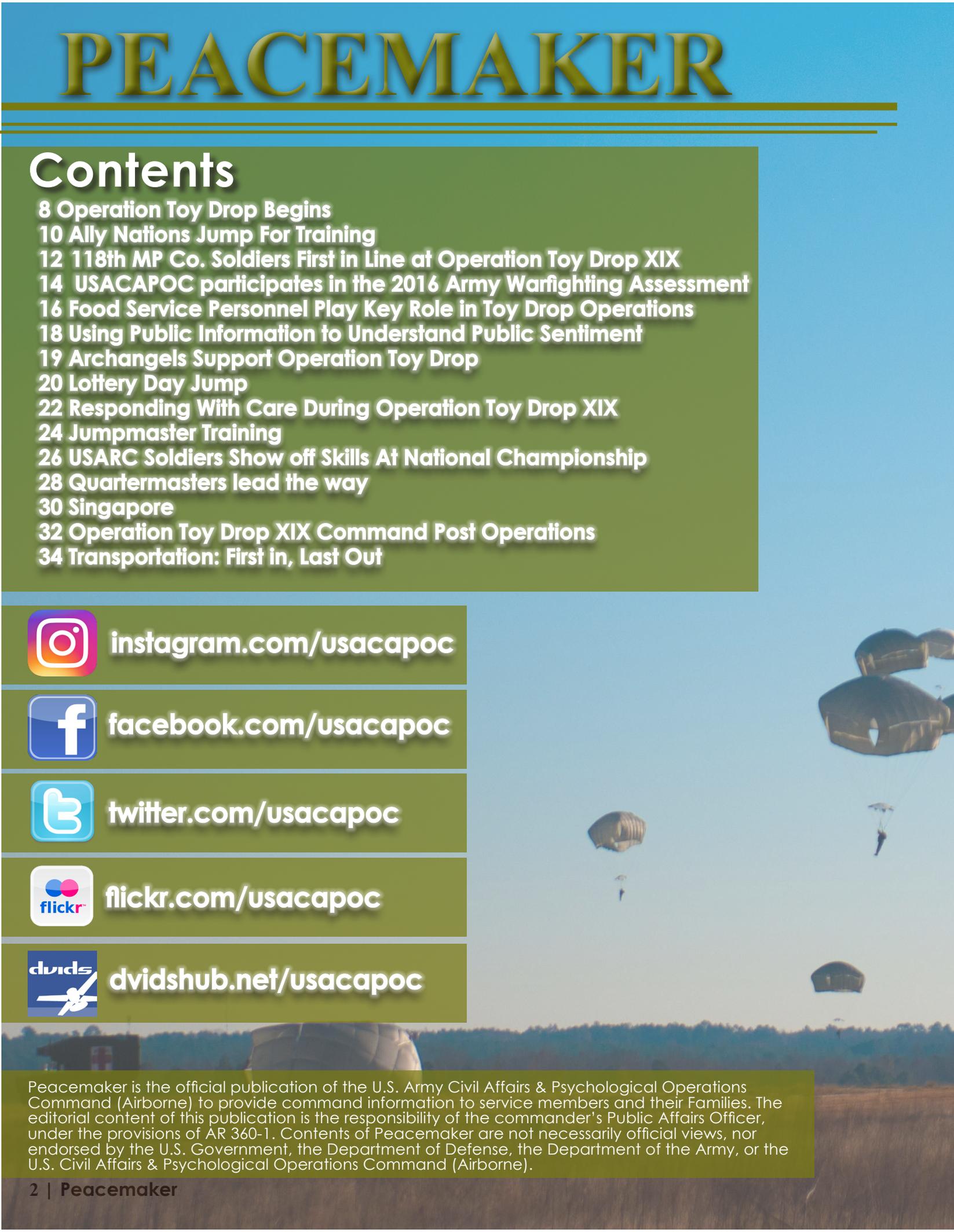


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PRINTED BY:
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

On the cover:

U.S. Army Photos by Spc. Tynisha Daniell
U.S. paratrooper, Spc. Dexter Pinkett, representing 1-504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, gathers his parachute after jumping from a C-17 aircraft during Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec. 10, 2016 onto Luzon drop zone at Camp Mackall, N.C. Pinkett is one of 4,000 paratroopers participating in OTD XIX. OTD is the world's largest annual joint and combined airborne operation and collective training.

On this page:

U.S. and foreign paratroopers jump from a C-130 aircraft during Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec., 9, 2016 onto Luzon drop zone at Camp Mackall, N.C. During OTD, U.S. paratroopers have the chance to train with jumpmasters from other nations, learn about their training tactics, and expand their experience through working with partner nations.

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL DANIEL AMMERMAN



We have come a long way in increasing the readiness of our civil affairs, psychological operations and information operations units within this command. However, as CG USARC LTG Charles Luckey has said, “where we are going is not where we have been.” The increased threat is what has driven this initiative to change. Gen. Mark Miley has summed it up best. I urge you to watch his presentation to AUSA this past fall (<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/485996/ausa-2016-dwight-david-eisenhower-luncheon>).

Since then, we have begun this increased urgency to build readiness to fight in an increasingly lethal and disruptive battle space, against a highly proficient adversary, and in simultaneous contingencies in an expeditionary environment. All our Soldiers should, as LTG Luckey said in his Commander’s Guidance and letter to the field when he took command in July, to be ready to conduct and/or support full spectrum operations on short notice. In January, LTG Luckey sent out his Commander’s Guidance dated 25 Jan 2017 which is a “must read” for all of our Soldiers and begun to be distributed through our command channels.

His intent is to build upon our cultural war-fighting ethos to build a capable,

combat-ready, and lethal force that possesses the leadership, training, equipment and manpower to meet any challenge asked of us and win.

Our part of this challenge is to support the Army and Joint Force with the most capable and combat ready, strategic, operational, and tactical civil affairs, psychological operations, and information operations forces ready to win across the full spectrum of operations. We will man our units with deployable Soldiers and train units of action that are ready, disciplined, and professional.

We must be able to meet the dual imperative that dictate that some units be Ready to “Fight Tonight” to meet contingencies while others will build readiness for known requirements through a rotational readiness model.

To build this readiness,

Our priorities are: Grow Mid-Grade Leaders (the cornerstone of readiness); Develop Leaders; Maximize Individual and Unit Readiness; Maximize; and Evolve Functional Capabilities.

The power of our Army is our people. Leaders, prioritize your time toward developing your subordinate leaders and Soldiers through institutional training (DMOSQ, PME), self-development, and creating an environment where they can hone their skills in operational units. We must accelerate the growing of our leaders. This is a time for action; it demands Leadership, Energy, and Execution.

Success is ready Soldiers and ready units to meet wartime requirements.

Everything else we do must be assessed through the lens of whether it builds readiness or is a risk to readiness. The total Army has the same marching orders and shares this same urgency to build readiness in what we do.

Before we ask for additional resources, we are obligated to prioritize those substantial resources we have already been given by the American people. We must reassess how we use our resources to ensure that we are truly prioritizing their use toward readiness. It’s insufficient to look at how we used our resources last year. Our resource allocations will prioritize individual readiness objectives and units of action that are aligned against requirements.

On the road to readiness, we must be ready enough where we can arrive in time for a contingency to be relevant while maintaining our civilian life balance. Our unsung heroes are our Families and Employers. We must take every opportunity to express our appreciation for their support.

In closing, we will deliver ready units with trained, deployable, capable and well led units. We must be ready not only because the Army and Joint Force demand it but our Soldiers deserve it. I continue to appreciate the talent, commitment and service of our Soldiers and Families. Thank you for continuing to proudly serve in the Army Reserve for the security of our Great Nation.



LETTER FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR Peter Running

Let me take a moment to address the CG's Vision for everyone one in the filed; Soldiers and Leaders.

All Soldiers:

Readiness -

Get ready, be ready, stay ready. It is really that simple. If you think you're ready, keep improving, both personally and professionally. Go do more PT, take a class, read a regulation, field manual, book, or paper. Get smarter on what your job is and how to do it.

Improve -

Gather knowledge to improve yourself. Communicate among yourselves. Talk! I have found repeatedly when conducting unit visits that when a question is asked, someone in the room has the answer. Share your knowledge. We will all improve. Our units will improve as well.

Pride - Be proud to say that you are a member of the Army team! Display that pride in how you act and how you wear the uniform. Soldier - always! We are Soldiers 24/7/365. Don't lose sight of that. Get 'more ready' every day.

Leaders:

Priorities -

For the leader, it is another year of priorities. Readiness, DMOSQ, 100% quota utilization with 100% graduation rate. The list goes on. As for the word on the street, if you hear of a priority item, it needs to support the CG's priorities, or it isn't a priority.

See, all too often we have heard, "when everything is a priority, nothing is a priority". That is a very true statement. Focus on the primary reason we emphasize readiness to Soldiers and leaders - to be ready for action when called.

If what you or your units are doing before, during and in between Battle Assemblies help you to become 'more ready', it will meet your commander's priorities and the CG's priorities.

Share -

Share your successes with your sister units. Many great ideas are born in units, but don't get outside the unit. If we share the successes, all our units will improve.

Engage -

Engage your Soldiers. Challenge them to excel. Communicate with them, often. Let them know what is going on, what training to prepare for, and what you expect of them. Incorporate basic Soldier skills and tasks, measuring your Soldier's performance against the standards. Work Soldiers in their specific MOS to sharpen their skills in their MOS to strengthen them among their team or unit.

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN

CH. (Col.) Bruce Sidebotham

Have you ever noticed various life experiences coming together in unplanned ways to prepare you, in the words of Esther's Uncle Mordecai, "For such a time as this" (Esther 4:14)? Well, that's kind of how I feel becoming the Command Chaplain for USACAPOC(A).

Living through stressful cross-cultural situations has been a recurring pattern in my life. It's as if God has been preparing me for coaching chaplains in caring for high-performing Soldiers that cross language and cultural boundaries.

During ROTC at Wheaton College in 1977, I earned the Air Assault Badge and Parachutist Badge. Before my first assignment as a Combat Engineer in Panama, I earned the Ranger Tab. My engineer unit supported the operation to contain the Cubans in Nicaragua.

So, my company-grade experience was as a line officer supporting counter-insurgency during the Cold War.

I became a chaplain in 2005, after a 15-year break in service. In that interim, I obtained intercultural studies and divinity degrees to the doctoral level and learned the Indonesian language. On Sumatra, I taught English at a university and initiated some development projects – some of which continue or have results standing to this day.

I spent 2008-2009 in Northern Iraq, providing pastoral care to dispersed teams of advisors embedded in Iraqi Army, Police, and Border Patrol units. I come from four years as the Command Chaplain at the 76th Division (Operational Response). During that time, the 76th went from being a USARC Support Command to an Operational Command with operational control of the Army Reserve forces that would respond within 96 hours to a cataclysmic natural disaster or to a CBRN attack.

My wife is a missionary kid who grew up in Indonesia. She stayed home with the kids when they were young. She's now an attorney with her own law firm. We live in Colorado at 7000 feet between Denver and Colorado Springs. We like hiking and skiing. My undergrad bachelor degree is in geology, and I enjoy prospecting for gemstones. Our four grown sons were born in Panama, the National Capital Region, Southern California, and Indonesia. They live in Dayton, Chicago, and Santa Barbara.

At a time of great upheaval, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Nearing the end of a full career, I can see words like that fulfilled in my life, and I pray you'll be able to see them fulfilled in yours.

HERE IT COMES



Sleep Management Strategies for the Army

REVERSE PHYSICAL TRAINING SCHEDULE

Delay start to duty day (8 a.m. or later) and conduct PT in the afternoon instead of morning to maximize morning sleep and to synchronize with circadian rhythm.

SLEEP BANKING

Increasing hours of sleep before a known time of insufficient sleep.

TACTICAL NAPS

Short sleep episodes taken when opportunities allow during tactical operations to reduce fatigue and sleep debt, and improve alertness.

NAPPUCINO

Short (approximately 30 mins) naps immediately following a drink of coffee for a short cognitive and alertness boost.

CAFFEINE

When unable to get needed sleep, proper doses of caffeine will help improve short-term alertness.

GARRISON SLEEP-QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Assessment of barracks, family housing, etc. to identify and mitigate conditions not conducive to quality sleep (e.g., garbage pick-up outside barracks at 4 a.m.; routine fire alarms during sleep hours).

TACTICAL SLEEP

Decisions and plans to improve the sleep environment for those on the night shift.

Strategies provided by the Army Public Health Center (APHC) and Office of the Surgeon General.

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. #Armysafety

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has the tools to keep you and your Soldiers safe, both on and off duty. Visit us online at <https://safety.army.mil>.

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



<https://safety.army.mil>

OPERATION TOY DROP Begins

*Story and photos by Spc. Tynisha Daniel,
319th MPAD, Public Affairs*

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – After months of planning, Operation Toy Drop XIX has begun. This multi-national training exercise provides U.S. and foreign jumpmasters from across the world with the opportunity to participate in collective training and airborne operations while integrating all Army and Air Force components to conduct mission command and airborne activities. Soldiers from the Airborne Special Operations Test Directorate (ABNSOTD), took the opportunity to instruct soldiers from eight allied countries on how to operate the MC6, a steerable canopy used by the U.S. Army.

Staff Sgt. Henry Pinckney, the noncommissioned officer in



U.S. Army Soldiers work collectively with eight participating countries in preparation for the annual Operation Toy Drop XIX. Operation Toy Drop is a USACAPOC(A) training event that allows Soldiers and foreign military to prepare and support the Global Combatant Commanders and Army Service Component Commanders in theaters of operation around the world.

"There are not many people that do what we do, it's a brotherhood that crosses the oceans. When you know someone else is a paratrooper there is special bond regardless of nationality."

Master Sgt. James Roscoe, 5th Military Information Support Battalion

charge of the MC6 training, briefed and instructed soldiers how to properly don and operate the MC6 main parachute and the T11 reserve parachute in preparation for the mission.

"I gave a class on the proper wear and fitting of the MC6 parachute and the T11 reserve," said Pinckney, a native of North Charleston, S.C. "We ran through the basics of the sizes and fittings of the harness."

After the briefing, soldiers received hands-on time with the equipment, and were able to try on and receive specific guidance on the do's and don't's of the proper usage of the equipment.

Operation Toy Drop's mission allows U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Soldiers to stay trained, ready and relevant after 15 years at war, said Pinckney. It also provides an opportunity to continue training with allied and partner nations so they may remain ready.

"There are not many people that do what we do, it's a brotherhood that crosses the oceans. When you know someone else is a paratrooper there is special bond regardless of nationality," said Mater Sgt. James Roscoe with Alpha Company, 5th Military Information Support Battalion. Through Operation Toy Drop, U.S. paratroopers have the chance to train with jumpmasters from other nations, learn about their training tactics, and participate in Airborne operations with a foreign jumpmaster.



Sgt. Lentikile Dittale representing the Botswana Special Forces Regiment prepares to use the U.S. steering parachute simulator to familiarize himself before participating in Operation Toy Drop XIX.

U.S. Army Soldiers work collectively with eight participating countries in preparation for the annual Operation Toy Drop XIX, Dec. 5, 2016. The Soldiers, civilians and family members assigned to USACAPOC(A) take great pride in planning and executing this event every year. OTD XIX provides an opportunity to continue training with allied and partner nations so Soldiers may remain ready.



All jumpmasters, American and foreign, spend hours in aircraft and parachute familiarization classes so they understand all tactics and procedures for a safe operation. Roscoe, a Sacramento, Calif., native feels that Operation Toy Drop is important because every country's military has different techniques and tactics that they can each learn from.

This annual collective training exercise is used to prepare Soldiers to support the Global Combatant Commanders and Army Service Component Commanders in theaters of operation around the world while providing selfless service to families in need.

With an estimate of over 6,000 toys donated for children in need throughout the region during the 2015 Operation Toy Drop. "Toy Drop continues to provide for the community and we would like to see it continue to grow," said Pinckney.

U.S. and foreign jumpmasters participate in Jumpmaster Training in preparation for Operation Toy Drop XIX, Dec 7, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Operation Toy Drop is the world's largest Joint and Combined airborne and collective training operation.



Ally Nations Jump For Training

Story and photos by Spc. Dustin Smith, 319th MPAD, Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – In preparation for Operation Toy Drop XIX, an annual collective training exercise used to prepare our Soldiers to support the Global Combatant Commanders and Army Service Component Commanders in theaters of operation around the world, U.S. jumpmasters join in training along with jumpmasters from eight partner nations, with over 4,000 paratroopers, who will all be taking part in the multi-national operation. The operation and training are conducted by the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), an Army Reserve unit from here.

The jumpmaster training allows U.S. paratroopers to have the chance to train with jumpmasters from other

nations, learn about their training tactics, and earn foreign parachute badges; a significant achievement among the paratrooper community representing the completion of an airborne operation with a foreign nation airborne force. “It strengthens the bonds with our partner nations that we can use to not only participate in airborne training but other areas as well,” said Staff Sgt. Josue Toledano, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Every Soldier and foreign ally at the training drills executed the procedures with enthusiasm, eager to learn new techniques and safety measures from partner nations to build upon their own knowledge and interact with other paratroopers. “We do have a phenomenal airborne



▲ U.S. and foreign jumpmasters participate in Jumpmaster Training in preparation for Operation Toy Drop XIX, Dec 7, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Operation Toy Drop is the world's largest Joint and Combined airborne and collective training operation.

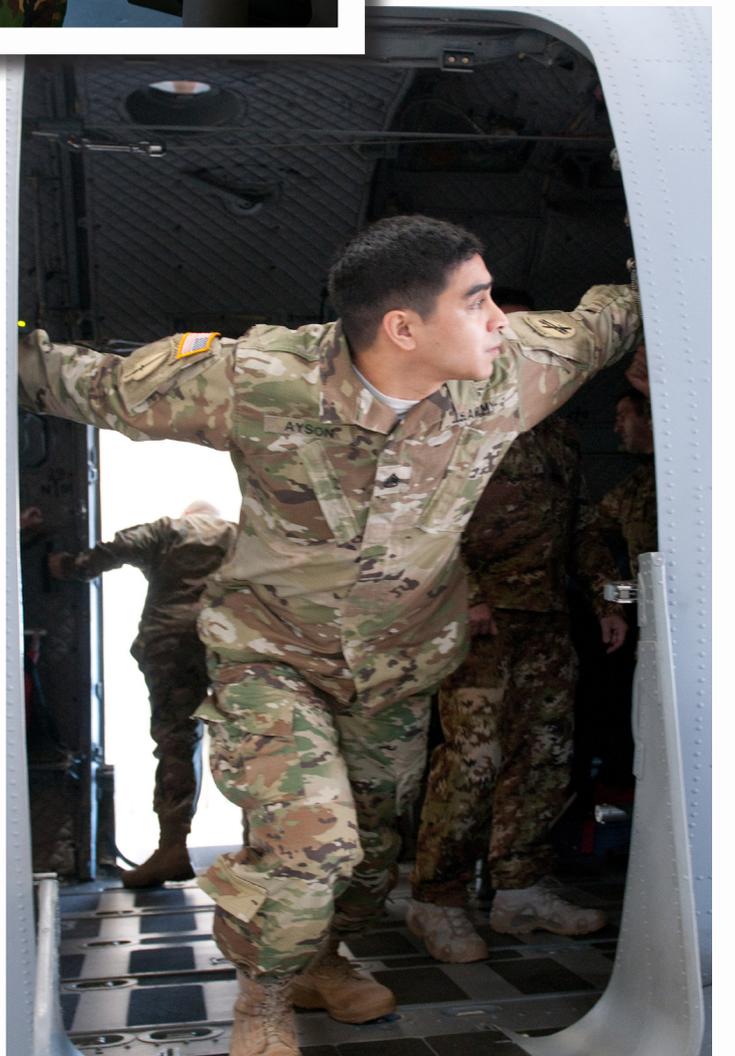
program but that doesn't mean that we can't learn from other countries," said Toledano, "our jumpmaster [from Botswana] is very knowledgeable and has already been able to teach us a lot of techniques and we're able to learn a lot."

As Operation Toy Drop XIX gets underway, the participants cannot hide their excitement and eagerness to jump with the other paratroopers. Sgt. Daniel Jenkins, from the Advanced Warfare Center in Trenton, Ontario, Canada, is joining for his second Operation Toy Drop and was happy to be invited again. "I was here in 2010 and finally got the opportunity to come back and have some more fun. Any time you get a chance to come and train

"We do have a phenomenal airborne program but that doesn't mean that we can't learn from other countries. Our jumpmaster [from Botswana] is very knowledgeable and has already been able to teach us a lot of techniques and we're able to learn a lot."

**Staff Sgt. Josue Toledano
478th Civil Affairs Battalion**

with other nations and forces it's always a good time, and it's always interesting to see other people and train with them."



▲ Staff Sgt. Nelson Ayson demonstrates proper jumpmaster procedures to foreign allies in training for Operation Toy Drive XIX. The operation sees participation with more than 4,000 paratroopers from the U.S. and eight partner nations.



118th MP Co. Soldiers First in Line at Operation Toy Drop XIX

Story and photos by Spc. Dustin Smith, 319th MPAD, Public Affairs

“The U.S. Army is the greatest fighting force in the world and there is no greater soldier than one who is willing to jump out of a plane and fight.”
Spc. Matthew Kreps, 118th Military Police Company

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Sheer excitement at the opportunity to jump with foreign jumpmasters brought U.S. paratroopers to brave the freezing temperatures to get in line for Lottery Day of Operation Toy Drop XIX, Dec. 9, 2016 at Green Ramp on Pope Army Airfield.

Led by the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), a U.S. Army Reserve unit based here, OTD is the largest annual airborne operation in the world, comprised of almost 4,000 U.S. paratroopers and jumpmasters from eight partner nations.

With so many participants showing up in hopes of winning a slot to jump, only true dedication allows for a Soldier to show up nearly 24 hours in advance, just to get a chance.

Spc. Matthew Kreps, 118th Military Police Company, showed up at 8 a.m. Dec. 8, 2016 to find he was the first in line for the lottery. Arriving with no supplies at the line-up, and with true airborne determination, Kreps wasted no time in staking his spot; not even daring to return for extra clothes or food before setting up camp to wait out the next 24 hours before the lottery began.

For Soldiers participating in OTD, the chance to jump with foreign jumpmasters is more than enough reason to wait out an entire day in line, according to Kreps.

“Foreign wings are a right of passage for paratroopers here,” said the Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., native. “I wanted the opportunity to donate with the added benefit of getting to

Left: Spc. Matthew G. Kreps, 118th Military Police Company, 503rd Military Police Battalion (Airborne), 16th Military Police Brigade, XVII Airborne Corps (Airborne) receiving his Canadian jump wings during Operation Toy Drop XIX. This was Kreps’ first foreign jump.

Right: Spc. Matthew G. Kreps, 118th Military Police Company, 503rd Military Police Battalion (Airborne), 16th Military Police Brigade, XVII Airborne Corps (Airborne) exchanges flags with Canadian jumpmaster Capt. Andrew Adach of the Advanced Warfare Center in Trenton, Ontario, Canada during Operation Toy Drop XIX, Dec. 10, 2016. Operation Toy Drop is the largest annual airborne operation in the world.

jump with our foreign allies.”

“Getting to interact with other countries is great to just have in your tool bag,” he continued. “Understanding that we are a diverse world and it’s not just America here, we have allies that support us and we should come out here and support them by getting to jump with them.”

This year at OTD, more than 1,000 Soldiers who came for the training donated toys hoping to give back to their community during the holiday season, showing once again the commitment to selfless service that is embodied in the U.S. Soldier.

“I’m happy that I am able to be here and to donate, and the chance to jump really seems secondary to that,” says Kreps. “Any time we can jump and improve our readiness is a good thing. The U.S. Army is the greatest fighting force in the world and there is no greater Soldier than one who is willing to jump out of a plane and fight.”

“This is just another demonstration that U.S. paratroopers are the greatest fighting force,” he continued, “and that we’re always ready, always adaptable, always capable, and it doesn’t matter who is at the front of that plane, we’re ready to go!”



USACAPOC participates in the 2016 Army Warfighting Assessment

Army civil affairs and psychological operations units train with new equipment in real world scenarios.

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Crofoot, USACAPOC (A)

FORT BLISS, TEXAS -- Soldiers with the 399th Psychological Operations Company (PYSOP Company), and 351st Civil Affairs Command (CA Command), both subordinate units of the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) [USACAPOC(A)], participated in the 2016 Army Warfighting Assessment (AWA) here.

“The AWA allows us to integrate readiness training, future force development, and Joint/Multinational interoperability efforts while assessing interim solutions to Army Warfighting Challenges (AWFCs),” said Gen. Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army.

AWA also allows units to be validated on integration capabilities and doctrinal knowledge, and provides a place to test abilities and mission sustainability with newly fielded equipment.

During the training, Soldiers worked with other services and agencies in real-world scenarios. The personnel were split into 3 groups; Division, Brigade Combat Team (BCT), and Company level. In each group the Soldiers were responsible for establishing a base of operations and communication capabilities prior to starting their individual missions. The BCT and companies would then conduct Air Assault and foot patrol missions. They communicated with “local leaders,” members of the community, and conducted Key Leader Engagements (KLEs). They also conducted an operation to breach a building, then subsequently employed their loudspeaker system along with a Product Distribution System-Lite (PDS-Lites) to help ensure communication and security were maintained.

For the BCT and company level Soldiers there was a big communication role that needed to be filled.

“We were tasked to provide the BCT Commander



with near-real time civil considerations information in order to deny enemy access to the civilian population, and set the conditions for successful transition to Phase IV. We also offered support to interoperability and operate in a Joint, Inter-organizational, and Multinational Environment,” said Lt. Col. Anthony Leyva, Battalion Commander, 426th Civil Affairs Battalion (A), acting as 351st CACOM senior leader.

“From these two objectives I expected that Civil Affairs and the company providing direct support to the maneuver BCT would gain unique insight and develop best practices for capitalizing on Civil Information Management (CIM) capabilities and Mission Command systems that could then be shared across the force and potentially impact future force considerations.”

From the Division level there was more of a mission command, and command and control role. Soldiers at that level would track, coordinate and integrate missions and capabilities. For the purpose of the training, they

would provide necessary support to assist the commanders in meeting objectives. Outside of this role, they also offered real-time guidance based off of their own previous experiences.

According to Army Capt. Steven Porter, the USACAPOC (A) Future Operations PSYOP Concept Developer, this mission was very unique because this was the first AWA to include USACAPOC(A) CA and PSYOP units; because of that it was very clear what the expectations were.

“Although there were many tasks at hand, it was key for USACAPOC(A) to test our ability to integrate systems and capabilities with Army, Joint and Coalition partners during phase III operations during the AWA. Although there were challenges, the Soldiers were able to document current and future force capabilities and requirements. They showed the ability to adapt to the new equipment and worked with partner agencies to complete the mission.”

“When you start talking about the future of the Army, AWA is key in providing senior Unified Action Partner leadership, the insight and facts needed to modernize their force while ensuring we can work together,” said Porter.

“It allows us to assess the proposed solution of adding a fully functional Civil Information Management

Cell in the Civil Affairs Company to provide near-real time civil information to the BCT Commander Common Operating Picture (COP)... In order to provide the right force capability to meet the U.S. Army’s Unit of Action, the BCT, civil situational understanding in Military Information Supports Operations (MISO) requirements to fight and win the battle,” Lt. Col. Leslie Parks, USACAPOC (A) chief of future operations.

“The AWA allows us to integrate readiness training, future force development, and Joint/Multinational interoperability efforts while assessing interim solutions to Army Warfighting Challenges.”

**Gen. Mark A. Milley,
Chief of Staff of Army**

“AWA is the premiere exercise to not only shape the BCT, but all component enablers as well as the interoperability between Special Operation Forces (SOF) and Conventional Forces as well as U.S. and coalition elements.”

Although the integration was one of the biggest challenges, Leyva felt the mission was a success.

“The unit demonstrated the vital traits of adaptability and critical thinking as they were immediately given some unique challenges. One was having two CA Teams task-organized to the U.K. and Australian Coalition BDE’s to serve as CA planners. Both teams quickly integrated into the coalition planning processes and immediately became key enablers and integral members of their respective BDE staffs.”

“Based on the objectives provided to the CA Company and the universal support the command provided, I believe the unit not only successfully achieved its mission but laid the groundwork to improve the CA force moving forward. I feel this was validated when the BCT Commander expressed his appreciation for the civil considerations regularly brought to his attention by the CA Company Commander and communicated that he felt that the exercise would have been even more productive if they had continued into Phase IV, stability operations.”

As the exercise neared completion, Leyva expressed the validity of this kind of mission.

“Unlike a combined training center that provides a platform to validate a BCT’s training level, and success is the expectation, AWA provides commanders at all levels the freedom to test new concepts with the expectation that identifying capability gaps and recommendations are the end state.”



Fuel for Training: Food Service Personnel Play Key Role in Toy Drop Operations

Story and photos by Capt. Ebony Malloy,
USACAPOC (A)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- No mission in the military can succeed without the behinds-the-scenes support that many people forget about. There are multiple moving parts that go along with a training operation, especially one as big as Operation Toy Drop.

The U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) led Operation Toy Drop XIX, the world's largest annual combined and joint airborne operation and training exercise. With jumpmasters from eight nations, over 320 multi-component personnel, along with more than 130 USACAPOC(A) personnel who took part in the collective training; you better believe there's going to be some extremely hungry and thirsty Soldiers so that makes the supporting elements that much more important.

Lt. Col. Alexia Fields, the USACAPOC (A) logistics deputy/ground officer-in-charge for Operation Toy Drop XIX talked about moving parts that are required to make an operation of this size successful. Fields stated that she was responsible for all operations that would be needed and necessary to support Operation Toy Drop which included logistical and human resource functions, as well as personnel support for all paratroopers that conducted the multi-national airborne operation.

"A mission for Toy Drop starts at least a year out. Once this mission is over, we will almost immediately get the warning order stating that we will be conducting or operating a mission the following year. Once Soldiers arrive for the mission, they encounter a robust supply and services element, which covers food service, supplies, admin support and many other things, to ensure mission success for all these units that are here not only to support a mission, but to also get necessary job training that they may not get in the civilian world."

She explained that her previous experiences helped

her in preparation for OTD XIX. "I've had the opportunity to do those intensive functions of making sure my Soldiers had food and water supplies. I've supervised culinary specialists, been in a sustainment brigade, and have seen Soldiers set up a military containerized kitchen. For me, it's the best of all worlds. Being part of the logistics staff, I get to see those logistical functions actually accomplished, which is very rewarding."

Fields goes on to say that even if other operations were canceled, the support continued, and thanks to that, the supporting staff still received good training.

"Our Soldiers were at work at 0500 hours to ensure food was ready and picked up and transported out to the drop zone to ensure all of the staff personnel were served. It's very heartening to see that just because an airborne operation doesn't occur, the overall support for logistics still happens," she said.

Fields finished by saying that throughout history food service is always important.

"Food services is always one of your favorite components because you sustain the force with the food that you provide. It's nourishing to the soul. I'm always excited that there might always be a maneuver element, there might always be a mission but without that logistical support you'll never be able to sustain the force. That's the part I'm always grateful for. There's always a purpose for our Soldiers and when we keep in mind that our mission is support, it's always great."

With food being offered at three different locations, and hundreds of Soldiers going through the tent, mission success wasn't the only thing at large.

"I feel that when everyone is well fed the morale will be higher," said Sgt. Leroy McKinley, a heavy vehicle operator and culinary specialist with the 942nd Transportation Company in West Hartford, Conn.

Outside of a different training environment and having the opportunity to interact with foreign jumpmasters, McKinley also talked about the importance of integration between different units, and even different service branches.

“I think the unification amongst the crew is very important. It’s been going well and everyone pulls their own weight, it helps things move faster. It’s hands-on so we’re able to breakdown the food supplies and equipment and move to the next site for operations without delays.

Spc. Savannah Yerdon, a culinary specialist assigned to 1018th Quartermaster Company in Schenectady, N.Y., also supported the command post operations aspect of this year’s Toy Drop. She talked about the daily preparations that her six-person food service crew went through.

“I get the food for the duration that I’m doing the production schedule for rations, figure out the times that I need to have the meals out, time management of when to have the food prepared and then feed everybody,” she said. Yerdon stated that the Soldiers have to be fed because it keeps them going, it enables them to do their duties better and if Soldiers are not fed, it could make or break a day which is why she believes her crew has such a vital role in the operation. Like many other Soldiers providing support, Yerdon explained this kind of operation gives her the chance to finally do her military job.

“I like the operation because it has given me the time to have more experience to carryout active duty cooking tasks, learning the importance of getting the food out to Soldiers on time and ensuring that there is enough rations for all the Soldiers.”

Yerdon’s love for cooking and helping people meshed with her decision to become a culinary specialist. Along with her passion for aiding others, she also views food distribution as an entity that makes people happy.

“The way to people’s hearts is through their stomach,” she said.



Right: Spc. Savannah Yerdon, a culinary specialist assigned to 1018th Quartermaster Company in Schenectady, N.Y., and Sgt. Leroy McKinley (Left), a heavy vehicle operator and culinary specialist assigned to 942nd Transportation Company in West Hartford, Conn., unload meal containers into the DFAC tent from their van in preparation for breakfast at Fort Bragg, N.C., Luzon Drop Zone on Dec. 12, 2016.

Using Public Information to Understand Public Sentiment

By Capt. James Quigg, USACAPOC (A)

FORT BRAGG, N.C.



With the seemingly never ending upgrade and flow of technology, access to information is literally at anyone's fingertips, including U.S. Soldiers. However, deciphering and using that information for a specific military purpose requires some assistance.

The U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Civil Information Management Cell (CIM) has developed a program that has more of an immediate return for their Soldiers, which makes it unique.

"The ability of U.S. Army units to partner and cooperate with other organizations and nations has drastically grown in importance: sharing information with partners is key to the success of any partnership.

"Our analysis products are shareable," says Army Sgt. Javier Miranda, of the USACAPOC(A) CIM Cell.

"We can provide information to nongovernmental organizations and other agencies more easily than they [other agencies' open source resources] can. We also have a specific focus on the civilian common operating picture, where other open source analysis is focused on targeting and intelligence," Miranda continues by explaining the benefits this program offers to Commanders worldwide.

"Our CIM Cell offers reach-back for units, mobilizing and mobilized, as well as the ability to provide them with real-time data about the civilian populace's perspective in the common operating picture."

By reach-back, Miranda refers to the ability of Civil Affairs or Psychological Operations teams to reach out to the CIM cell

with requests for information, assessments, and analysis in real time.

CA and Psyop teams can then, receive immediate feedback regarding the impact of their actions and operations on the civilian populace.

"While developing that expertise, USACAPOC is also developing an unclassified system," continued Donoghue. "It will align servers with COCOMs and have a fixed brain site at USACAPOC(A) HQ."

"USACAPOC(A)'s CIM cell currently has Soldiers assigned to provide service to each Geographic Combatant Command, developing their [the Soldiers'] regional expertise," said Donoghue.

Archangels

Support Operation Toy Drop

Story by Spc. Tynisha Daniel, 319th MPAD

Photos by Sgt. Christina Dion, 319th MPAD



FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Established in the 1940s, the Army’s Parachute Rigger (92R) Soldiers have ensured the safety and organization of airborne and airdrop missions for U.S and foreign partner nations around the world.

The 11th Quartermaster “Archangels” continue to uphold their duty to Soldiers during Operation Toy Drop XIX, Dec. 8-16, 2016 here.

Operation Toy Drop has provided the Archangels with an annual training opportunity to sharpen their tactics and techniques while training with allied and partner nations to remain ready.

“So far I have participated in two Operation Toy Drop missions, our mission is to ensure that the parachutes are well equipped for our fellow jumpers; foreign and our own,” said Spc. Matthew Montalvo, a

rigger with 11th Quartermaster, 82nd Airborne Division here.

As advisors on airborne operations, acting as a bridge between support and personnel staff, riggers play a major part in maintaining the safety of Soldiers and proper packing and delivery of equipment used.

“We make sure that the riggers of the parachute are sustainable for everybody here. We want to make sure the paratroopers have a good landing and a good opening when exiting the aircraft and make sure there are no malfunctions with the parachutes,” said Montalvo.

“The process of checking and packing parachutes become second nature to us,” says Montalvo. Beginning day one of Advanced Individual Training (AIT) riggers begin perfecting their craft.

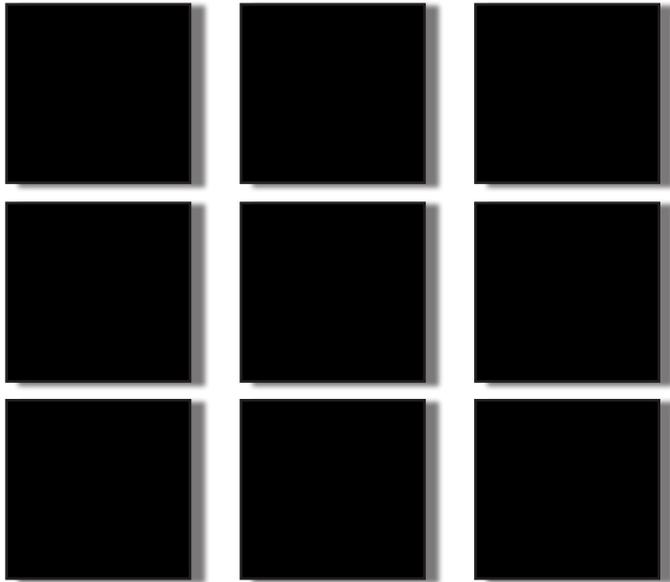
During Operation Toy Drop

the Archangels have supervised the inspection and inventory of personnel and parachutes for over 35 aircraft missions. Abiding to their motto, “We drop, don’t stop,” riggers pack, check, and recheck the parachute pack to guarantee that paratroopers will have a safe and secure landing when jumping from aircrafts.

Operation Toy Drop has allowed Montalvo and the Archangels to create and sustain relationships built between U.S. and foreign soldiers building trust while abiding to strict safety policies and guidelines.

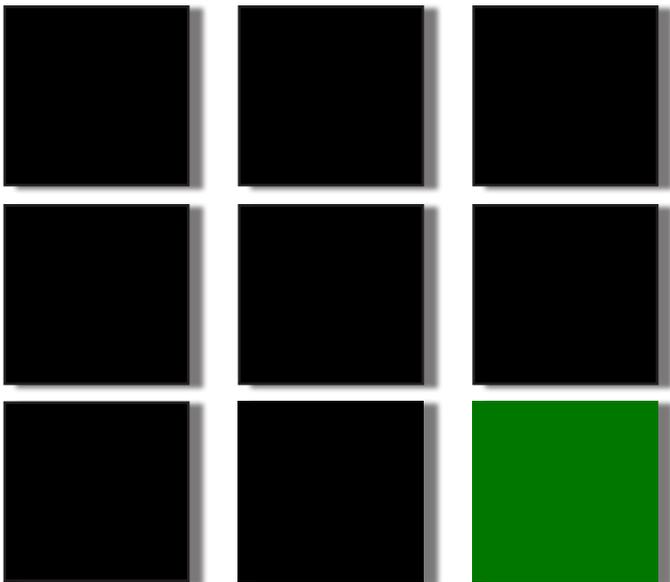
“We are the home of the airborne operations and having foreign partners in that aspect brings tremendous amount of efforts on both parts, we are learning new things from each other and bringing new ideas to the table,” said Montalvo.

Top: Riggers involved in Operation Toy Drop completed their three-day validation training to enhance event cooperation and safety, Dec. 8, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Operation Toy Drop is a U. S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and U.S. Army Reserve annual airborne operation and collective training exercise.



Lottery Day Jump

Story and photos by Sgt. Darryl Montgomery, 319th MPAD



Miss North Carolina 2016, McKenzie Faggart, calls out numbers during the Operation Toy Drop lottery day jump selection. During lottery day of OTD, Soldiers can choose to bring a toy to donate to local children in need.



Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Cogburn, Equal Opportunity Advisor, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, donates a toy during the Operation Toy Drop XIX lottery day on December 9, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Cogburn is a Mena, Ark., native.

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Hundreds of Soldiers stationed here gathered in the early morning of Dec. 9, 2016 for an opportunity to participate in the Operation Toy Drop XIX lottery day jump and possibly earn foreign jump wings.

While OTD XIX is a great opportunity for the Soldiers to give to the community during this time of year; it is also a one-of-a-kind training exercise they can take part in and receive training and experience working with the U.S. allies.

During the lottery day of OTD, Soldiers will receive a raffle ticket that gives them the opportunity to possibly jump with a foreign jumpmaster.

“This is a great opportunity for these Soldiers to potentially earn their foreign wings all while maintaining their readiness,” said Staff Sgt. Chatchai Brunosky, human resources noncommissioned officer, USACAPOC (A).

“We have Soldiers here who came out yesterday to begin lining up to be a part of this,” Brunosky, a Lakewood, Wash., resident said, “and that shows how motivated these Soldiers are to be here and excited they are for this.”

Spc. Tyisha Jones, intel analyst, 307th Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Airborne Division, said prior to being selected to jump she was excited just for the opportunity to be a part of this.

“This will be my first jump at



Spc. Matthew Kreps, 1st-18th Military Police (Airborne), receives recognition from Maj. Gen. Daniel Ammerman, commanding general, USACAPOC, for being the first Soldier in line during the Operation Toy Drive XIX lottery day on Dec. 9, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Kreps, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., said he was excited to be able to attend the lottery day jump and believes the training is an invaluable experience.

Fort Bragg,” said Jones, a Newark, Del., native. “It has been a very long journey for me to get here. My excitement levels are through the roof right now!”

As the hundreds of Soldiers anxiously waited for their raffle ticket to be selected, Jones became more and more nervous her number would not be called.

Brunosky, who has participated in OTD for three years, said he has enjoyed every opportunity that he

has had through participating in the annual exercise.

“I will be sad when I am no longer able to come here and take part in Toy Drop,” he said. “It has been an amazing opportunity in my career, and I am so thankful for having been able to participate.”

As the raffle ended, Jones’ number had still not been called. After a brief headcount, the OTD staff realized every jumper who had showed up for a chance to jump would be guaranteed to jump.

“I’m ecstatic,” Jones said. “To be a part of the 82nd [Airborne Division] is inspiring. It’s amazing that I’m here and I will be earning my foreign jump wings on my first jump at Fort Bragg!”

To be a part of the 82nd [Airborne Division] is inspiring. It’s amazing that I’m here and I will be earning my foreign jump wings on my first jump at Fort Bragg!

**Spc. Tyisha Jones, intel analyst,
307th Headquarters Company,
82nd Airborne Division**

RESPONDING WITH CARE DURING OPERATION TOY DROP XIX

Story by Staff Sgt. William Gillespie, 319th MPAD

Photos by Spc. Dustin Smith, 319th MPAD

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Operation Toy Drop is considered the world’s largest annual joint and combined airborne operation and training exercise.

For many, the focus is on the paratroopers, and for others, the focus is on the chance at earning foreign jump wings.

However, people quickly forget about all the support needed to make an operation of this size successful. Soldiers from various professions, commands, and services come together to support the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operation Command (Airborne) culminating yearly exercise.

“Our main focus is to provide urgent and non-urgent medical care to the Soldiers that get injured during a jump along with providing sick call to the support staff during Operation Toy Drop XIX,” said Lt. Col. Stephanie Kirby, a primary care physician with the 7458th Medical Backfill Battalion.

Any injuries that arise during the entire operation will receive the best medical support military organizations can provide. Injuries typically range from cuts and bruises to dehydration and broken ankles.

Medics from multiple commands with vehicles capable of evacuating the injured to the nearest medical treatment facility will be present at all Operation Toy Drop events.

“Safety is a very important part

of Operation Toy Drop, paratroopers are jumping out of high performance aircraft and helicopters,” said Master Sgt. Christopher Keller, medical section noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USACAPOC (A).

Not that anyone looks forward to an injury, but when one comes up, the medics are ready to serve. 1st Lt. Kathryn Snider and 1st Lt. Kaitlin Lamb, clinical nurses with 7458th MBB, splinted a paratrooper’s suspected sprained ankle after a hard landing. “We are able to perform our jobs during this exercise, allowing the Soldiers to keep their skills active,” said Lamb.

During the Command Post Operation aspect of OTD, Soldiers have an opportunity to refine their military professions; which adds to the future readiness of the Army Reserve.

For many Soldiers, an operation of this size serves as their only real chance at working on their specific individual military skills.

“The exercise lets us all get some real-world training,” said Kirby. “Some Soldiers don’t necessarily do this in their daily jobs.” “So, it’s nice when the medics can get in here and really do this.

They can get the training and do what they need to do so that they have the abilities to be able to deploy and care for their Soldiers,” Kirby said.

There is also an attention to detail mindset that is required for mission success. When not treating a patient, the medics



must constantly sterilize their vehicles and perform Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) to ensure the ambulances and crews will be ready at a moment's notice. No matter the time or day, or conditions, the Medics must always be ready.



Mechanics from 396th Ambulance Company inspect and perform maintenance after a mission during Operation Toy Drop XIX.



Left: Soldiers from 396th Ambulance Company inspect and replenish their standard operating supplies after a mission during Operation Toy Drop XIX.

JUMPMASTER TRAINING

Story by Sgt. Darryl Montgomery, 319th MPAD



Soldiers from different commands prepare to execute a jump from a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter at St. Mere Eglise drop zone here. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Ebony Malloy, USACAPOC (A) Public Affairs)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Jumpmasters from throughout the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) have come together to train jumpmasters from eight countries here for the 19th Annual Operation Toy Drop.

Operation Toy Drop is an annual exercise that allows USACAPOC (A) Soldiers to stay trained and ready for airborne operations. During the 2016 exercise, military members from eight allied countries have joined together and will be jumping with American Soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Gauger, a civil affairs team sergeant with the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), U.S. Army Reserve, said “I think Operation Toy Drop is an important event and is a unique opportunity for the American Army to train and maintain their jump abilities.”

Before the live jumps begin later this week, it is important for everyone involved to be trained to the highest standard for the operation to be carried out safely.

“Jumpmasters are paramount when it comes to safety, training, and execution of an airborne operation,” said Staff Sgt. Javier Rivera, unit supply sergeant with the Headquarters Support Company, 3rd Military Information Support Battalion. “When it comes to our job, doing everything possible to help things run smoothly makes training more effective, which, in turn,



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Gauger, a civil affairs team sergeant with the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), U.S. Army Reserve, goes through a dry run of jumping from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter with the Singapore jump team during Operation Toy Drop at Fort Bragg, N.C., Dec. 7, 2016. Gauger, a Columbus, Ohio, resident said it's good to work with foreign partners so he can better understand the cultural aspects as well as being able to see how they operate within their units. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Darryl Montgomery, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

helps us become better prepared for real-world situations.”

To Gauger, jumpmaster training is about ensuring the absolute safety of every jumper going into and out of airborne operations.

“It’s about keeping sharp, being alert, and staying efficient,” the Columbus, Ohio, resident said.

Not only is the jumpmaster training teaching everyone involved how to be more vigilant in the skies above Fort Bragg when the live jumps begin, it is giving the participants an opportunity to work with the militaries of allied countries from around the world.

“It’s good to work with our foreign partners so we understand the cultural aspects, as well as being able to see how they operate within their units,” Gauger said, “and it’s great to work with our allies in an event that isn’t brought together from an emergency.”

Rivera, a Kissimmee, Fla., resident, said he has enjoyed being able to talk to the jumpmasters from the visiting countries and share stories and experiences with them.

“The experience is invaluable,” he said, “It’s an interesting experience being able to watch the foreign teams accomplish their mission. I think I’ve learned as much from them as they have from me.”

“It has been great so far,” Rivera continued. “I’m looking forward to this event kicking off. I feel lucky to be a part of it and am looking forward to being able to do it again in the future.”



Staff Sgt. Javier L. Rivera, unit supply sergeant with the Headquarters Support Company, 3rd Military Information Support Battalion, goes over preparatory drills with the German jump master during Operation Toy Drop XIX at Fort Bragg, N.C., Dec. 6, 2016. Rivera, a Kissimmee, Fla., resident, said he has enjoyed being able to talk to the jumpmasters from the visiting countries and share stories and experiences with them. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Darryl Montgomery, 319th MPAD)



Once the USACAPOC(A) paratroopers completed the donning of their equipment, the Jumpmaster Team thoroughly inspected every paratrooper individually to ensure all of their equipment was safely and properly rigged for Airborne operations while they waited for the UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter to arrive at the St. Mere Eglise Drop Zone. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Ebony Malloy, USACAPOC (A) Public Affairs)

“It’s good to work with our foreign partners so we understand the cultural aspects as well as being able to see how they operate within their units and it’s great to work with our allies in an event that isn’t brought together from an emergency”.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Gauger, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion (A)



USARC Soldiers Show off Skills At National Championship

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Crofoot

CAMP PERRY, OHIO -- The U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) is always looking for ways to keep Soldiers trained, and the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) is a way for Soldiers to remain proficient at their marksmanship skills.

The CMP, which was originally the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM), was created by the U.S. Congress as part of the 1903 War Department Appropriations Act.

The original purpose was to provide civilians an opportunity to learn and practice marksmanship skills so they would be skilled marksmen if later called on to serve in the U.S. military.

From the mid-1950's until 1968 the USAR Marksmanship Program consisted of a Service Rifle Team, led by Sam Burkhalter, and a Service Pistol Team, led by Lee McKinney. Each year the teams would compete at various levels and the top shooters would form an all USAR team. The All-USAR teams would then compete in the National Rifle and Pistol Championships here. They would then disband until the next spring.

The then Chief of the Army Reserve, Maj. Gen. William Sutton was a Distinguished Rifleman. He strongly believed in marksmanship because during World War II he had to deploy cooks, supply personnel, truck drivers, etc. to defend his unit. He learned it was important for all Soldiers to know how to shoot well. Sutton, and later Chiefs of the Army Reserve, supported the USAR Marksmanship Program well into the late 1980's. After 1985, there was a major push toward training the USAR troop units, but the various USAR teams and individuals still continued winning their share.

Throughout the years, the program has led to many innovations for the Army. Members of the CMP board have worked with senior leadership to try and figure out ways to keep Soldiers not only competitive in this program, but also, and more importantly, how to stay ahead of the enemy in times of war. They have also taken strides internally to find new ways to recruit more members. The CMP remains focused on their core belief that everyone should know how to safely and efficiently be able to fire weapons.

The current USAR Marksmanship program has deep roots in the organization, and through the CMP, the Army has now recognized the need to change its training module. Soldiers who now go through marksmanship

training are bringing back new techniques learned through the CMP.

The program also sponsors a championship week once a year here. The championships are open to the top individual shooters from all branches of the military and civilians. The championships have various events throughout the week, this year it kicked off with the President's 100. This is an event where the top 100 shooters from across the country are named. The event required participants to quickly and accurately hit targets from distances ranging from 200 to 600 meters. The participants went through multiple qualifying rounds to determine the final group, who then had a shoot-off to determine an overall winner.

Another highlight from the event was the National Trophy Individual Match. The National Trophy Individual is the largest and most prestigious Service Rifle match in the U.S. and has been a critical component of the National Matches for decades. Other events include the National Trophy Team match, a sniper match, and a team combat readiness match.

Overall the Army Reserve participants showed just how relevant they are, and how well they are trained. The USAR Marksmanship Program (USARMP) was very well represented by its Service Rifle Team garnering a number of significant wins. There were three top twenty USARMP finishers in the President's 100, to include two that made their first appearance in this competition. Master Sgt. Robert Mango also took overall first place in the President's 100.

Mango also took first place in the National Trophy Individual Match, first place in the National Trophy Team match, and the highest overall score in the National Trophy Team match. Beside Mango, there were also three other USAR Soldiers to finish in the overall top ten of the NTI Match. Sgt. Nickolaus Mowrer finished second, Capt. Samuel Freeman and Sgt. Joseph Hall taking fifth and sixth, respectively. The USAR team also swept the reserve portion of the NTI Match taking nine of the Top Ten and thirteen of the Top Fourteen.

The team brought together Reserve Soldiers with a range of jobs, from finance to drill sergeants. Soldiers represented all parts of the United States; from Hawaii to Colorado, and as far East as North Carolina and many states in between. These Soldiers now have the opportunity to go home and teach their peers the new techniques they learned.

Sgt. Curtis Chambers with the 459th Transportation Company guides Spc. Caitlyn Canobbio with the 915th Transportation Company to a re-fueling point during Operation Toy Drop XIX.



QUARTERMASTERS lead the way

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Crofoot,
USACAPOC (A)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- “Logistics Warriors who are Soldiers first, technicians second to none; battle focused; reliable professionals assuring victory by sustaining America’s Army in peace and war.”

These are words that quartermaster Soldiers live by, it’s the quartermaster ethos.

If you try and name a job in the military that doesn’t require some type of quartermaster support, you may struggle, and that’s because quartermasters and logisticians are quietly involved in almost every operation, but many times people don’t realize their significance.

“Logistical support is essential to the accomplishment of any mission. Logistics impacts every phase of an operation, from shape, deter, seize the initiative, dominate, stabilize, enable civil authority. At every phase there will overlap the logistical footprint from food service, supply and

services, equipment appropriation, through contract appropriation. The quartermasters are essential to the future of the force,” Lt. Col. Alexia Fields, U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Deputy Chief of Logistics.

Operation Toy Drop XIX is ongoing, and for many people when they think Toy Drop, they think of all the Soldiers jumping. Yes, OTD is the world’s largest annual joint airborne operation and training exercise, but people forget about the behind-the-scenes stuff.

“The Quarter Master field provides a range of services including Parachute Riggers, Food Service, Supply of all classes, laundry and bath, and mortuary affairs,” said Col. Charles Butler, Chief of Logistics, USACAPOC (A).

“Without Quarter Master Soldiers the Army would not have the materials required to execute their

mission. For example, they would not have uniforms, weapons, ammunition, or food all items that are required for Soldiers to complete their mission,”

“The value provided to OTD includes the food provided to those executing the air mission, the tents they use, the chutes that are used during the mission, the fuel used by the aircraft, and all the materials used during the operation. Without QM Soldiers, the air mission would not happen,” continued Butler.

Although the overall mission requires quartermaster support, Butler says that this also serves as a great opportunity for the Soldiers supporting the mission.

“This training helps QM Soldiers gain real-world, hands-on, practical experience with providing support during an operation. We gain that experience knowing that without the support we provide, the operation is not able to proceed or would be

severely impacted.”

“Training is the main thing. It gives us a lot of training in our jobs. Many Soldiers out here don’t even get a chance to do their jobs after Advanced Individual Training,” said Sgt. Curtis Chambers, a heavy vehicle driver with the 459th Transportation Company out of Elwood, Ill.

Chambers also said this gives the Soldiers a chance to refine their skills so they are ready to deploy.

“For me, this was great on so many levels. For one, I haven’t gotten to do my job since graduating AIT, and coming out here I get to train on my military profession,” said Spc. Caitlyn Canobbio, a fueler with the 915th Transportation Company out of Smithfield, Pa.

“I also have a great chance to network with other Soldiers in our field. I do this job in the civilian world, and I have my own personal experiences, but there are a lot of Soldiers out here who have their own experiences as well, and with all that information, we can all become more rounded Soldiers and gain a lot more proficiency.”

According to Butler, Quartermaster Soldiers have an integral role in the future of the Army.

“The force of the future will continue to require the support of Quarter Master Soldiers to issue, account for, and provide products to keep them functioning,” he said.



Spc. Caitlyn Canobbio with the 915th Transportation Company and Sgt. Curtis Chambers with the 459th Transportation Company prepare the fueling truck to distribute fuel to the generators during Operation Toy Drop XIX.



Singapore Army Master Sgt. Rajenthiran Subramaniam watches as the last American paratrooper exits a CASA 212 during a jump at Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec. 10, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Subramaniam said he was impressed with the U.S. safety standards when it came to airborne operations and hopes he can participate in OTD again in the future.

SINGAPORE

Story and photos by Sgt. Darryl Montgomery
319th MPAD

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Countries from all around the world joined together to take part in the 19th annual Operation Toy Drop, here, to give back to the community and improve both American and its foreign partners' airborne abilities.

Operation Toy Drop is the largest annual combined airborne training operation in the world in which Soldiers bring toys to give back to the local communities while also receiving training from foreign jumpmasters and culminating in the Soldiers earning their airborne wings of the country they jump with.

Of the eight countries participating this year, Singapore is experiencing OTD XIX for the first time.

The Singapore team showed great appreciation and excitement about being able to attend OTD XIX.

"It is a privilege to be here," said Singapore Army Second Warrant Officer Sinayah Sangilee. "I appreciate the opportunity to be here and take part in this training."

"We are very glad to be here," he

continued. "The teaching is similar to what we do in Singapore, but to be able to learn the different methods from all the other countries is great."

"We will be able to take this training back and share it with our countrymen," said Singapore Army Master Sgt. Rajenthiran Subramaniam.

Many of the U.S. Soldiers were excited at the chance to jump with the visiting jumpmasters, and the jumpmasters were just as excited to work with the Americans.

"The close friendship we have gained is great," Subramaniam said. "We are like family now; everyone is so friendly; they make us feel we are home."

While OTD is known as a toy drive to collect gifts for local children who

may not be as fortunate as others, it is ultimately more about the training than anything.

"It is great to be able to help the children," Sangilee said. "But, to work with all the countries and learn all these techniques is just amazing – this needs to continue each year."

"This is an experience you cannot gain anywhere else in the world," he continued. "If you are given the chance to attend [OTD], do not pass it up."

*"It is great to be able to help the children, but, to work with all the countries and learn all these techniques is just amazing – this needs to continue each year. This is an experience you cannot gain anywhere else in the world."
Singapore Army Master Sgt.
Rajenthiran Subramaniam*



Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman, commanding general, USACAPOC (A), receives the Singapore jump wings after jumping with the jumpmasters of Singapore during Operation Toy Drop XIX at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Singapore Army Third Warrant Officer Xiande Kiew pins the jump wings of his country on an American Soldier who participated in a jump with the Singapore jumpmasters during Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec. 10, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. This year's OTD marks the first time Singapore participated in the annual event.



Singapore Army Second Warrant Officer Sinayah Sangilee during Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec. 10, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Sangilee is part of the first Singapore jump team to participate in OTD in the 19 years of the exercise being held at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Operation Toy Drop XIX Command Post Operations

Story and photos by by Capt. Jevon Thomas,
319th MPAD

FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- During Operation Toy Drop XIX, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) conducted command post operations in order to train on their mission essential tasks.

For the first time since the beginning of this yearly event, an operational command post has been established for OTD. The CP allowed the HHC to document the training value and capture the readiness gained by USACAPOC (A) conducting the operation. The training was conducted in support of real-world airborne operations in order to truly reflect their wartime mission.

“It exercises our Soldiers by giving them the opportunity to practice these tasks in an operational command that they otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to train in,” said Sgt. Maj. Carolyn Sherratt, Operations Sergeant Major, HHC, USACAPOC (A). “The unit gained more from this particular operation than in previous years because we are exercising the sections the way they would be operational.”

OTD entails a myriad of different moving parts, and the role of the command post is to coordinate these moving parts in order to ensure the successful implementation of the operation. They track



each flight's personnel, type of aircraft, equipment, and flight times as they are conducted to and from the drop zone, as well as establish communications.

The Joint Communication Support Element contributed greatly to the operation by maintaining real-time communications for the entire event, with Soldiers performing tasks they may not normally have the opportunity.

“The ability for us to integrate with USACAPOC (A) and be able to see how they operate, what their experiences are in the field and then how we can contribute to that mission, as well as how we operate in the field,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Lane, a native of Winter Haven, Fla., “is good for both the Soldiers and the leadership.”

“A key focus has been integrating the U.S. Army Reserve Command, Army National Guard, Active Duty Air Force, as well as the Air National Guard into the operation so that all could exercise their essential tasks that they would execute during wartime,” says Master Sgt. Kevin Williams, Tactical Operations Center (TAC) Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge.

Integrating the different branches allowed for a broader handoff of knowledge from senior NCOs and officers, to junior leadership.

“One of the takeaways from this exercise is how, especially for junior NCOs and junior officers who don't understand how an operation is run or may not have had the chance to see it, they get to experience it first-hand,” said Sherratt. “It supports the professional growth of not only the individual, but also the organization.

“It's important that units understand how to adapt given different circumstances, which is what you see now with OTD,” she continued. “We are training to be an operational command post and now our Soldiers that are here will have some knowledge on what it takes.”

While supporting Operation Toy Drop, command post operations simultaneously provided Soldiers with real-world experience, which is essential to the growth and development of junior leaders. This opportunity allowed for Soldiers in various branches to train on necessary skills that they would not otherwise have the opportunity to train on.



Sgt. Curtis Chambers, 459th Transportation Company, and Spc. Caitlyn M. Cannobio, 915th Transportation Company, perform fueling operations at Luzon drop zone, Dec. 12, 2016. Chambers and Cannobio provide essential support to all of Operation Toy Drop XIX.

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Sgt. Maj. Carolyn Sherratt briefs the Tactical Operations Center at Mackall Army Air Field on operation updates, Dec 12, 2016. The TOC is the head of mission control for Operation Toy Drop XIX.



TRANSPORTATION: FIRST IN, LAST OUT AT OPERATION TOY DROP

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. George Thurmond II

FORT BRAGG, N.C.-- It's 0330 here and as expected, there are Soldiers outside that have started their day.

But on this dreary morning, it's not the mighty Airborne or Special Operations Soldiers that call Bragg their home that are the first to greet the morning moonlight before it gives way to the sun, but a squad-sized element of the 970th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control Team) an Army Reserve unit based in Eugene, Ore.

Today's mission is the same as it's been since the unit arrived here, provide support for Operation Toy Drop.

Established in 1998, by then Staff Sgt. Randy Oler, a U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) Soldier, Operation Toy Drop started as a training event and airborne operation.

Each year since, the event has drawn thousands of Soldiers with jumpmasters from eight nations conducting airborne operations this year. Along with training, Operation Toy Drop provides an opportunity for Fort Bragg Soldiers to donate toys to local children, having donated nearly 100,000 toys since its inception.

Although the paratroopers get most of the attention, it's the supporting elements, such as transportation, that

enables Operation Toy Drop to be successful.

"Today's mission is to push jumpers from Luzon Drop Zone to MacKall Airfield to load helicopters and fixed wing aircrafts for jumping back at Luzon," said Sgt. Robert Michael St. Peter, a transportation management coordinator (88N) assigned to the 970th TC Det (MCT). He continued, "We're essentially tracking all personnel, all vehicles, where they're going, what they're doing, where they're at, and we have a live feed tracker we run for the command sergeant major."

The ten Soldiers representing the 970th TC Det (MCT) this morning are all trained in the 88N military occupational specialty (MOS), and all used accountability when describing the importance of their role in at Operation Toy Drop.

"As an 88N we play a part in the accountability for these large scale operations. If there is something to know movement wise we're able to sit beside the commanders and command sergeants major during these operations and be a level of accountability for all pieces of the movement. That includes vehicles, personnel, and food transportation," said St. Peter.

The 970th TC Det (MCT) support wasn't limited to only providing support during the airborne operations of Operation Toy Drop that started Dec. 8 and is scheduled to run through Dec. 16, as the unit worked with motor transport operators (88M) to process and load cargo to assist in the lead up to Operation Toy Drop arriving here on November 30.

With the major roll transportation playes in Operation Toy Drop it would be easy to assume the 970th TC Det (MCT) is an active-duty unit, but their support of Operation Toy Drop is the unit's annual training (AT) mission as the unit is a Reserve unit and the Soldiers appreciate the real-world training opportunity.

The Army Reserve is an institution of expert specialists needed by our active Army and the Nation's total military force, representing most of the Army's medical, logistical, engineering, civil affairs, psychological operations, legal, chemical, and transportation capabilities.

"This was my first experience assisting paratroopers in a logistical sense," said Sgt. Michale Clouser, an 88N and former infantryman (11B). He continued, "I know this is a unique experience for some of the younger Soldiers in

the unit, so it's been a pretty fun mission. We've been very active, long hours, but a good time."

St. Peter added, "USACAPOC gave us a lot of freedom to customize our training. We were able to get with the 88M's and build an entire process of movement from start to finish," he said

"As a Reserve unit we don't get an opportunity to move a large amount of PAX, a large amount of cargo. This mission was an opportunity for the newer Soldiers to get their feet wet in a real-time situation. We all were able to process movement request, process cargo, process PAX, and run through tracking systems," said St. Peter.

Right: Staff Sgt. Joseph Vaughan a transportation management coordinator (88N), assigned to the 970th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control Team), calls in personnel and equipment numbers to the tactical operations center before movement can take place December 14, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. for Operation Toy Drop XIX.



Paratroopers begin to form into chalks in preparation for airborne operations at the 2016 Operation Toy Drop XIX Dec. 14, 2016 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Operation Toy Drop is a USACAPOC(A) annual airborne operation and collective training exercise used to prepare Soldiers to support the Global Combatant Commanders and Army Service Component Commanders in theaters of operation around the world.

