

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 79TH SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT COMMAND

THE FALCON



TRAINED, READY, COHESIVE, WELL-LED
SUSTAINMENT UNITS FOR WORLD-WIDE DEPLOYMENT

Winter 2016

THE FALCON HIGHLIGHTS

Cover photo by: Master Sgt. Dave S. Thompson,
4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs Chief



TWO STAR NOTES 4

A TRANSFORMING FORCE
BY MAJ. GEN. MARK W. PALZER

CSM ON POINT 6

STAYING READY
BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. TED L. COPELAND

COMMAND EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT 8

BEING EXPEDITIONARY IS A MINDSET
BY MR. GREGORY HINTON

MEDICAL MATTERS 9

POST DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT
79TH SSC MEDICAL ADVISORY OFFICE

SPIRITUAL FITNESS 12

PREPARED FOR LIFE'S CHALLENGES
BY CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) RAYMOND AYERS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY 13

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HISTORY
BY MS. VERONICA MARTINEZ

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL 14

THE FY16 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT: WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER?
BY COL. JOHN SULLIVAN

SHARP PROGRAM 15

RESOLUTIONS
BY MS. MAURNIKE STEVENSON

79TH SSC PARTICIPATES IN EXERCISE LION FOCUS 18-20

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ALEXANDRA HAYS

79TH SSC TAKES PART IN JUDICIOUS RESPONSE'17 21-23

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ALEXANDRA HAYS

79TH SSC MAJ SAVES LIVES IN UGANDA 24-26

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ALEXANDRA HAYS

4TH ESC HIGHLIGHTS 27

311TH ESC HIGHLIGHTS 28-33

364TH ESC HIGHLIGHTS 34-35

451ST ESC HIGHLIGHTS 36-40

79TH SSC COMMAND TEAM

79TH SSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE - 562-936-7660 - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/79SSC



COMMANDING GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. MARK W. PALZER

DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL
BRIG. GEN. SUSAN E. HENDERSON

COMMAND EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. GREGORY T. HINTON

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHIEF
SGT. 1ST CLASS ALEXANDRA HAYS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
LT. COL. BETTINA K. AVENT

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
COMMAND SGT. MAJ. TED L. COPELAND

COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 MICHAEL A. HANTEN

The Falcon, a U.S. Department of Defense publication, is published biannually by the 79th Sustainment Command (Support) Public Affairs Office located at 4201 Saratoga Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5170. In accordance with DoD Instruction 5120.4, this DoD magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the U.S. military. Contents of The Falcon are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or DoD.



TWO STAR NOTES:

BY MAJ. GEN. MARK W. PALZER
79TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (SUPPORT)
COMMANDING GENERAL

79TH IN TRANSITION: A TRANSFORMING FORCE



The Army Reserve is capable, lethal, combat ready and remains a critical component of the Total Force. The units within the 79th Sustainment Support Command provide indispensable sustainment to enable the Warfighter to accomplish the mission. As the many threats across the globe continue to evolve, we must remain trained and ready. This becomes more significant as the headquarters transitions to become a Theater Sustainment Command. Readiness, as always, is fundamental and essential. We must not settle on past successes, but work to continually improve. In the coming year, our command will focus on three primary areas.

Transformation

Transformation to a TSC is well underway at the headquarters. The change to a TSC is not simply a name change or adjusting the letterhead. This new mission embodies many other training, manning, and equipping requirements and challenges, including transition to a deployable headquarters and providing support to Africa Command. Fortunately, the right people are confronting these challenges and building the foundation for a successful activation. As the transformation continues, there

should be minimal impact on the 79th's subordinate units' day to day operations. There will, however, be many more training opportunities, especially overseas training opportunities, for all units within the 79th TSC. Additionally, the TSC will provide greater prospects for career progression within not only the logistics fields, but for the other branches and Military Occupational Specialties as well. These unique training and professional opportunities will be afforded to Soldiers at all levels. I need you to be ready to embrace these challenges and opportunities when they present themselves.

The 79th SSC Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment has nearly doubled in size in the past year. It is exciting to see these new Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers eager to be a part of a deployable unit. With the activation of the TSC scheduled for September 2017, it is certainly an exciting year ahead.

Readiness

I can't stress the importance of readiness enough. Individuals and units must work hard and push themselves to remain ready. There is no denying that this is a constant challenge. Leaders need to attack

"As the many threats across the globe continue to evolve, we must remain trained and ready."

readiness with a prioritized, systematic, and relentless fervor. As the Chief of Staff of the Army says, we all need to "be in the game." To "be in the game" means being able to play both home and away games – being able to participate in exercises such as Warrior Exercises, Combat Support Training Exercises, and home station training, as well as deployments overseas.

As an individual, being "in the game" means ensuring you are medically ready, mentally and physically fit, (able to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test), completing your Professional Military Education, and KNOWING YOUR JOB! As a unit, being "in the game" means maintaining equipment, completing collective training requirements, and developing accountability and teamwork. Managing programs, such as the General Fund Enterprise System, the Global Combat Support System – Army, the Command Supply Discipline Program, and Commander's Strength Management Module, set the foundation for success. We should all endeavor to be on the varsity team, not sitting on the bench.

Finally, I challenge each leader to foster an environment of mutual trust and a heightened level of energy and authenticity. Strive

Leadership

to be the best! Leaders set high standards, set the example, and hold their subordinates responsible. While gains should be celebrated, we ought to always be working to improve. This applies to both individuals and units. Don't settle for "good enough" - we can do better. I understand the sacrifices leaders make to ensure success. Know that these sacrifices do not go unrecognized by leaders or subordinates. Take care of yourselves and hold your subordinates responsible to take care of each other - then be ready. I ask that you understand and support the operational requirements of the Army Reserve; we are no longer the strategic reserve of years past.

Conclusion

As we continue to transform, we must all remain ready in order to take advantage of available opportunities. This is a great time to be in the Army Reserve - the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal reserve force in the history of the Nation. I continue to take pride in your sacrifices, I am and always will be proud to serve with you.

***"To Do For Country,
Falcon Strong!"***



STAYING READY

BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. TED L. COPELAND

For the Soldiers of the 79th Sustainment Support Command 2017 means it's the start of preparing for new exercises, and unit and individual training requirements. As I have mentioned in previous articles, individual readiness is the first priority for every Soldier.

With the assistance of senior non-commissioned officers, we strive to identify shortfalls in our NCO's knowledge and experiences and then produce training agendas to teach and improve those gaps. In 2017, the focus for me as your Command Sergeant Major and the NCO Corps is getting back to the basics of NCO leadership – to train, mentor and care for our Soldiers. What does that really mean? To me, it's very simple; our noncommissioned officers must know their duties, then aggressively pursue those duties by training and mentoring Soldiers and holding them accountable for meeting Army requirements. As we make progress, one of the by-products will be improved Soldier readiness in all of the measured areas. I expect all the command's NCOs to seek out what is expected of them and then to apply that newly found information towards improving Soldier readiness.



“Army Strong” means to the individual Soldier that we need to be strong in doing what is required of us, even when this sometimes results in sacrificing family or civilian employment time. I know this sacrifice can be hard, but when there is a requirement that you need to meet, it is vital to accomplish it as soon as possible. Our nation relies on us to accomplish the tough tasks. We have committed not to let them down.

In closing, think about all the safety precautions that apply to each of the situations you face. Safety should be a priority for each and every one of you. You are a valued and important member of the 79th team and the United States Army Reserve. I look forward to seeing all of you this year.

“Falcon Strong!”

Falcon 7

Hail and Welcome!

New additions to the 79th SSC family

SOLDIER AND FAMILY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, Kimberly Hagner



DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL, Brig. Gen. Susan E. Henderson comes to the 79th from the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) where she served as the Deputy Commanding Officer. Henderson entered the Army in 1989 after earning her undergraduate degree and commission as a Transportation Officer through the Reserve Officers Training Corps program at the University of Tampa, Florida. Subsequently, she attended the University of Massachusetts, receiving a Masters of Education and the U.S. Army War College, receiving a Masters of Strategic Studies. Henderson has served 11 years in the National Guard, 2.5 years as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee, and 14 years in the Army Reserve.

Some of Henderson's previous assignments include Brigade Commander, Army Sustainment Command Army Reserve Element in Rock Island, Illinois; Director of Surface and Sustainment for the Central Command Deployment and Distribution Operations Center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; and Joint Mobility Officer and Joint Operations Functional Training Officer for U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Henderson's mobilizations and deployments include Operation Noble Eagle from August 2002 to August 2004, Operation Enduring Freedom from October 2008 to July 2011, and Operation Enduring Freedom from February 2016 to August, 2016. Originally from Roy, Utah, Henderson is a Systems Engineer working for the MITRE Corporation. She and her husband Bill reside in Illinois with their two daughters.

Greetings family and friends of 79th SSC, it is a pleasure to represent the command as the new Soldier and Family Programs Director. I am extremely encouraged by the partnerships that exist within the local community to support our Active Duty and Reserve servicemembers, Veterans and military families. My 17 years of experience in Family Programs with the Active Duty component has prepared me for the unique challenges of the Reserve lifestyle.

As you are already aware, this year the 79th will undergo a transformation that will morph us from a Sustainment Support Command to a Theater Sustainment Command, a change that will further diversify the type of staff we are responsible for supporting. In an effort to ensure our Soldiers and families maintain the highest state of readiness, the 79th is making a concerted effort to realign human service related programs to increase collaboration and best meet our community's needs. These lines of effort include but are not limited to family readiness, child youth services, lifeskills training, suicide prevention, sexual assault, and substance abuse. We'll ensure that knowledge of programs and services intended to provide support makes it into the hands of every Soldier and his/her family.

In developing this holistic model of care, we want to further encourage Soldiers and families to keep reaching out to their family readiness representatives, chaplain, and leadership to provide feedback on how we are doing and more importantly, for assistance without hesitation.



Command Executive Officer Report

Mr. Gregory Hinton
79th SSC Command Executive Officer

BEING “EXPEDITIONARY” IS A MINDSET

It's more than a year into this journey and transition of the 79th Sustainment Support Command Headquarters as we prepare for official activation as the Theater Sustainment Command aligned with U.S. Army Africa. Everything we have accomplished moves us closer to full operational capability.

We are fortunate as we move to become a mobile sustainment force that we have four outstanding expeditionary sustainment commands as our subordinate units. While we have supported them from the top over the years, we have also learned how to adapt their tactics and strategies in the form of lessons learned and best practices. We have provided command and control to the best and now we are prepared to set the example as we operate in this new “expeditionary” environment.

This is much more than the dictionary definition of “sent on military service abroad,” for the 79th SSC, it means providing support to AFRICOM's projection of decisive power across the globe, while sustaining the critical programs that underpin all of our capabilities. For us, being expeditionary is a mindset—thinking beyond the basics. We must be visionary and innovative in the ways we package and deliver support, recognize and close gaps and partner to achieve the greatest efficiency in these activities. As sustainers, we need to think 5 steps ahead of our customers, solving any issues before they develop.

Our success depends on our ability to adapt and remain relevant in the contemporary operating environment. We are faced with changing threats and a greater need to support Families and Soldiers in a dynamic world. We need to cultivate and hone multiple skill sets that allow us to quickly pivot from one role to another and create solutions on the fly.



Through top-notch military and civilian recruiting and accessions, we are creating a more agile and adaptive team. We continue to collaborate and build strong ties with local chapters of Veterans service organizations. We are establishing new partnerships and maintaining existing ones within the local communities, professionally, and with other federal agencies that will allow our people to refresh their skills and maintain a growth trajectory as well build strong networks to better facilitate the taking care of Families. We will continue to seek out the best and brightest to join our efforts here at the 79th. I will continue to seek out and strengthen our ties with other commands and organizations to provide a network of “expeditionary thinkers”. As we move forward, we must be proactive and preemptive in our approach to developing our organization. We should lead the Army Reserve in meeting these needs in a rapidly changing world.

I see great things ahead for us. It is up to each of us to find the ways we can advance the mission in our own space. As 2017 begins, I hope you are refreshed and rejuvenated to develop the new strategies and partnerships we all need moving forward.

79TH SSC MEDICAL MATTERS

79th SSC Medical Advisory Office

POST DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT

The Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) Program is part of the Department of Defense's overall Force Health Protection Program. Screening is designed to address deployment-related health conditions and readjustment concerns 90-180 days following redeployment from theater. The Army Reserve and the 79th SSC is committed to the health and well-being of Soldiers.

Commanders are responsible for ensuring 100% of their redeployed personnel are PDHRA compliant. PDHRA provides leadership with an important tool to identify physical and behavioral issues that occur following the initial Post Deployment Health Assessment. The Commander's involvement demonstrates a commitment to the well-being of personnel. The Commander's support of the PDHRA encourages personnel participation and willingness to provide candid responses. PDHRA supports unit readiness by providing early treatment for health concerns and enables fast manning decisions that enhances deployability.

The PDHRA is a Commander's metric and is evaluated during the Organization Inspection Program and is reported in the Annual Statement of Assurance. The PDHRA completion rate for the United States Army Reserve Command and its Direct Reporting Units are briefed at the monthly Strategic Readiness Update to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

Commanders coordinate the PDHRA process with appropriate G-1/S-1 or medical staff who then coordinate with the PDHRA Coordi-

nator to determine the best PDHRA administration option. The PDHRA is administered 90 to 180 days post deployment in accordance with DODI 6490.03. Compliance is important because deployment-related health concerns often develop during this period.

A PDHRA appointment is conducted in one of three ways: A one-on-one health care provider discussion usually takes place either in-person during a Yellow Ribbon Event 7, a Unit On-site Event, or Call Center Event by phone, depending on the Soldier availability. Yellow Ribbon and Unit On-site Events are preferred over Call Center phone calls. It is important that leaders communicate to their personnel how to proceed with PDHRA administration. On-site events are based on the number of participants and attendance is important to avoid underutilization of services.

The Army G1 highly recommends that Commanders conduct the mandatory 90 to 180 day Post-Deployment Resilience Training prior to the PDHRA. Research studies indicate that personnel who participate in Resilience Training prior to the PDHRA tend to be more honest and open in their PDHRA participation and are more willing to seek help for post-deployment concerns.

For more information or answers to questions contact: PDHRA_AR@ocar.army.pentagon.mil. To learn more about the PDHRA, please visit the Army G-1 PDHRA Homepage at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/pdhra/>

SAFETY: DON'T BE DISTRACTED, TAKE A STAND

Mr. Jeffrey Harris

79th SSC Command Executive Officer

Your mind is indeed your most important safety “device.” Distractions on your attention can lead to missing important cues. Performing an important task like driving can become routine. On your daily trek from work to home and back, it can become easy to allow your mind to wander, take your eyes off the road to fiddle with the radio, or even pick up your cell phone to answer a text. It’s our reliance on our routine which makes us feel secure on the road, but it also allows the possibility of complacency and an end result of unimaginable harm.

We don’t always need to be completely focused on a task in order to accomplish it without getting hurt. In fact, most people can shoot off a text here or there while driving and feel like no harm has been done but it is these small distractions while driving which allow our attention to detail to fade. We can be distracted from that safe cushion distance to another car by our attention to a cellphone buzzing with the notification of an incoming text or conversation.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration website, distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic. In 2014, 3,179 people died in distracted driving crashes.

The first thing people need to do is recognize the three types of distractions. There is the cognitive distraction, when you take your mind off of the road, like focusing on a cellphone conversation. There are manual distractions, where you take your hand off of the steering wheel reaching for an object. Finally, there are visual

distractions, where you take your eyes off of the road to look at something interesting on the side of the road. It’s ironic but not very funny when you have an accident because you were rubbernecking at one on the side of the road! There is one behavior which combines all three of these distractions. People who text and drive are four times more likely to be involved in an accident than those who are not. Texting and driving is becoming recognized as a public health crisis, not dissimilar from the push against drunk driving in the 1980s.

We must motivate ourselves to work on our safety-related driving habits. Try moving your eyes before you move your hands, feet, body, or car. If you just have to answer that text or phone call, pull the car over or use a hands-free device. Our cars are an integral part of our routines, so everything that someone does in their life you can expect them to do in an automobile. How important then that we seek to use them safely. Distracted driving is typically synonymous with texting. That’s one reason drivers are prohibited from texting and driving on all U.S. Army installations. However, according to U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center officials, any time a driver takes their eyes off the road or hands off the wheel there’s an increased opportunity for a crash.

We must do our part as leaders to be engaged and involved in building a culture of safety. Take a stand. Send a clear message that you do not condone texting or talking without a hands free device while driving.

ASK JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

Col. Phillip N. Foster

79th SSC Staff Judge Advocate (SJA)

As the 79th Sustainment Support Command continues its transition to a Theater Support Command, more of our Soldiers will likely to have the opportunity to deploy in support of our new missions. Understanding the major provisions of the Service Member’s Civil Relief Act will help Soldiers plan for deployment and take advantage of the many protections the SCRA provides.

The SCRA provides a wide range of protections for individuals entering the military, called to active duty in the military, or deployed Service Members. It is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations (not criminal cases) to enable Service Members to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the family members of those Service Members. A few examples of such obligations you may be protected against are:

- Outstanding credit card debt
- Mortgage payments
- Pending trials
- Taxes
- Terminations of leases.

In addition, the SCRA:

- Expands current law that protects Service Members and their families from eviction from housing while on active duty due to nonpayment of rents that are \$3,451.20 per month or less (for 2016). This amount changes every year.
- Provides a Service Member who receives permanent change of station orders or who is deployed to a new location for 90 days or more the right to terminate a housing lease.
- Clarifies and restates existing law that limits to 6 percent interest on credit obligations incurred prior to military service or activation, including credit card debt, for active duty Service Members.

The SCRA unambiguously states that no interest above 6 percent can accrue for credit obligations (that were established prior to active duty or activation) while on active duty, nor can that excess interest become due once the Service Member leaves active duty. Instead, that portion above 6 percent is permanently forgiven. Furthermore, the monthly payment must be reduced by the amount of interest saved during the covered period.

Note: This law only covers debt incurred prior to military service.

- Allows you to terminate a cell phone contract if you relocate for at least 90 days to a location that does not support your cell phone service.
- Allows you to terminate a vehicle lease you signed prior to joining the armed forces if you enter military service under a call to duty on orders of 180 days or more. You may also terminate a vehicle lease if you receive PCS orders to a location outside the continental United States or deploy OCONUS for at least 180 days.

SCRA ELIGIBILITY

The SCRA covers all Active Duty Service Members, Reserve Soldiers, and members of the National Guard while on active duty. The protection begins on the date of entering active duty and generally terminates within 30 to 90 days after the date of discharge from active duty.

For more assistance on the details of the SCRA, and/or to discuss the specifics of your particular legal matter, contact your local legal assistance office. To locate the closest legal assistance at a military installation, use the Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator available at the following link: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. And/or visit <http://www.jagcnet.army.mil>.



Spiritual Fitness

Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond Ayers
79th Sustainment Support Command Chaplain

Prepared For Life's Challenges

Greetings from the 79th Sustainment Support Command Unit Ministry Team.

As Soldiers, in order to be ready, we have to prepare. Unexpected events will always occur. However, our response to them demonstrates how we have prepared. The unexpected briefing, the car collision on the way to work, the medical diagnosis that shakes you to the core, the natural disaster, the list is long. We are able to carry on because of our preparation which defines our readiness; personally, relationally, vocationally, and spiritually, as Citizen Soldiers.

As the Army Reserve begins the "Ready Force" concept, our office is preparing for the Army Reserve Command re-stationing/training plan for the chaplain detachments throughout the command. Your expeditionary sustainment command may receive a new Chaplain Detachment between now and Fiscal Year 2019. Your expeditionary sustainment command may have one, two or three detachments already. All of these detachments must be ready to deploy. Our chaplains and chaplain assistants are encouraged that religious support is a priority for the success of the global response force. Your religious support is not only your constitutional right, it is why the UMT exists.

If you don't know who your chaplain or chaplain assistant is, contact your leadership or a 79th UMT member below. Preparation is not only physical, mental, and relational; it is also spiritual. If you have not done so, schedule to attend a strong bonds event. Consider a chapel service offered during battle assembly. There are people and resources



available to you—just ask!

New to our team is Chaplain (Maj.) Raymond L. Ayers, who arrived in December to begin his first position in the AGR program. He and his family moved from Chicago where he served as the Troop Program Unit Deputy Command Chaplain for the 85th Support Command in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and Associate Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church & School.

"I look forward to serving as your Chaplain and pray for the day I can shake your hand and introduce myself personally," said Ayers. "My personal model for preparation is John the Baptist. As John performed and provided religious support, his objective upon seeing Jesus (according to John 3:30) was that he would decrease and Christ would increase. I pray that you see Jesus in and through me. Have a Blessed 2017 as we prepare...together!"

79th Command Unit Ministry Team

CH (MAJ) Raymond Ayers
Acting Command Chaplain
562.936.7622
raymond.l.ayers2@mail.mil

MSG Antonio Diaz
NCOIC Chaplain Assistant
512.705.9620
antonio.diaz1@mail.mil

SFC Joseph Gose
AGR Chaplain Assistant
562.936.7625
joseph.c.gose@mail.mil

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Ms. Veronica Martinez
79th SSC EO Program Manager

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HISTORY



The Army's EO Program was born in 1969 due to the violent confrontations between racial and ethnic groups. The Army realized that discrimination was one of the main reasons Soldiers' morale was low and the significant communication barriers between racial and ethnic groups.

Throughout the years the Army has been evolving to create a much different environment than those who served before us. Many changes have occurred and will continue to occur in order for Soldiers' to serve with Dignity and Respect. The Army's EO program has many great successes over the past 47 years. Looking back in history we can see how the role of women in the Army has drastically changed from the Revolutionary War to Present.

During the Revolutionary War women were only allowed to serve in the Army in traditional roles such as nurses, seamstresses, and cooks. In the Civil War, women were allowed to step into more nontraditional roles as spies and smugglers. In World War I, women's role in the Army expanded in other capacities from administrators, secretaries, telephone operators, and architects. The most dramatic gender-change in the Army's history's was World War II. The Women's Army Corps was created, allowing women to perform an array of critical Army jobs, from military intelligence, cryptography, parachute rigging, and maintenance and supply jobs. World War II was a time of change for women in the Army. From 1980s-1990s it was considered the New Era for women breaking down gender barriers. Today

women have the equal rights to choose any military occupation including ground combat arms.

That is just one example of barriers women had to break down to be able to serve in the Army in an equal opportunity atmosphere. The Army continually strive to treat all Soldiers' with dignity and respect and protect them from discrimination.

Today the Army has five protected categories of discrimination; race, gender, national origin, religion, and sexual orientation.

In June 2015 Defense Secretary Ash Carter added sexual orientation to the list of categories of discrimination, just four years after the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" that allows gays and lesbians to serve openly without discrimination. As the Army continues to change we as leaders have to be ready for the changes that lie ahead of us and the challenges they can bring. The Army has one mission as Secretary of Defense Ash Carter stated "Our mission is to defend this country, and we don't want barriers unrelated to a person's qualification to serve preventing us from recruiting or retaining the Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine who can best accomplish the mission. We have to have access to 100 percent of America's population for our all-volunteer force to be able to recruit from among them the most highly qualified –and to retain them... and that is for all who wishes to serve this great nation has the ability to serve with honor without discrimination".



INSPECTOR GENERAL

Col. John Sullivan

79th SSC Inspector General



The FY16 Special Assessment: What can we do better?

The 79th Sustainment Support Command Inspector General team recently closed out the Fiscal Year 2016 Special Assessment. The assessment focused on three areas: Leadership Development, Training, and Soldier Readiness. Not surprisingly, the results were mixed. Although there are some unchangeable constraints, like limited hours during Battle Assembly weekends and Annual Training, there are other areas this special assessment has determined that we can improve on.

Leadership Development. We asked 1,064 Soldiers to assess leadership development in their units. Different questions were posed for junior enlisted, non-commissioned officers and officers. Among officers and senior NCOs, 82 percent were familiar with the U.S. Army Leadership Development Program. According to junior enlisted Soldiers however, knowledge of the Leadership Development Program hasn't translated into the required initial and developmental counseling. 46 percent said that they did not receive initial counseling within 30 days and 51 percent reported that they received no developmental counseling throughout their rating period.

Failure to perform timely counseling is not only a violation of the Evaluation Reporting System Army Regulation 623-3, but it also leaves both the Soldier and the unit without proper direction. Failure to provide timely counseling directly impacts readiness. We can see this through our metrics, specifically in the submission and quality of our evaluations and in our non-participation rates.

In our report, we recommended commanders ensure developmental counseling is conducted, direction is included in the command training guidance and that units use tracking methodology to measure developmental counseling compliance.

Training. Green time training is typically multi-echelon, collective training designed to bring Soldiers up to speed on mission essential tasks. Of responses from 1,064 surveys, only 40 percent of Soldiers indicated that enough green time was conducted to sustain their Military Occupational Specialty. Only 37 percent of Soldiers in the ranks of private through staff sergeant reported receiving sufficient green time. This is in contrast to 45 percent of more senior Soldiers in the ranks of sergeant

first class through colonel who indicated opinions that they were receiving adequate training time.

As previously mentioned, there is limited time available on BA weekends. There is also an increasing mandatory training requirement with limited resources, whether it's equipment or trainers. We must ensure that our junior Soldiers are consistently engaged in training during BA weekends.

Per the Commanding General of the Army Reserve in the FY17 Command Training Guidance, mandatory training requirements must be analyzed, prioritized, and streamlined as necessary to maximize go-to-war readiness training. The guidance also includes allowances for subordinate commanders to have greater flexibility to expand the training day to balance training activities in favor of expanded mission essential task list readiness events.

Soldier Readiness. One aspect of Soldier readiness we sought to determine was the percentage of Soldiers with completed Family Care Plans. As a whole, command teams have not been fully aware of Family Care Plan requirements. The root cause of this issue appears to be that leaders have not been aware of the Commander's Strength Management Module. As we move forward with our transition to a Theater Sustainment Command, it remains critical that our Soldiers are ready for mobilization. Every unit must identify and track Soldiers who require a Family Care Plan. Our recommendations included development of a Family Care Plan Policy and the development of a tracking tool at the Expeditionary Sustainment Command level. Although the ultimate responsibility is with the Soldier, we as leaders can do a better job at preparing our Soldiers for mobilization.

Thanks for all you do! Falcon Strong!

79th SSC Inspector General POCs

79th SSC IG (562) 936-7703

311th ESC (310) 235-4224 4th ESC (210) 466-2794
451st ESC (316) 681-1759 x 1260 364th ESC (360)403-2396



Ms. Maurnike Stevenson

79th SSC SHARP Program Manager

Many of us are proactive and prepare for conditions that can impact ourselves and our families. We take appropriate steps to schedule proper maintenance of our vehicles, have available food supplies, batteries and candles along with an emergency evacuation plan and destination in case of an unforeseen emergency.

As Soldiers and Army Civilians we should take that same approach when dealing with prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault. Taking the time to become familiar with the Command Sexual Assault and Response Coordinator and Victim Advocate is an important step with regard to intervention. Knowing the correct credentialed individual that can provide an intake report allows the victim the ability to file a restricted or unrestricted report. Together we must maintain proper maintenance of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6 the House of Representatives passed the Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. The act includes language that would increase the Department of Veterans Affairs' reporting requirements pertaining to disability

claims submitted by sexual assault victims. Specifically, the bill would require the VA to report to Congress annually on the number of sexual assault-related claims that have been denied and approved, the number of pending and appealed claims, and the most common reasons the VA denied those claims. The bill is expected to be taken up by the Senate.

The Army Profession Forum 2017 is a strategic leader forum that explores ethical challenges to the Army Profession and ways to maintain trust within the Army and strengthen its essential characteristics. This year the Army held the Army Profession Forum and the SHARP Forum back-to-back on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8, respectively. Perspectives gained from discussions held during the forums will inform senior Army leader guidance and messaging to successfully accomplish the Character

Development study for all members of the Army Team through ongoing training and education initiatives. They will also provide senior leaders with insight into the Army's new prevention strategies and initiatives.



Yellow Ribbon Program



Mr. Eugene Haynes IV
79th SSC Yellow Ribbon Coordinator

“One Class at a Time”

The stresses of military life are not confined to just the Soldiers who have made the choice to serve their country. Army Families also share the responsibilities of military service. They are the ones who manage daily life while a Soldier is away. Both Servicemembers and their Families deserve our utmost effort to provide them with the resources they need to navigate this lifestyle.

The United States Army Reserve Yellow Ribbon Program seeks to prevent these kinds of circumstances by placing as much emphasis on supporting our military Families as we do in support of our Soldiers. Since 2008, the program has changed and adjusted to the needs related to our servicemembers as well as budget. We began in infancy with a ready roster of volunteers, trained military instructors and eager individuals looking to make a difference in someone's life. We would congregate wherever we were able, holding assemblies over a drill weekend for anyone desiring to know more about what they were eligible for and what was now accessible to them and their Family as the Soldier prepared for their road to war.

The gap between the mission and what was sustainable was greater than anyone anticipated. More and more ready Reserve Soldiers were mobilized. The demand for knowledge grew and the sites in which we held these educational forums ballooned in number. Today as well as tomorrow, the United States Army Reserve continues supporting our Soldiers and Families through its Yellow Ribbon Program. Whether it's gaining

an understanding related to how to enroll your newborn infant into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, finding a school or civilian employer to better support your career, or resources and support related to the knowledge associated with the ability to cope with an extended separation or deployment, your United States Army Reserve Yellow Ribbon Program is here.

In addition to these services, the Yellow Ribbon Program provides services and answers related to a variety of questions and issues organic to the United States Army Reserve. Today, the Yellow Ribbon Program relies on the Regional Support Commands to contract hotels and work with various other Army Reserve Commands to support Soldiers and their Families. Through these working relationships we've managed to collect the best Department of Defense certified instructors, employment and educational opportunities, local resources, and continue to support each other, our Soldiers, and our military Families. Every so often, I'm asked how the Yellow Ribbon Program helps. In my opinion, interacting with Soldiers and Families and acknowledging their confidence in gaining the resources and support is something that can't really be put into words.

To register for an event, please visit:
www.yellowribbonevents.org.

PROTECTING THE FORCE

Lt. Col. Gary S. Ross
79th SSC Force Protection Officer



What is the 79th SSC doing to protect its troops and their families ?

The U.S. Army Reserve Command assigned a highly skilled group of Active Guard and Reserve Military Police Officers at general officer command levels within the 79th SSC. These select MP Officers come with many years of experience, along with specialized training in the area of antiterrorism and force protection. On August 24-25, these antiterrorism officers from all five general officer commands within the 79th SSC, along with members of the USARC Antiterrorism Branch, convened in Los Alamitos, California, for two days of discussions and planning. The goal was simple: do our very best to protect the force.

What you can expect to see from your Force Protection Teams?

Working closely with the USARC Antiterrorism Branch, all our ESC Antiterrorism Officers received an easy to follow road map for a fiscal year's worth of training priorities. As this training tool works its way down to the antiterrorism officers at all levels throughout the 79th SSC, Soldiers will receive robust classroom and situational training exercises on the most current threats. Most importantly, by following this road map of training priorities, the ESCs can expect to be financially funded to execute cutting-edge training that hits home ... keeping our Soldiers and their Families protected.

What policies and procedures are in place?

Antiterrorism is both an art and a science and should be treated as such. Your antiterrorism officers fully understand the guidelines for force protection and the requirements of Army Regula-

tion 525-13, Military Operations Antiterrorism.

However, beyond the eight tasks and 35 specified standards, and the employment of various Threat Condition Measures daily at each of your facilities, comes the artistic side of Antiterrorism. Each of your Antiterrorism Officers, at all levels throughout the 79th SSC, are tasked to establish a close knit relationship with their local, county, and state law enforcement counterparts by sharing information, through local and regional fusion cells, it allows our subject matter experts to understand local threats and challenges down to the zip code level. Your unit Antiterrorism Officers have been equipped with the most current Army Regulations, cutting edge blocks of training and procedures, and personal knowledge of law enforcement information at their Reserve Center location. Armed with these resources, unit Antiterrorism Officers are tremendous assets to their Commanders ... and together, will strive to keep our Soldiers and their families well protected.

As the Antiterrorism Officer for the 79th SSC, it is my duty to ensure that those who would do harm never get that opportunity. This is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. Each and every time a member of the 79th SSC family arrives at one of our facilities to work and train, it is important that they feel safe knowing that our team has their back.

“ASSIST, PROTECT, DEFEND”



EXERCISE LION FOCUS PREPARES U.S. ARMY AFRICA, RESERVE PARTNERS FOR CRISIS INTERVENTION

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alexandra Hays
79th SSC Public Affairs Chief

VICENZA, Italy—In August 2014 senior planners in the Department of Defense met in Washington D.C., for Intergovernmental Tabletop Exercise '14—an exercise aimed at preventing mass atrocities—when the Ebola crisis broke out.

In the midst of that exercise and just before Lion Focus '14, rehearsal became reality: U.S. Army Africa was put on alert to assist in Operation United Assistance in Liberia.

The real-world implications of conducting multicomponent, Joint, multinational and inter-agency rehearsals for crises are evident; the time to start learning about other agencies' capabilities is not when a crisis is already underway. Exercise Lion Focus, a multicomponent, Joint exercise run by U.S. Army Africa, does just that—it provides a chance for organizations to come together and plan responses to plausible crises' on the African continent.

“The goal of this exercise is to create an environment based on real-world operations on the African continent that U.S. Army Africa will likely encounter in the future,” said Navy Capt. Gregory L. Anderson, a Joint Staff training officer, based in

Suffolk, Virginia.

This year's Lion Focus scenario—which was only the second iteration of the exercise in its current state—was based on crisis response to an African nation, and eventual turnover to another Department of Defense agency.

Military and inter-agency partners attended about a week of academic instruction on the problem set and capabilities available, then analyzed, planned, and responded to the scenario, all in a realistic way. Lion Focus '16 involved participants from all components—Active duty, Reserve, and National Guard—and all services, as well as international partners from Italy and British soldiers from the 102 Logistic Brigade out of Grantham, England.

“We try to keep the exercise as realistic as possible,” said Dave Crotchett, lead exercise planner for U.S. Army Africa, based in Vicenza, Italy.

Crotchett explained that Lion Focus prepares U.S. Army Africa for the follow-on exercise, Judicious Response, which is United States Africa Command's (U.S. Army Africa's higher headquarters) validating exercise. “What we learned in Lion Focus [this year] was invaluable,” Crotchett continued.

He explained that this year there were about 175 partici-

pants augmenting U.S. Army Africa, including about 30 members from the 79th Sustainment Command (Support).

The 79th SSC, the second-largest command in the Army Reserve headquartered in Los Alamitos, California, took part in the exercise because it is being regionally aligned as a sustainment command with U.S. Army Africa. Soldiers from the 79th SSC who participated in the exercise performed duties just as they would in a deployed or crisis situation. “We're enhancing the readiness of our units through these exercises,” said Maj. Gen. Mark W. Palzer, commanding general of the 79th SSC, who visited his troops in Vicenza Sept. 16-19.

Palzer said this exercise is the first of many endeavors for the 79th SSC working with U.S. Army Africa and coalition partners. “The aim of these exercises is to get us to work together so that we each understand our role in the mission of supporting USARAF,” he said. “Exercises like these demonstrate our competencies to the Active Component, including asking what capability is needed and providing access to the human and logistical resources within our ranks.”

Key to the 79th SSC's involvement in the exercise was its partnership with the 102d Logistic Brigade. The British army unit, which is a blend of active duty and reserve troops, provided six soldiers to augment the 79th SSC.

British army Brig. Gen. David Eastman, commanding general of the 102 Logistic Brigade,



British army Brig. Gen. David Eastman, commanding general of the 102 Logistic Brigade, right, and Col. Vincent Buggs, 79th Sustainment Command (Support) Supports Operation Officer, left, attend a shift change briefing during Exercise Lion Focus '16 Sept. 20, 2016, in Vicenza, Italy.

also visited his soldiers participating in the exercise Sept. 20.

“We are really pleased that we've got this partnership with the 79th [SSC],” said Eastman during his visit. “We would like to take advantage of every opportunity to work together. We're responsible for supporting the United Kingdom's operations in Africa in the same way the 79th is, so it makes sense for us to work together ... to eventually, potentially carry out combined operations together.”

During his visit, Eastman received a shift-change briefing and addressed both the 79th and his British soldiers. He explained that the British army's reserve is currently undergoing a transition to becoming more operational just like the U.S. Army Reserve is.

“I think we can learn an awful lot of lessons from

Continued on page 20



British troops from 102 Logistic Brigade brief their counterparts in the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), 143rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), along with members of the Italian army, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Navy during Exercise Lion Focus '16 Sept. 19, 2016, in Vicenza, Italy.

Continued from page 19

you on how to get more out of our reserve capability,” Eastman said. “In big picture terms, this is about us learning from you, us working together with the 79th [SSC] to develop that relationship and for the people themselves to develop their staff capability. Any partnership is based on relationships—so for me, this is a win-win.”

The 102 Logistic Brigade is Eastman’s first time in command of reserve soldiers, and he said he is pleased with their performance.

“I’m hugely impressed with reserve soldiers. They deliver significant effects and you can almost never tell them apart from their regular counterparts when they’re deployed. I have a huge respect for the commitment necessary to balance that trinity of family, civilian life, and work, and the military life—we just don’t have that problem in the regular force. They seem to balance it and deliver with a huge amount of effect, and I just find that deeply impressive.”

Eastman said that just about every operation the British army now conducts is in a multinational environment. Exercising for real-life missions in a multinational environment makes logical sense, he explained. “As we develop our relationship with the 79th and as we start working more to develop what we are doing in Africa, it makes sense that we should get involved in this exercise as much as possible,” Eastman said. “Just anything that takes that relationship forward and allows us to operate together has got to be good, from my perspective. I think we can learn from you, and hopefully there are some things you can learn from us, equally.”

Palzer echoed Eastman’s sentiments on the multinational partnership.

“The 102 Logistic Brigade brings a lot of connections that we didn’t previously have,” Palzer explained.

Maj. Rayn W. Kort, a plans officer with U.S. Army Africa and lead maneuver planner for the exercise, said that exercises like Lion Focus generate key leader development opportunities.

“These exercises are important in order for us as a staff to evaluate processes and integrate Reserve



Maj. Gen. Mark W. Palzer, commanding general of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), speaks to his troops while a British soldier from the 102 Logistic Brigade looks on Sept. 17 during Exercise Lion Focus ‘16 in Vicenza, Italy. Members of the 102 Logistic Brigade augmented the 79th SSC during the Joint, multinational exercise.

and Joint interagency partners, and to test our ability to create plans in a crisis action situation,” he said. Kort said he was pleased with the level of participation from outside organizations in the exercise—especially from the Reserve component.

“Integrating the Reserve is critical from the sustain-

ment perspective,” Kort explained. “We could end up responding to a real-world crisis with the same players [organizations] you see here now.”

Palzer agreed while taking time to eat with his troops at a dining facility in Vicenza.

“This is an excellent opportunity to get our people to work with other organizations,” Palzer said. “When we demonstrate our expertise as the sustainment command for USARAF in managing the sustainment requirements for large-scale, multinational, Joint forces in as complex a theater as Africa, we will ease decision making for combatant commanders and prove the invaluable nature of a multi-component Army,” Palzer concluded.

Planning for Contingencies Key for U.S. Africa Command, Joint, Multinational Partners at Judicious Response ‘17

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alexandra Hays
79th SSC Public Affairs Chief



Kaiserslautern, Germany—About 2,000 U.S. military, international troops and intergovernmental personnel participated in Exercise Judicious Response—U.S. Africa Command’s largest exercise—Dec. 5-11 in locations including Germany, Italy, California, and North Carolina with an aim at crisis response.

In the two-phase exercise which takes place every other year, servicemembers from all U.S. military branches and components took part as well as intergovernmental agencies including the State Department and United States Agency for International Development. Participants, who worked together under the umbrella of U.S. Africa Command (or AFRICOM), flexed their competency in response to a plausible crisis on the African continent.

U.S. AFRICOM is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for military relations with African nations and exercises like this fall directly in line with AFRICOM’s mission which includes disrupting and neutralizing transnational threats and building African partner defense capability to promote regional security, stability and prosperity.

James G. Derald, lead AFRICOM exercise planner at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Joint crisis response exercises provide the opportunity to bring commands and organizations together with AFRICOM that don’t have a habitual working relationship.

“There’s nothing like the value of current and future mission partners working together in an exercise environment like this,” Derald explained.

Derald stressed the payoff of bringing together components in a Joint, multinational environment to respond to a hypothetical crisis

that is not far from what could be faced in the near future.

“In doing that, each of the participating organizations are able to take existing plans and standard operating procedures, bounce them against the scenario, and make appropriate adjustments based off of lessons learned,” Derald said.

Derald also explained that Judicious Response provides an opportunity to evaluate the way decisions are made all the way down to the individual Soldier/Sailor in making sure they have what is needed to do what the country has asked of them.

“People at each step and each tier are thinking through what they are responsible for,” Derald explained.

Navy Capt. Scott Y. Yamamoto, sustainment branch chief at the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who helps design the sustainment portion of exercises for combatant commands, said that Joint, international exercises allow units the space to examine their processes.

Yamamoto explained that commands traditionally have Operational Plans, (or OPLANS), in place and exercises give commands the opportunity to rehearse putting those plans into action.

“It gives us a chance to practice Operational Plans—we interact with coalition partners and other services to understand how they do business,” Yamamoto said.

Central to exercises like this, Yamamoto explained, is they help units think through challenges before they happen.

Yamamoto also stressed the importance of integrating the Reserve component in exercises like Judicious Response.





Maj. Gen. Mark Palzer, right, Commanding General of the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), advises Col. Vincent Buggs, left, 79th SSC Supports Operations Officer, and other 79th troops as they participate in Exercise Judicious Response '17 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, Dec. 2, 2016.

“I think it is very important,” Yamamoto said of integrating the Reserve in Joint, multicomponent exercises. “The Reserve really helps out, especially with contingency operations.”

The 79th Sustainment Support Command, the second-largest command in the Army Reserve headquartered in Los Alamitos, California, took part in the exercise as part of training and preparation for scheduled alignment in 2017 as a Theater Sustainment Command with U.S. Army Africa, AFRICOM’s Army element.

During the exercise, the 79th SSC assumed the role of Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) supporting two Joint Task Force Headquarters and one Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

“Training in prime conditions [like those simulated in Judicious Response] allows units the ability to attain their objectives and evaluate their shortfalls,” said Col. Vincent E. Buggs, 79th SSC Supports Operations Officer, who led

the 79th’s participation in the exercise.

Buggs explained that Judicious Response imposed extreme challenges for the 79th, as unit members operated out of five different international locations.

“This configuration simulated the real-world stressors that a Theater Sustainment Command faces, but it also shaped numerous courses of action that allowed the TSC Support Operations Section to develop real-world plans of action,” Buggs said.

He explained that the African continent presents a robust logistical challenge, but that his troops were up to the task.

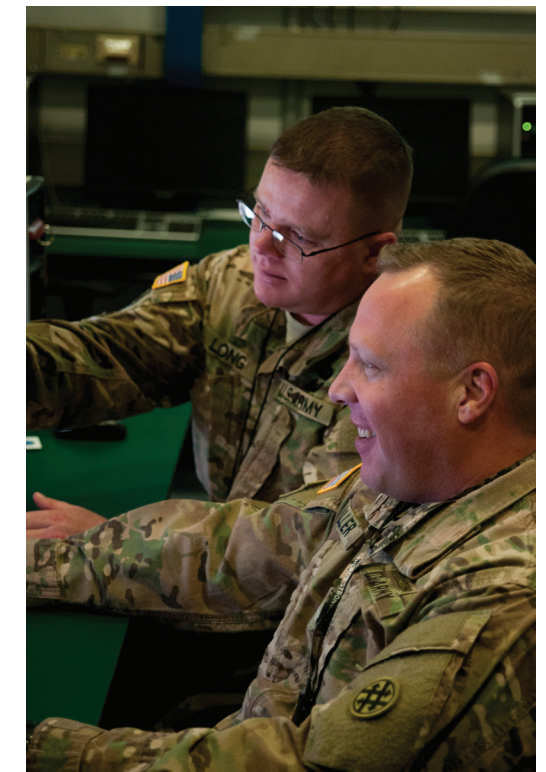
“The 79th SSC’s participation in Judicious Response 17.1-2 was critical to the unit building readiness and gaining knowledge about the U.S. AFRICOM area of responsibility,” Buggs said.

Challenging 79th SSC troops to do their very best work, Commanding General Maj. Gen. Mark W. Palzer visited his Soldiers in



Top: Soldiers from both the 79th Sustainment Command (Support), and the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) collaborate during Exercise Judicious Response '17 in Kaiserslautern, Germany Dec. 4, 2016.

Right: Staff Sgt. Kevin Miller of the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), foreground, and a 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier collaborate during Exercise Judicious Response.



Kaiserslautern Dec. 2, and encouraged them to provide well thought-out and realistic logistics estimates to U.S. Africa Command during the exercise.

“The only thing worse than no support is bad support,” said Palzer during his visit. “The only thing worse than no solution is a bad solution.”

Providing good support in a crisis response operation requires State Department collaboration, explained retired U.S. Ambassador Alphonse La Porta, a consultant for the exercise.

La Porta, a former U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia who also worked for the State Department in Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Turkey, and the Philippines, explained that rapport building during exercises extends to organizations that military commands don’t usually interact with while conducting their stateside missions.

“I don’t think there’s anywhere in the world that the U.S. military could deploy to that it wouldn’t be working right alongside the embassies,” La Porta said. “This exercise brings the real and exercise worlds closer together.”

La Porta, who spent 38 years working for the Department of State, said international, multi-component exercises insert real-world complexity into training.

“One thing that I’ve learned from working closely with the military throughout my career is that training is a constant need,” said La Porta, adding that exercises like this are equally valuable for State Department employees too.

Derdall echoed La Porta’s sentiment of the value of the exercise.

“Exercises like this are an opportunity to go more than paper-deep ... it’s a chance to roll up sleeves on an operation together,” Derdall said.

UGANDAN-BORN RESERVE SOLDIER IMPACTS ARMY, SAVES LIVES IN UGANDA

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Alexandra Hays
79th SSC Public Affairs Chief



Maj. Frank Musisi, center, visits the medical clinic in 2015 he founded in Uganda to help decrease the high rate of HIV/AIDS infection in his home region. (Photo courtesy of Frank Musisi).

JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE LOS ALAMITOS, Calif. — In 1990, 22-year-old Frank Musisi arrived in Los Angeles from Uganda with \$25 in his pocket.

With dreams of studying computer science in college, Musisi, currently the officer in charge of supply services for the 79th Sustainment Support Command, had a lot of people in Uganda counting on his success. One of Musisi's cousins, a lieutenant colonel in the Ugandan military, had funded Musisi's move to the U.S. by using money he had earmarked to build a house.

"Based on your determination and drive, I believe you will be a very good investment," Musisi's cousin told him at the time, adding that he thought Musisi would be a positive force for Uganda.

That cousin's prediction rang true.

Musisi first attended Los Angeles Valley College earning an associate degree, later earning a bachelor's degree in Information and Computer Science from University of California Irvine, then finally a Masters degree—doing "every kind of job you can imagine" along the way to fund his education, he said. While in college, he was widely involved with Ugandan organizations in the Los Angeles area including the Ugandan Community Organization in California and the Ugandan North American Association. This networking and advocating on the behalf of Ugandan and African immigrants brought him into contact with government officials here in the U.S., and he was eventually offered a job, upon his pending graduation, with then-mayor of San Francisco, Willie Brown.

But Musisi was torn. Inspired by a visit to his college from former U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell (retired), he also felt the pull to join the U.S. Army.

After attending Powell's speech, he had contacted Army recruiters right away.

Musisi sought council from professors and family members who advised he join the Army first—a career in information technology or politics could wait.

Musisi made the decision. He joined the Army in 2000, and because he wasn't a U.S. citizen at the time, he first joined as an enlisted Soldier.

He received his first duty assignment as an Automated Logistical Specialist with the 31st Combat Support Hospital, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas. Shortly into his first active duty tour, he deployed to Iraq in 2003.

Homecoming

While deployed, Musisi received a devastating call—his mother had fallen ill in Uganda.

Granted emergency leave, when Musisi arrived in Uganda in 2004 to visit his ailing mother he was shocked at what he found—many of his childhood friends were gone.

"The majority of my childhood friends were dead," he said solemnly. "When the list came up ... almost everyone I knew as a child was gone."

When he asked why, his mother told him it was due to HIV/AIDS, and implored him to do something about the problem.

It wouldn't be verified by the Ugandan government until later on, but at the time that Musisi visited his mother, almost one-third of the population of the Ssesse Islands, Musisi's home region, was infected with HIV or AIDS. This is in stark contrast to the HIV/AIDS rate in the rest of Uganda, which sits at about seven percent (according to the Uganda AIDS Commission).

Musisi decided that he was willing to do whatever was necessary to help the people of the Ssesse Islands, even if it meant committing his own time and resources.

"The clinic was mainly inspired out of the need—people were dying," Musisi explained.

The infrastructure of the Ssesse Islands kept it somewhat isolated from outside government support. Musisi explained that the roads were rough, there wasn't access to electricity or running water, and the only real way to access the islands was by boat.

"The majority of my childhood friends were dead," he said solemnly. "When the list came up ... almost everyone I knew as a child was gone."

"People didn't have TV, and didn't have time to listen to the radio," Musisi explained, so Ugandan efforts to educate people about the dangers of AIDS through media weren't reaching the islands either.

But with his experience at an Army Combat Support Hospital, Musisi with some ideas on where to start.

Musisi first went to Uganda's Ministry of Health and asked to borrow mobile HIV/AIDS testing vans and to his surprise, they agreed. He then commissioned a feasibility study using local medical students to find out the magnitude of the problem.

"There was no scientific data that you could rely on," he explained.

Musisi and his team of medical students went out for two weeks, testing as many people as they could, and were able to come up with a baseline of how prevalent HIV/AIDS per hundred people was in the Ssesse Islands.

"When we started, the population was about 30 percent positive for HIV/AIDS," Musisi said. "The government officials were not happy with my numbers—they disputed them."

Musisi agreed that this rate was alarming, and he invited the government to send its own teams to verify. It did, and Musisi reports that the government came up with an even higher rate—34 percent.

Musisi said there were several possible reasons the rate was so high in the Ssesse Islands compared to the rest of the country: the isolation of the area; a higher ratio of men to women in the region; with fishing being the primary mode of income, the roving lifestyle promoted promiscuity; and an overall lack of education on how AIDS is contracted.

"People didn't realize that if you used a condom it could protect you from AIDS," Musisi explained. "Most people thought they got AIDS because God was punishing them."

The Clinic

With help from his mother and a few close colleagues, in 2005 Musisi established a nonprofit organi-

zation, the Ssesse Islands African Aids Project, with a focus on education and testing.

In the beginning, they ran the organization out of rooms in his mother's house, then later moved into a full-fledged clinic using land that Musisi had set aside to build a country home on.

The clinic has grown from treating 700 patients per year to now treating 20,000 patients per year. It started out conducting AIDS testing and education only for the first several years, and now is a general medical clinic providing a full range of HIV/AIDS treatment following the World Health Organization's recommended "test and treat" regimen.

The Ugandan Parliament recognized the clinic's accomplishments in 2014.

When asked why SIAAP is succeeding when so many other businesses and non-profit ventures fail, Musisi answered that the non-profit's success has a lot to do with the level of personal and emotional investment of the founders.

"It's commitment," he said. "Commitment from the people who we started it with—myself and the core team of founding members. We were willing to sacrifice our own personal resources. Looking back in hindsight, I never thought we would come this far."

In fact, Musisi faced cynics when starting up SIAAP. "When I started, 90 percent of my friends were telling me it couldn't be done," he explained. "I had friends who told me I was wasting this money—I could put this money towards Wall Street."

But Musisi wasn't deterred. Musisi promised his mother before she passed away that he would devote 25 percent of his personal income to serve the people of the Ssesse Islands, as long as he was able.

"I said to myself, 'I'll do this as long as God allows me,'" Musisi explained. "I'd rather have the legacy that we did something to help humanity while here on this planet. It's an African tradition—if you receive help, you have to give back."

Musisi also explained that he believes part of the

clinic's success is that he started slow. He didn't start out with a large clinic—it took years to grow the clinic to what it is today.

"Baby steps," he said. "The problem is huge, but only bite off what you can chew."

He said if others are inspired to take on an issue they see in the world or in their communities, a big misstep is trying to tackle the whole problem head-on, when in fact issues such as AIDS rates are multi-faceted.

"When you see a problem that inspires you, you have to define that problem," Musisi said of gathering statistics and identifying where the needs truly lie. "If you don't define the problem, you will fail."

He also explained that rallying others to the cause is paramount.

"If you're genuine, honest, and committed, others will follow. You have to be willing to sacrifice," Musisi said. "You can't do it alone, you must mobilize others."

Soldier and Citizen

Musisi also credits the Army for his ability to see solutions where others saw a myriad of roadblocks. He recalled that during his deployment to Iraq he witnessed a 360-bed hospital built in 24 hours, "out of nowhere," he said.

"In the Army we're trained to accomplish missions regardless of obstacles," Musisi said.

That attitude has contributed to Musisi's successful Army career. Upon his return from Iraq he became an officer in the Army Reserve, went on to be selected for the Active Guard Reserve program, and was promoted to major in October 2016. Some of his previous assignments include the 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command's bulk petroleum distribution manager for Kuwait and Southern Iraq, and the headquarters & headquarters company commander for the 377th Theater Sustainment Command.

Others have watched his success in the Army, and as a result, he has become a de facto recruiter of sorts—for several African immigrants in the Los Angeles area, Musisi is the first U.S. military member they have met. And they are intrigued.

"Most Africans will not go into a recruiting office," Musisi offered. "This is because of the historical background with the militaries of their countries ... they have this perception that the military is not good, but when they see me wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army, people are curious."

Musisi said that through his advocacy work over the years, he has come into contact with many African immigrants who never considered joining the U.S. mili-



Maj. Frank Musisi, center, poses for a photo with family and friends at his promotion ceremony from captain to major Oct. 14, 2016. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Alexandra Hays).

tary until they met him.

"I must say I'm proud that if I travel today to any active duty base in the U.S., there's nowhere I can go without finding a Soldier that came through my hands," Musisi said.

And that tie-in with an extended community helps Musisi when he is away from home on military duty.

"I can rely on my community to take care of my family when I have to be away," he said. "The Army complements my work in the community. The skills are very applicable."

Impact

Through the work initiated by Musisi and SIAAP, the HIV/AIDS infection rate in the Ssesse Islands is now at about 19 percent, he reports.

But as the clinic also now treats all kinds of illnesses and injuries, Musisi often receives stories of thanks and lives changed due to the general medical care available.

"My son was born at your facility, or, my sister was saved at your facility," Musisi said. "These are the stories I hear."

Musisi reports that his clinic's success has inspired other medical and non-profit organizations to come to the region. He also said that infrastructure development has come a long way in the last 10 years including the addition of solar power, electricity, running water, better roads, and two new ferries.

Musisi hopes to keep educating and informing the population of the Ssesse Islands on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, work toward a future where there is zero new infections, and continue lifesaving work in Uganda while serving in the U.S. Army.

For Musisi, the opportunity to save lives is all the motivation he needs.

"Saving lives ... I'm telling you, that gives me so much satisfaction."



4th ESC

Largest Army Reserve Command in Texas Says Farewell to Commanding General

Story by Staff Sgt. Nina Ramon
205th Press Camp Headquarters

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, FORT SAM HOUSTON – As the sun rises on a hot summer day in Central Texas, a formation of Soldiers stand tall on historic MacArthur Parade Field located in the center of the military base.

Each year the parade field - named after Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, father of the legendary World War II veteran General Douglas MacArthur – hosts a slew of events from base-wide flea market and yard sales, Easter egg hunts and holiday tree lightings, to numerous time-honored military events.

This summer, the parade field is the location where Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones said farewell as he relinquishes command of the 4th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The ceremony took place hot on the heels of the command's return from a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Brig. Gen. Jones, a Texas native from Bryan, took command of the 4th ESC May 2015, just a month before the command deployed.

"Just over 14 months ago," said Jones. "I was given the honor and privilege to command this organization, deploy overseas and lead these great American Soldiers on one of the most intellectually challenging and wickedly difficult missions that I have ever witnessed or been associated with in my military career." The command's recent deployment spread their Soldiers throughout operations in Qatar, Jordan, UAE, Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait. The logistical command fell under the 1st Theatre Support Command providing services such as supplies and equipment to over 20,000 United States and 60,000 coalition forces.

Honored guests at the ceremony included, Maj. Gen. Mark W. Palzer, Commanding General, 79th Sustainment Support Command, Maj. Gen. (retired) Luis Visot, Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Reserve Command and Brig. Gen. Richard J. Torres, Deputy Commanding General Director, U.S. Army South.

During his emotional speech, Jones continually



Brig. Gen. Kenneth D. Jones passes the colors to Command Sgt. Major Paul Swanson during the Relinquishment of Command Ceremony at the MacArthur Parade Field July 9. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Eddie Serra, 205th Press Camp Headquarters).

praised his Soldiers for their valiancy and unwavering dedication during their deployment and assured them the command was in good hands under the leadership of Col. Herman Ter Meer who was chosen to be the 4th ESC's interim commander.

He said with a tone of reassurance, "Col. Ter Meer will lead this great organization forward till the new commander arrives."

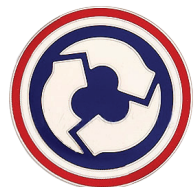
"Soldiers I assure you he will not let you down," Jones added.

As Jones concluded his remarks, he reminded the Soldiers to take their jobs and responsibilities seriously but not to take themselves too seriously.

"Never settle for anything less than your best effort," said Jones. "Our nation will always need Soldiers like you! Soldiers who care! Soldiers who are willing to put their beliefs into action!"

The 4th ESC, a subordinate command of the 79th SSC, is comprised of 54 subordinate units, commanding more than 5,500 Soldiers throughout Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The command, deemed the Army Reserve's premier logistic sustainment command, provides trained and ready forces in support of global contingency operations.





U.S., China participate in Disaster Management Exchange

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Behlin
8th Theater Sustainment Command

311th ESC

KUNMING, People's Republic of China — Members of the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Service members and civilians from across U.S. Army Pacific participated alongside members of the Peoples Liberation Army for the 12th annual U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange November 13-19 at Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China.



As part of the U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange, Maj. Gen. Gregory Bilton, the deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Pacific, visited the Dianchi Lake November 14 in Kunming, China. The annual United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) Security Cooperation event with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is an opportunity to share Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief lessons learned from real world events and enhance U.S. and Chinese disaster management capabilities.

The DME allowed the participants the opportunity to share humanitarian aid/disaster response lessons learned from real world events to further develop the capacity to cooperate in the Pacific region. With both countries susceptible to major natural disasters, the event was a great opportunity to improve the abilities of both militaries to respond cooperatively.

Gen. Robert B. Brown, Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, said that he was confident the participants would benefit from the exchange, giving their individual skills and building collective capability.

"This event has evolved through the years to the point where it serves as an inspiration for what we can accomplish if we work together," said Brown. "Since its inception 19 years ago, this disaster management exchange has made gradual gains that

have ultimately helped us get to this point. It remains undeniably clear that when we work side-by-side to solve problems, and strengthen our partnership with one another we assure peace, prosperity and security."

Throughout the exchange, leaders and experts from the PLA, USARPAC, 8th Theater Sustainment Command and

130th Engineer Brigade visited various agencies involved with disaster management to include the Experimental Base of Seismological Bureau of the Yunnan Province, the Command Center of Civil Affairs Disaster Relief of Yunnan Province, emergency shelters in Baohai Park and the Kunming Reserve Base of Civil Affairs.

During the visits, the personnel held dialogue and exchanged information regarding civil affairs, disaster relief and how they will work together to improve their ability to save lives, protect property and collectively better prepare for the next major disaster in the Asia-Pacific.

"This kind of exchange acts as a bridge to promote relations between the two militaries and I am sure it will be conducted at an even higher level in the future," said Lt. Gen. Liu Xiaiwu, commander of PLA's Southern Theater Command.

The DME consisted of several stages that included an expert academic exchange, a command post exchange and practical field training exchange, all responding to the impacts of a devastating earthquake in a fictitious country.

"Being able to share ideas during the command post exchange and see my Soldiers demonstrate some of their skills and equipment capabilities during the practical field exchange were invaluable experiences," said Col. Danielle Ngo, Commander of the 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

Each stage was strategically designed to foster communications and the sharing of knowledge and skills between Soldiers of the PLA and USARPAC. Representatives from USARPAC, 8th TSC, 130th Eng. Bde., the Northern Warfare Training Center, 18th Medical Command, and Pacific Ocean Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, worked daily throughout the DME to develop relationships with their Chinese counterparts. Also attending the DME were Soldiers and representatives from the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), 141st Civil Engineer Squadron of the Washington Air National Guard, Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Aid and 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"If a disaster is large in scope and scale, there is a higher probability that more than one nation's military will be involved," said Ngo. "That is why it is so important to have activities like the DME to strengthen our relationships, improve our ability to save lives and collectively better prepare for the next major disaster in the Asia-Pacific." Upon completion, the Soldiers of both the PLA and USARPAC considered the exchange of skills and information to be a valuable experience in preparation for future natural disasters.

"It has been a very successful exchange of ideas between our two militaries and it will definitely benefit us in the future," said Cpt. Jeremy Reynolds, supply officer in charge for the 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade.

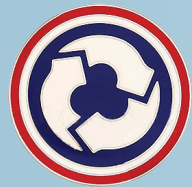


Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China demonstrated water rescue skills to members of the U.S. Army Pacific during the practical field exchange portion of the China Disaster Management Exchange November 16 in Kunming, China.



Maj. Gen. Gregory Bilton (right), the deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Pacific, receives a briefing from soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China during his visit to the Kunming Reserve Base of Civil Affairs November 14.





TOUGH MUDDER DEVELOPS MENTAL GRIT

311th ESC

Story and photos by Cpl. Timothy Yao
311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. (October 8, 2016) – Soldiers have a reputation for being physically fit and pushing past the limits when the call of duty arises. It even states, “I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough,” in the Soldier’s Creed. Whether on or off duty, these attributes stay true to the service member.

The Army Reserve is a sponsor for the Southern California Tough Mudder, which is a challenging course over ten miles with 22 different obstacles. This event attracts a wide range of participants, especially to veterans.

Staff Sgt. Clifford Fraipont, a heavy equipment operator from the 947th Engineer Company, continues to live the phrase, “physically and mentally tough” even when not wearing the uniform.

Fraipont, a Colorado National Guard Soldier, traveled to Southern California to participate in his 26th Tough Mudder. He is training for the World’s Toughest Mudder by participating in regional Tough Mudder events such as this one.

Tough Mudder is not a timed event, and focuses on teamwork.

“Many obstacles cannot be completed by a single person, and you have to rely on your team to accomplish the goal,” said Master Sgt. Shadonika Crawford, the non-commissioned officer in charge from the 650th Regional Support Group.

“I see the Army Reserve at Tough Mudders and all they do to support this event,” said Fraipont.

The Army Reserve’s presence at the starting point sets the right mindset for participants by show-



A participant of the 2016 Southern California Tough Mudder ploughs through a muddy obstacle in Lake Elsinore, Calif., Oct. 8, 2016.

ing Soldiers who would never give up physically or mentally,” said Rob O’Malley, host for the SoCal Tough Mudder.

Seeing Soldiers cheering at the starting point visually help many draw a connection between civilians and military. “Tough Mudder gives civilians a taste of what we do in the Army, like in basic training again,” said Fraipont.

“We all have challenges and fears in our lives, but doing this helps train you to mentally take on life’s obstacles and develop mental grit.”

Some of his friends call him crazy for doing Tough Mudder, but he takes that and turns it around into motivation to push even harder. “You never know how far you can go until you push yourself.”

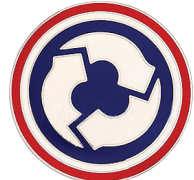


Above: Staff Sgt. Clifford Fraipont, a heavy equipment operator from the 947th Engineer Company, Colorado National Guard, runs his 26th Tough Mudder to train for the World’s Toughest Mudder. The Army Reserve is a sponsor for the 2016 Southern California Tough Mudder, which is an event that has 22 basic training-like obstacle courses stretching over ten miles.



Left: The Army Reserve is a sponsor for the Southern California Tough Mudder, where participants run a basic-training like course over ten miles long with 22 different team obstacles. “Tough Mudder is a great recruiting and retention event because it is an opportunity for civilians to interact with Soldiers and see that the Army is here to support local communities in both good times and bad,” said Master Sgt. Shadonika Crawford, 650th Regional Support Group.





Reserve Soldier perseveres through 40-year career

Story by 1st Lt. Joselyn Sydnor
311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

“Never let anyone stop you from doing what you want to do. Never.”

Sgt. Maj. Frances Culpepper grew up on the south side of Chicago during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Amidst negative activity and riots, Culpepper attributes the discipline that led her to a successful military career to the early lessons she learned while taking care of five sisters.

“I grew up in an environment where you saw drugs [and you saw] teenagers having babies,” said Culpepper. “That’s not what I wanted.”

She recalls her mother’s motivating words when she began a 40-year military career, “You have a choice. You can be anything that you want to be.”

Culpepper joined the Army Reserve in September, 1975 as a member of the Women’s Army Corps under the civilian acquired skills program following graduation from Jones Commercial High School. Once she completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, Culpepper earned the rank of specialist and was assigned duties as a secretary stenographer.

Basic trainees were still segregated by gender. “During a night fire exercise, a male Drill Sergeant would walk past the foxholes and toss something in,” she described. She heard the other girls yelling and screaming. When the Drill Sergeant tossed something into her foxhole, she picked it up and threw it back at him.

“It was a rubber snake,” she chuckled.

The opportunities for female Soldiers today only exist because of women like Culpepper, who worked



Private Frances Culpepper in a foxhole during basic training in 1975, Fort McCullough, Ala. Culpepper worked through the ranks to retire as a Sgt. Major more than 40-years later. (Photographer unknown)

and proved themselves constantly to break through glass ceilings. “Being a female, African American, and growing up in the Army?” Culpepper echoed. “I had to be the best.” She continued, “[I had to] shoot my butt off [and] I out ran my Sergeant Major.” She said she could not let herself be average. She had to work harder than the men to stand out, so she was not looked over. Culpepper said, “In the Bible it says that if you take one step, God would take two.”

Policies and procedures fascinated Culpepper from the very beginning so she chose the secretarial and administrative arena. She has a gift for remembering and quoting military regulations, policies, and procedures, which proved to be invaluable for both her military and civilian careers. As Culpepper progressed through the ranks, she was assigned as instructor for the Administrative Specialist Military Occupation Specialty course and mail functions. She took the Chief Writer Instructor position upon earning the rank of Master Sergeant.

Culpepper’s commander made the promotion

to sergeant major memorable in 1998 by conducting the ceremony in front of her students. She then transferred to the 85th Training Division.

In 2004, Culpepper took a Military Technician position at a Drill Sergeant unit in Illinois. She earned the respect of her new Soldiers by exceeding their expectations as she completed a long road march that they did not think should would finish.

She loves to talk about and take care of all of the heroes and the “Sheroes” she has known through the decades. Culpepper empowers women. She is passionate for the Army’s Sexual Harassment/Assault and Prevention (SHARP) and Suicide Prevention programs. She readily embraces and values the good and bad experiences with leadership. Culpepper said it is a good habit to recognize when people exhibit poor leadership as an example of what not to do. Good leadership, she remarked, is easy to pick up.

“I can just look at her and use her as an example

because she’s been through a lot of stuff. She knows what she’s talking about.” said Spc. Kayla Jackson, 653rd Regional Support Group. Jackson is just one of the many Soldiers Culpepper mentored through her long career. Culpepper has long been viewed as a mother figure in many of the units she served.

She is completing her doctorate about the Military Technician Program in Organizational Management and Leadership at the University of Phoenix. As Culpepper retires from her military career, she plans to continue helping Soldiers and hopes to eventually work for the Veterans Affairs office. She wants to use her background in policies and procedures, training, leadership, and administration to help better the current system and make a difference in someone’s life.

Below: Seven year-old Frances Culpepper on the couch when her family first moved to Chicago from Mississippi. Culpepper worked through the ranks to retire as a Sgt. Major in 2016. (Photo courtesy of her mother).





Army Reserve Unit Plays Active Role in Annual Training Exercise

364th ESC Story by Spc. Aaron Piega
477th Transportation Company

FORT MCCOY, Wash. — Members of the 477th Transportation Company participated in Combat Support Training Exercise, or CSTX, Aug. 6-26, a joint and multinational exercise designed to assist military units with planning, preparing, supervising, and executing pre-mobilization collective training. The 477th, a U.S. Army Reserve unit based out of Marysville, Washington, is supported nearly 7,000 service members of various occupational specialties who participated in the 21-day training event this year.

Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps service members hailed from points across the country to put their war-fighting skills to the test in field conditions that closely replicated a real combat environment. As a cargo operations and land transportation unit, Soldiers in the 477th Trans. Co. were some of the first to arrive at Ft. McCoy to begin their training before the start of the exercise.

“For our mission, our unit is conducting and operating a central receiving and shipping point – also known as a CRSP yard,” said Cpl. Chris Ottoman, a transportation management coordinator for the unit. “All equipment and vehicles shipped out for the exercise come through us.”

CRSP yard operations consist of material and cargo handling, tactical vehicle and rolling stock mechanical repair operations, as well as the management and tracking of all movement from both inbound and outbound equipment at the training location.

— Soldiers from Soldiers in the 477th Trans. Co. also use cranes, forklifts and other heavy duty vehicles to relocate containers already placed at Forward Operating Bases and Tactical Training Bases.

In addition to field training, Ottoman and his fellow Soldiers worked on classroom training throughout the exercise two hone their Soldier and leadership skills.

The more experienced Soldiers gathered up and taught the less experienced Soldiers things such as troop leadership procedures, combat lifesaver skills, field radio operations, counter intelligence, virtual convoy training and improvised explosive device awareness training.

“It’s been an awesome experience,” said Spc. Brandon Moser, a cargo specialist and 2012 Marysville-Pilchuck High School graduate.

“We’ve been able to go out on missions and conduct combat and unit training throughout the exercise – giving us a sense of what we could expect during deployment or while in a combat zone.”

When Moser and his unit are not deployed or conducting annual training, each Soldier reports for battle assembly one weekend a month at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Marysville, Washington, where everyone does movement and convoy operations or travels to training sites such as Joint Base Lewis-McChord or the Yakima Training Center for drivers training and weapons qualification.

The 477th Trans. Co. along with the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 483rd Quartermaster Company often work together during battle training assemblies and even more so during local community events. Since the unit’s relocation to the Marysville headquarters in 2012, Soldiers from these units have participated in or hosted events such as Easter egg hunts, the annual Arlington Fly-in Air Show, Marysville Touch-A-Truck event and Seattle’s Tough Mudder – a military style endurance obstacle course that has become nationally popular with civilians and warriors alike.

The 477th will be complete their annual training later this month. In the end, Army Reserve Soldiers shall be equipped with a vast amount of knowledge and experience in their war-fighting skills.



652nd RSG Improves Overall Readiness With Mass Battle Assembly

364th ESC Story and photos by Maj. Marvin Baker
364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)



HELENA, Mont.—More than 600 Army Reserve Soldiers from the 652nd Regional Support Group and their subordinate units improved their individual readiness during four days of training at the unit’s headquarters in Helena, Montana, Nov. 17-20, 2016.

Each Fall, leaders in the 652nd RSG plan and execute several critical training events that increase the unit’s overall readiness. This year’s activities included mass medical and dental exams that ensured each Soldier was physically and mentally prepared for any mission. All Soldiers are responsible for maintaining their own individual readiness and are given the resources to stay physically fit throughout the year. However, the mass medical event offers those that missed that opportunity another way to complete initial or follow up medical procedures.

Soldiers in the 652nd RSG also completed annual physical fitness tests and practiced rifle and grenade operation skills. After this month’s battle training assembly, the 652nd will increase its dental and medical readiness dramatically.





451st ESC

451ST ESC SOLDIERS STAY SHARP DOWNRANGE

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Naurys Marte
451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

KUWAIT— Even during deployment, Soldiers train to maintain basic skills. Members of the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command conducted a weapons qualification Nov. 8, 2016, at a range in Kuwait. The 451st ESC completed a nine-month deployment to Kuwait in 2016.

“The collective effort from everyone on the staff, and the Soldiers cooperating and letting us do the job to run the range, made this training safe and successful.”

-Sgt. 1st Class Terrence Reeves, 451st ESC training noncommissioned officer

Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Bradley C. Couch, maintenance management noncommissioned officer with the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, instructs the Soldiers on the firing line during weapons qualification.

1st Lt. Alexandria F. Olsen, secretary to general staff from the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command smiles during a weapons qualification break.



Staff Sgt. Anthony Lopreste, supply sergeant from the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, loads magazines with ammunition for Soldiers at a weapons qualification range in Kuwait, Nov. 8, 2016.

Sgt. Marcus A. Brown, culinary noncommissioned officer from the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command returns to the firing position after reviewing his zero target.





Hands On Ordnance Training at Crane Army Ammunition Activity

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Valencia Scott
451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

451st ESC



More than 80 Soldiers from the 452nd Ordnance Company received important training at Crane Army Ammunition Activity Nov. 5-19, 2016, which directly related to the missions specific skills needed for when they deploy. Training at Crane covered the full spectrum of ammunition duties to include inventory, surveillance, and blocking and bracing. Soldiers practice using a palletized loading system (PLS) to load CONNEXs on military vehicles.

CRANE, Indiana -- More than 80 Soldiers from the 452nd Ordnance Company received important training at Crane Army Ammunition Activity Nov. 5-19, 2016, which directly related to the missions specific skills needed for when they deploy. Working with CAAA was ideal for the ordnance company to conduct training considering Crane it is the third largest naval installation in the world with 650, 000 Tons of Ordnance Storage Capacity. Prior to this annual training, the company typically conducted their annual training in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin for either a warrior exercise (WAREX), or combat support training exercise (CSTX).

Unlike previous annual trainings, this one provided hands on training for everyone included in the company, which primarily consists of ammuni-

tion specialists. NSA Crane primarily consists of civilians that perform these duties (and others) regularly, however, they were glad to work with Soldiers. "Hands-on training at Crane Army Ammunition Activity is a great opportunity for our workforce to interact with the Warfighter they serve every day. CAAA employees are able to share their expertise with Soldiers and in return Soldiers are able to experience effective ammunition logistics that support them when deployed around the world," said Matt McGowen, Crane Army's Director of Depot Operations.

Training at Crane covered the full spectrum of ammunition duties to include

inventory, surveillance, and blocking and bracing. Soldiers in the unit were assigned to small teams that rotated between the three ammunition duties, thus providing effective cross training on the broad spectrum of different jobs, especially for those in the unit who are not ammunition specialist. Pfc. Marissa Hix of Rapid City, North Dakota is a transportation coordinator, however she worked in the rotating ammunition teams. "This has been a really good experience, especially not being an ammunition specialist. I get to see what they do in case I do want to change my military occupation specialty," said Hix. Hix was able to explain the purpose of surveillance in which she assisted civilians inspect small arms ammunition, which is to look for defi-

ciencies such as cracks and scratches.

Each annual training task tied into each other and formed the different roles each team had. Sgt. Zachary Gruba explained the blocking and bracing process, which essentially creates braces to protect the ammunition by preventing it from shifting and sliding in the trailer when ammunition is shipped. The importance of blocking and bracing is justified considering the next stop for the ammunition involved Soldiers loading it on either the palletized loading system (PLS) team or using heavy lifting equipment such as a Kalmar that loads the large CONNEXs onto military vehicles. The PLS and heavy lifting team had plenty of room and equipment to practice on Crane. Spc. Brenden Kaffar attested to this who operated a Kalmar machine on the heavy lifting team, which was also his favorite part of annual training. "This is the biggest machine I have ever operated. We have one at the unit but we can't actually operate it moving conexas," said Kaffar.

While the unit provided great hands on training for the ammunition specialists and cross training for others, the company's culinary specialists and mechanics also attributed to a successful annual training. Spc. Matthew Syzmonki of Watertown, South Dakota, and other culinary specialists were busy from four o'clock in the morning until the six o'clock in the evening preparing hot breakfast and dinner for the entire

company in the mobile kitchen trailer (MKT). "I think the Soldiers look forward to the hot meal to get them started and at the end of a long day," said Syzmonki. Staff Sgt. Kelly Ford, the non-commissioned officer in charge allowed the Soldiers to cook without his interference, which he believes allows the Soldiers to trust each other and build cohesion. Similarly, the mechanics worked in the maintenance shop and learned new skills for the civilians. Capt. Kristen Outtrim, the 452nd Ordnance Company Commander, was proud of her Soldiers and overall felt the training was successful. "Hands on training is always good, you can never get enough training about your job."



More than 80 Soldiers from the 452nd Ordnance Company received important training at Crane Army Ammunition Activity Nov. 5-19, 2016, which directly related to the missions specific skills needed for when they deploy. Pfc. Allison Kipp of Wahpeton, North Dakota, participated in the surveillance team, which inspects ammunition for deficiencies such as crack and scratches.





451st ESC

1st TSC Enables Units to Track Forces with Technology

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Naurys Marte
451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

SOUTHWEST ASIA — At the tactical level of operations, the ability to identify friendly and hostile forces with Blue Force Tracking in the battlefield becomes critical to track, communicate, strike and defeat the enemy, and carry on the mission.

BFT is a type of global positioning system that provides information about friendly and hostile military forces' locations and route planning. The BFT is not just a GPS. It's also a computer with a satellite antenna, text and imagery capabilities, and mapping software that highlights the friendly forces in blue and hostile forces in red.

When the 300th Sustainment Brigade Detachment 2 requested support from the 1st Theater Sustainment Command-Operational Command Post's information technology section, "the Soldiers from the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command went above and beyond their duties and volunteered to install the BFTs on the vehicles," said Army Reserve Maj. Parinya Sukaromya, information technology officer in charge with the 300th SB, 1st TSC-OCP.

"They [300th SB] told us they had the BFTs, but not installed on the vehicles. So, I said, 'we can install those for you,'" said Army Reserve Sgt. Charles Smalley, signal support systems noncommissioned officer with the 451st ESC, 1st TSC-OCP.

Smalley, who has been in the Army Reserve for more than six years, took the installation of the BFT's as an opportunity to work with and provide refresher training to Army Reserve Sgt. Alex Katz,



Sgt. Charles Smalley and Sgt. Alex Katz, both signal support systems noncommissioned officers with the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, install a Blue Force Tracker system on a tactical vehicle for the 300th Sustainment Brigade Det. 2, Sept. 20, 2016 at an undisclosed location in Iraq. (Photo by Spc. Milagro Perez)

signal support systems NCO with the 451st ESC, 1st TSC-OCP.

"The Blue Force Trackers are the eyes and ears in the battlefield and are capable of being used in aviation assets as well," said Katz. He expressed the training was a refresher.

Yet, at the 300th SB, BFTs are not the main technology used by Soldiers to communicate during missions. "Harris(r) radios are used as the primary means of communications," said Smalley.

Harris(r) is a military radio manufacturer which Soldiers of the 300th SB use to ensure clear voice communication during convoy operations. Since the radios are used for voice transmission, the BFTs play a critical role in providing a visual on the route required and identifying possible threats during convoy operations.

The combination of both audio and visual technologies aids the 300th SB and the 1st TSC-OCP to safely accomplish sustainment operation missions.

HERE IT COMES

Distracted Driving
Any activity that diverts a driver's attention puts that driver, their passengers and everyone else on the road at serious risk. Why chance it?

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports that in 2014, that nearly 3,200 people were killed and 431,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

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. #ArmySafety

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

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?

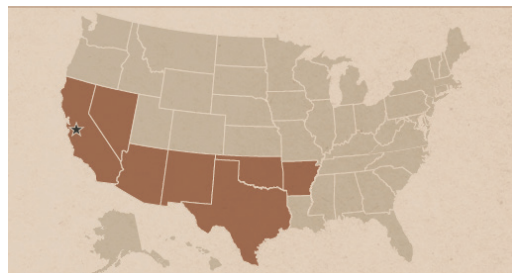
<https://safety.army.mil>



63rd Regional Support Command Retirement Services Office



SIGN UP FOR PRE-RETIREMENT
TRAINING IN A CITY NEAR YOU!



Are you thinking
about retirement?
Ready to retire?
Not sure what it
takes to retire?

Topics covered include:

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)
Gray Area Benefits
My Army Benefits
TRICARE Medical/Dental
Retirement Points Management
Retired Pay Application Process
and much more!

**63rd RSC Regional Support Command
Retirement Services Office**
230 RT Jones Rd
Mountain View, CA. 34043
States covered:
AK, AR, AZ, CA, Guam, HI, NM, NV, OK

Date:	City/State:
Saturday, 6 May 2017	Broken Arrow, OK
Saturday, 3 June 2017	Harlingen, TX
Saturday, 19 August 2017	Phoenix, AZ
Saturday, 23 September 2017	Hot Springs, AR

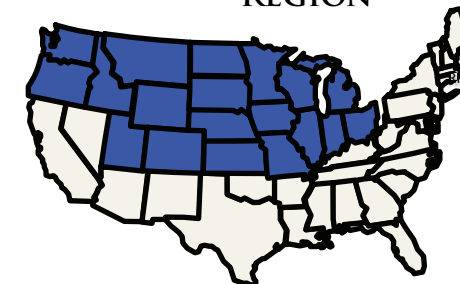
For More Information Email 63RD RSO Team: usarmy.usarc.63-rsc.list.retire@mail.mil



88th Regional Support Command Retirement Services Office



SIGN UP FOR PRE-RETIREMENT TRAINING IN THE 88TH RSC
REGION



Pre-Retirement Training Briefs

88th Regional Support Command
Retirement Services Office
Building 35, South 8th Ave., Fort McCoy, Wisconsin 54656

Office: (608) 388-7448/9321 Fax: (608) 388-0605

Email: Christopher.a.spencer16.mil@mail.mil
Chad.h.kleifgen.mil@mail.mil

States Covered: CO, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, OH, OR, SD, UT, WA, WI

Date:	City/State:
Saturday, 25 March 2017	Darien, IL
Saturday, 1 April 2017	Twinsburg, OH
Saturday, 22 April 2017	Brooklyn Park, MN
Saturday, 13 May 2017	Salt Lake City, UT
Saturday, 3 June 2017	Vancouver, WA
Saturday, 22 July 2017	Fort Leonard Wood, MO
Saturday, 5 August 2017	Denver, CO
Saturday, 9 September 2017	Indianapolis, IN

*Dates and locations subject to change. Please verify with the RSOs listed above prior to making travel arrangements





NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE



Editor
The Falcon
79th Sustainment Command (Support)
Public Affairs Office
4201 Saratoga Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA. 90720

Buddies can Prevent Suicide

Not all Wounds are Visible

Be willing to listen.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

- For assistance:
- Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional
 - Call the Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) press 1 for the Military Crisis Line
 - Call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.com