

The Castle

Fall/Winter 2017



Commander Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Christian

Senior Enlisted Adviser Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis E. Law

412th TEC Public Affairs Lt. Col Kavanaugh Breazeale Capt. Alan Moss Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley Sgt. Devin Wood

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

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

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

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The 412th Theater Engineer Command 'Build To Serve'

About the Front Cover:



Pfc. Cory Dzurik, 316th Engineer Detachment, 458th Engineer Battalion, 411th Engineer Brigade, drives a roller during the detachment's Extended Combat Training on Fort Drum, N.Y., Aug. 10, 2017. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood)



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

Major General Daniel Christian Commanding General, 412th TEC A word from the Commander

It is time to get back to the basics, shoot, move, and communicate. In November, the command teams down to the Battalion level met for the first time to develop a command strategy that focuses on this very theme. The command teams develop our operating strategy for the next two to five years as

well as the ability to measure our progress.

While this may seem a bit of a "high altitude" view of the Castle team, it is intended to get the entire Castle team refocused on the operational capabilities of the command. During the Strategic Leaders Conference the command teams flushed out four key lines Of effort. They are Human Capital and Leadership, Operational Execution and Logistical Readiness. These three legs of the "stool" are operational imperatives we must achieve to be a ready and capable Theater Engineer Command that support our national interests. Strategic Communications is about communicating the Castle story to our Soldiers, instilling an esprit de corps in our formations and communicating the great successes the command has achieved.

Human Capital and Leadership centers on a number of key themes. However, the true focus is getting our personnel operationally ready. That includes, among other things, our personnel and senior grades available, achieving more than 85 percent Medical Readiness and clearing out the backlog of security clearances.

Operational Execution centers on individual and collective execution of missions in support of maneuver units during a collective exercise to engage the enemy in close conflict. As engineers, it is our collective mission to provide engineer capabilities to combatant commanders.

Logistical Readiness gets after our equipment being at 10/20 standards and ready to go when called upon to do so. Units need to exercise equipment during Battle Assemblies and during operational exercises. We cannot let the equipment rust in our equipment yards and Equipment Concentration Site yards. This is a command team's responsibility.

Of course, none of this really matters unless we measure where we are and how effective the commands are on all three fronts. As such, the command has developed a set of measurements to track and trend our performance. Each company should receive these measurements on a monthly basis. If a command team does not receive them, let me know, I will personally send it to you.

Secretary of Defense James Mattis put out guidance that our priority is to be operationally ready. These lines of effort strike at the heart of his guidance. This is no small task and requires command emphasis at all levels, so let's get after it.

All the Best Essayons Castle 6 out.



Command Sergeant Major Dennis Law

Command Sergeant Major, 412th TEC

A word from the CSM

Team Castle, happy holidays and greetings from Vicksburg, Mississippi, for those who attended the Strategic Leaders Conference, they heard Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Christian (Castle 6), define three major lines of effort that will allow the 412th Theater Engineer Command to be operationally ready. These lines of effort are Human Capital & Leadership, Operational Execution, and Logistical Readiness. It is the human capital and leadership line of effort that Lintend to discuss.

One of the key elements of Human Capital & Leadership is personal readiness. Our nation places its trust and confidence in each member of Team Castle to maintain and keep both their individual and their unit readiness at the highest possible levels in order to ensure operational readiness. Thus, it is one's personal readiness that allows each team member to have the physical, psychological, spiritual and family preparedness required to achieve and sustain optimal performance in supporting the Active Army and the TEC's missions in times of uncertainty and persistent danger.

Another critical aspect of Human Capital and Leadership and being operationally ready involves being mission qualified. When Soldiers are personally prepared and ready to meet Active Army global challenges – physically fit, duty Military

Active Army global challenges – physically fit, duty Military
Occupational Specialty qualified, properly educated for the role that they maintain within the unit - they then demonstrate that competency and confidence that is required to succeed in any mission in today's uncertain environment.

Performance is the last critical factor that I will mention in relationship to Human Capital and Leadership and being operationally ready. Every member of Team Castle must perform at his or her optimal level if the 412th TEC is to successfully help the nation meet its global challenges. With that end in mind, the TEC values and needs each and every Soldier in the Command.

Lastly, and without the "strategic references" above, I know that my own operational readiness requires me to do the best that I can to make sure that my Family, my civilian employment, and the other aspects of my personal life are in order so that I'm ready to support the missions of the 412th TEC and of our Nation. I applaud each of you for doing the same.

All the Best, Essayons Castle 7, out.



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Ye Oldde Chaplain's Corner

By some guy who just showed up or Sgt. 1st Class David Mangan

f you were to ask your average Soldier what their Chaplain did, you would probably get one of two different responses back; either "Strong Bonds" or "Chapel services." While both would be true, that's a

tiny snapshot of what a Chaplain does for their command.

The Chaplain, first and foremost, is the advisor on all religious issues for the commander. When a Soldier states that they need a religious accommodation, the commander turns to the Chaplain as the subject matter expert. When a commander needs to know how the religion of an area the unit will deploy to will affect the mission, they turn to the Chaplain. The Chaplain functions as a counselor for the unit, dealing with matters both secular and religious depending on what issues its Soldiers have. It's not uncommon for a Chaplain to help a Soldier with family issues, then turn around and help another Soldier with financial issues, and finish the day helping a Soldier who's having a crisis of faith. One of the most important attributes the Chaplain has is complete Confidentiality - whatever a Soldier says to a Chaplain during a counseling session CANNOT BE REVEALED. Period. No judge, no officer, not even the President of the United States can compel a Chaplain to reveal what was told to him in confidence. Religious Affairs Specialists and Noncommissioned Officers also have Confidentiality in the performance of their duties. There is no other person in the military that has that level of confidentiality. Not even the lawyers. (Sorry, Judge Advocate Corps!)



SHARP Office's goal is easy access

By Fredrick Conley, II SHARP Specialist

he goal of the 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Office for Fiscal Year 2018 is to offer education and training opportunities in easy accessible formats. The contributions will integrate activities and educational information to engage key audiences while achieving goals consistent with the TEC mission, vision, and goals.

SHARP staff will develop and employ a communication strategy that provides fundamental principles, prevention techniques, and procedures that are evolving in the Army Reserve community. One endeavor is to streamline current SHARP training formats from mass training events using power point presentations to multiple short information segments posted on social media, i.e. Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

Postings are viewable via smart devices, and credit

for training attendance is obtained by way of likes, follows, and retweets from viewers.

A second likelihood is the usage of webinars as a platform for formal protocols and procedural training.

This will allow commanders greater flexibility in conducting individual or collective training from a social networking website,

archived presentation, i.e. Adobe Connect or All Partners Access Network (APAN) without the requirement for credentialed SHARP Practitioners as instructors. A third effort, especially for units that conduct lunch dining activities within their assembly hall is to employ the "Lunch and a Movie" training format. SHARP training sessions are held during a Battle Assembly lunch period when all unit members are gathered in one central location. This training strategy has no additional impact on the many requirements filled into monthly training schedules.

Elite Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention Command Team Trainer (ELITE SHARP CTT) is a laptop-based training application that provides Command Teams the knowledge, skills, and confidence to successfully execute the Army SHARP program within their organizations.

The ELITE SHARP CTT learning experience is divided into three phases: up-front instruction, a practice environment that currently contains three practice



scenarios, and a self-directed After Action Review (AAR). The practice scenarios represent examples of typical, real-world SHARP incidents that Command Teams may face during their command tour. Each scenario provides an opportunity for users to apply their knowledge and practice their skills while responding to simulated incidents of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault. Performance is

assessed during the up-front instruction and practice exercises. Feedback is provided in aforementioned self-directed AAR. When used as a self-paced trainer, users should be able to complete the training in approximately 90 minutes. When used in an instructor-facilitated session, users should expect approximately two hours to complete



the training. This approved, downloadable application offers a unique opportunity to learn and practice SHARP skills.

Upon completion of the training, users will understand their unique roles and responsibilities with respect to SHARP, they will understand the role and responsibilities of the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Victim Advocate, and they will be able to implement the appropriate actions when responding to SHARP-related incidents in their organizations. "Everyone learns differently.

Therefore, 412th TEC SHARP is formulating new and innovative ways to help you learn. From webinar, instructor-led delivery modules, to self-led training through the ELITE SHARP CTT, to providing short just-in-time videos covering various topics on social media, we have content to satisfy every learner's needs."

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Maj. Gen. Christian promoted, takes cha

Story by Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley rig. Gen. Daniel J. Christian, 412th Theater Engineer Command's commanding general was promoted to the rank of major general and officially took charge in an assumption of command ceremony at the Illinois monument in the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi, Nov. 18, 2017.

Christian most recently served as Deputy Commanding General-Operations for the TEC. Before, he served as the 95th Training Division and Assistant Division Commander at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He replaces Maj. Gen. Tracy A. Thompson. "I am truly blessed and humbled,"



U.S. Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Christian, 412th Theater Engineer Command's acting commanding general was promoted to the rank of major general by his wife, Donna, and officially took charge in a special assumption of command ceremony at the Illinois monument in the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 18, 2017.

Christian said. "It is a prestigious opportunity to lead this unit.'

Major Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Deputy Commanding General spoke during

the assumption of command's opening remarks of Christian's character.

"I can tell you with Dan Christian as your leader, have the right leadership to

you

"We need to understand where we are going and that Readiness is everything."

-- Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Christian

the next level where you need to be." take you to

Carpenter encouraged everyone not to resist change. "Listen to your leader," Carpenter said. "Don't think it won't happen, not on your watch. You have to train and he's (Christian), going to train you hard like you're going to war tomorrow."

Christian had echoed those same remarks of readiness at the Strategic Leaders Conference at the TEC headquarters in Vicksburg, Nov. 17.

"If you've been following the news, you should know the op tempo is not slowing down." Christian said. "We need to ask, "What are we doing to make ourselves ready?" That's the measurement of success at the end of the day." "We're going to create a contract," Christian said.

"We're setting the azimuth, the direction we're heading in and we'll set that course this weekend." Christian said, "... We need to understand where we are going and that Readiness is everything." "It's leadership's responsibility to make sure everyone is properly trained," Christian said. "We owe it to you; to make the course correction

if that's what's needed because that's what leaders do. It's something I take seriously and I ask you to do the same. What got us here is not what's going to take us forward. We need to reshape the way we think."

Christian thanked many for their support, but mentioned one above all else, his wife, Donna.

"There are many times I would have called it a day, but she supported and encouraged me everyday. We've been married for 30 years and if it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here today. I think in 30 years, I've made 13 anniversaries. I think I might miss a few more. Without her support, I wouldn't be here."

Christian's final remarks to the 412th were, "I commit to you that I will work as hard today as the day before to make sure that this command is going in

the right direction, Castle-Six out."

rge of 412th Theater Engineer





Top photo: U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Christian, left, receives the 412th Theater Engineer Command colors from Maj. Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command, during an assumption of command ceremony at the Illinois monument in the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 18, 2017.

Left photo: U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command, leads Maj. Gen. Daniel J. Christian, commander, 412th Theater Engineer Command, (TEC) and the TEC's Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Law, after Christians promotion ceremony at the Illinois monument in the Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 18, 2017. The trio were following the footsteps of the Civil War Army Engineers through Logans Approach towards the 3rd Louisiana Redan (an arrow shaped embankment forming part of a fort built to help guard an entrance into the city of Vicksburg).

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From Supply NCO to Combat Engineer

Sgt. 1st Class Pearson becomes first Senior Noncommissioned Officer to reclassify

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

gt. 1st Class Ella Pearson with the U.S. Army Reserve's 344th Engineer Company, 926th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, based in Tallahassee, Florida, saw the need for mentorship for young female Soldiers who held the military occupational specialty (MOS) of 12B or combat engineer in her company.

This was one of the reasons that she decided to transition from her supply specialist MOS into a 12B and in the process became one of the first U.S. Army Reserve senior noncommissioned officers to reclassify in the 12B field. She was among two female Soldiers among the class of 20 to graduate the two-week Reserve Component reclassification course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, March 24, 2017.

Oklahoma native Pearson, who now calls Ponce de Leon, Florida, home, said she has always been impressed

by combat engineers and credited previous female combat engineers for "paving the way."

"With that being said, there is always the need for that female to look up to ... that you can inspire to be and help you with anything you need assistance with," explained Pearson. "Because we do need those female senior leaders within that MOS to help those junior females who are coming into it."

The company has five female combat engineers, including Pearson, and another female Soldier who is going to transition to 12B.

Pearson classifies her graduation date as a "date of accomplishment."

"It wasn't an easy course at all," she said.

It is known fact that a 12B Soldier will perform a variety of construction and demolition tasks in supporting infantry units that are both physically and mentally demanding. Prior to being awarded the MOS, Soldiers must successfully complete a variety of High Physical Demand Tests, which include finishing a 12-mile Ruck March with a ruck that weighs 35 pounds in five hours, carrying and emplacing a H6, 40-pound cratering charge and forming a two-man team to lift and carry a 206-pound Rocking Roller in the construction of a Bailey Bridge.

Pearson, who finished the 12-mile Ruck March in 3 hours, 44 minutes, pointed out how important it was to

have situational awareness and mental conditioning.

"You have got to really know the instruments you use in order to perform your job to the best of your ability to keep yourself safe and your Soldiers safe and everyone safe around you," Pearson noted.

The task that challenged Pearson the most was using the AN/PSS-14 mine detector.

"Depending on which tone you are listening to, you have to really pay attention and you really have to understand how to use that particular piece of equipment in order to identify exactly where the center of the mine is," said Pearson.

Being precise as in learning how to tie different knots in the rigging of various charges was what Pearson enjoyed the most.

The reason she said was because now she can bring her knowledge back to her combat engineers in her company.

She explained that it has been rewarding to her to gain first-hand knowledge of being a combat engineer and why they do the things they do.

As an Active Army Soldier, Pearson gained nursing knowledge. She joined the Active Army as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1997.

She said she joined the Army because she wanted to live by its values.

The married mother of two young children left the Army in 2004 as a staff sergeant "to become a parent."

For the next nine years, Pearson would hold various nursing positions, including working in ambulatory clinics and skill nursing facilities. She also was a licensed assisted living administrator for almost four years and served as a government contract staffing coordinator. In her latter position, she staffed four different clinics that the company was awarded service contracts for.

Pearson received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for setting up a Class

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VII supply room for a clinic that was "stood up from the ground" up while serving as a staff Department of Defense nurse.

While attending college after her discharge, she received Bachelor of Science in Health Administration in 2007, her Masters of Health Administration minor in Informatics in 2009 and Doctorate of

Health Administration in 2014.

She joined America's Army Reserve as a supply specialist in October, 2013, as a staff sergeant.

She said she waited for her children to mature before joining the U.S. Army Reserve.

Her current civilian occupation is a Market director for Humana serving as the Northern North Florida Provider Engagement Director. Her territory reaches from Pensacola, Fla., to Daytona Beach, Fla.

"I focus on the qualify performance education of health care providers who are contracted with Humana," said Pearson.

She has to have even more focus in her new role as a Reservist. She was named the company's acting first sergeant shortly after returning from the reclassification school.

Master Sgt. Daniel Etherton, the company's former first sergeant, said he recommended her for the position. "She was my right hand when I was the first sergeant," said Etherton. "She is a highly motivated NCO with incredible time management skills."

"I chose her because of her leadership ability and being tactically proficient" continued Etherton.

Pearson's goal as a first sergeant is to take care of her Soldiers and ensure that all of them come home if the company is deployed.

Until then, she is slated to go to the Senior Leaders Course in February and her company is starting up a Sapper School train up program.

What better example than having Pearson assist in teaching the program.



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HEADQUARTERS POSTS

475th Explosive Hazards Co

Story by Sgt. Devin Wood

ICKSBURG, Miss., — Lt. Col. Clarence B. Kemper, III assumed command of the U.S. Army Reserve 475th Engineer Detachment (Explosive Hazards Coordination Cell) during an activation ceremony held at the George A. Morris U.S. Army Reserve Center here Oct. 22, 2017. The EHCC's mission is to combat and mitigate the hazards of roadside bombs, unexploded ordnance and minefields. The 475th EHCC under the 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) based in Vicksburg, the only unit of its kind in the Army Reserve, accomplishes its mission by coordinating with other units to conduct site investigations and "blow in place" clearance missions as well as training other U.S. forces and foreign military units.

"What we are doing is something new," said Kemper. "All the previous EHCCs were stood up for specific deployments and when they came back they were disbanded. Because we were not stood up rapidly, we can obtain additional training and depth of experience that makes us more valuable."

Bringing more than a decades worth of engineer experience to the table, Kemper is eager to lead a unit

of this specialty. "You had me at boom," said Kemper.

"If you need a guy that understands explosive devices; how they work and how they don't work, that is the guy," said Brig. Gen. (P) Daniel J. Christian, TEC Commander. "Building up the 475th is going to take some time and energy," said Christian. "It's a very specific skill set. The people are out there, just not very many of them.

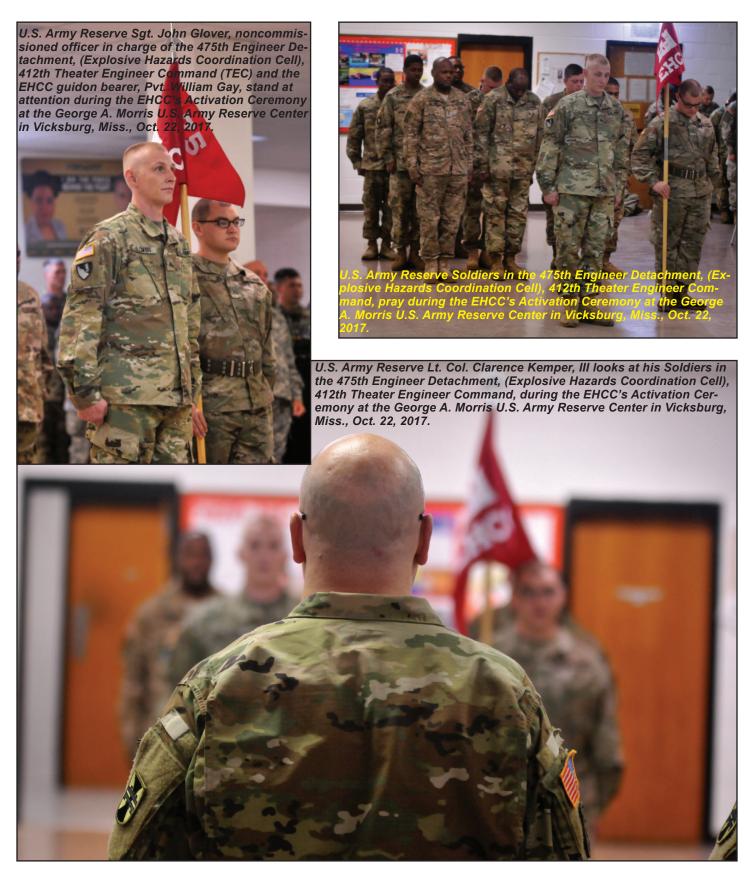
Kemper acknowledged the difficulty and said he is up to the challenge. "We will be successful sir, Essayons." Another example of how America's Army Reserve is building the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal federal reserve force in the history of the Nation.



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EHCC's Activation Ceremony at the George A. Morris U.S. Army Reserve Center in Vicksburg, Miss., Oct. 22, 2017. Kemper, III is the commander. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood).

ordination Cell activated



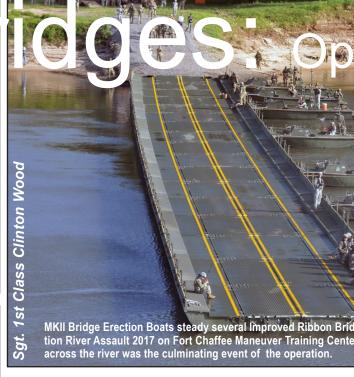
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Top left: Three U.S. Army Soldiers kneel on top of an Improved Ribbon Bridge (IRB) Bay Section waiting to hook it up to a Company B, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, General Support Aviation Battalion, Army Reserve Aviation Command CH-47 Chinook during Operation River Assault 2017 on Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Fort Chaffee, Ark, July 26, 2017. Middle: The Soldiers would then team up to hook up the IRB to the CH-47 Chinook. Bottom right: The Soldiers wore protective gear to withstand the rotowash while they waited to hook up the IRB.

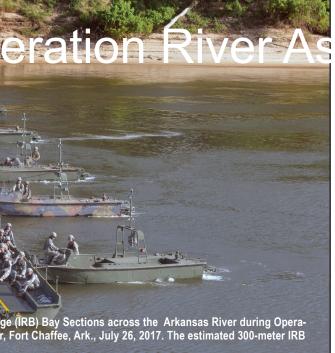


ORT CHAFFEE MANEUVER
TRAINING CENTER, Arkansas—Building bridges is what Operation River Assault 2017 is all about, but not just in the literal sense. This year, it combined joint operations between Active Army and America's Army Reserve Soldiers and Active and Reserve Marines to deploy and assemble an approximately 300-meter long floating improved ribbon bridge (IRB) across the Arkansas River near here July 26, 2017.

The U.S. Army Reserve's 463rd Engineer Battalion, 411th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC), based in Wheeling, West Virginia, was the main effort for the operation. The Brigade commanded the operation while another U.S. Army Reserve battalion, the 844th Eng. Bn., based in Knoxville, Tennessee, under the TEC's 926th Engineer Brigade supported the 463rd Eng. Bn. The Marines participating were Bridge Company A, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Logistics Group, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and 7th Eng. Spt. Bn., 1st Logistics Group, U.S. Marine Corps.

The Army has stressed that making interpersonal connections with different units and components is essential, but this exercise was more than just a day for bridge builders to assemble a floating bridge.

River Assault is two weeks of Extended Combat Training to improve combat capability and readiness for every Soldier and Marine involved. The training focused on the skills of various service members, culminating in the construction of a floating



bridge across the Arkansas River.

"I think one of the big things is that this is multi-compo," said Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Christian, acting commander of the 412th Theater Engineer Command, to a media representative. "We have a number of different elements from the armed services coming together to make this mission happen."

We're one mission," said U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Ryan Wells, with Forward Support Company, 463rd Eng. Bn., as he readied ammunition for his unit to familiarize with in preparation for qualification tables with the M240B machine gun and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

On the day of the crossing, Active Army Soldiers from the 502nd Multi-Role Bridge Company (MRBC), 19th Engineer Brigade, based in Fort Knox, Kentucky, rode in MarkII erection boats to retrieve and push down river IRB Bays dropped in the river by CH-47 Chinooks from pilots of Company B, 7th (General Support Aviation) Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 244th Aviation Brigade, Army Reserve Aviation Command based in New Century, Kansas. Ground troops coordinated via radio and hand signals to attach and detach the sling loads. Army Reserve Soldiers from the TEC, the 416th Theater Engineer Command based in Darien, Illinois, and the Marines unloaded the bays from trucks into the river to secure to the north and south shore.

"The Soldiers are putting together the bridge sets as they're floating down the river," said Christian.







Top Photo: Soldiers in Mark II Erection boats waited for the IRB sections to be dropped by the CH-47 Chinook Helicopters before they stage and put together the sections.

Middle photo: The Mark II Erection boats would then push the IRB sections down river in order to build the estimated 300-meter IRB across the Arkansas River.

Bottom photo: Soldiers would then pull on ropes to align the IRB sections together

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Engineers exercise their skills in Resolute Castle 17

Story/photos by 1st Lt. Louis Stevens 926th Engineer Brigade

OINT NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, Cincu, Romania — In the final weeks of Resolute Castle 17 in September, 2017, U.S. and Foreign service members were diligently exercising their engineering skills at the Joint National Training Center (JNTC) in an effort to develop a premier training area, where multi-national, multi-component Soldiers will hone their skills for years to come.

"Soldiers from an array of different backgrounds, nationalities, service components, and career paths have unified under the banner of Resolute Castle 17 for a common cause." said Capt. Darin Larson, Project Officer in Charge at the JNTC. "Protecting and solidifying the values and objectives of the NATO Alliance is central to that cause."

The U.S. Army Reserve 926th Engineer Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, U.S. Navy Seabees, U.K. Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers, and Romanian Land Forces worked in conjunction to complete a series of engineering projects at the training center.

Such projects at the JNTC include a Non-Standard Live Fire Range (NSLFR), where tanks can bolster their skills in engaging a moving target, two Moving Armored Target Systems (MATS), at which tanks fire rounds for practice, an Ammo Loading Dock, two Operations and Storage Buildings, an Urban Breach Facility, and a Sniper Tower. Additionally, as participants in Resolute Castle 17, the 15th Engineer Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, an Active Army contingent, successfully completed a Moving Armored Target System and a KSpan Building in Poland with oversight and direction from the 926th Eng. Bde. during the months of April, May, and June.

"The formulation of designs and plans for the JNTC's projects began in late 2016, and the realization of said plans can be seen in our constructed projects today," said 1st Lt. Cameron Johnson, 841st Engineer Battalion, 926th Eng. Bde. Johnson has fulfilled the role of engineer plans officer, responsible for the creation of each project's designs and specifications.

The NSLFR has been constructed since the beginning of Resolute Castle construction operations in April of 2017. It consists of five lanes, adjoined at the top and bottom by two lanes which run perpendicular. In 10 deliberately designed locations, tanks mount what are known as Battle Positions, from

which they fire rounds at Moving Armored Target Systems, 2,000 and 1,800 meters away.

"To construct approximately 10 kilometers of tanks trails and their corresponding targets has taken five months of relentless effort by our forces at the JNTC," Spc. Mark Hathaway, a Survey and Design Soldier from the Brigade, said. "Though our efforts are certainly worth it. The tank firing range will be an invaluable training asset for many years to come."

Furthermore, the Moving Armored Target Systems have been a prodigious undertaking unto themselves. 350 meters in width and necessitating the movement of hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of earth, the design and construction of the target systems has been no small feat. The Non-Standard Live Fire Range and its accompanying Moving Armored Target System have garnered the bulk of the Engineer's attention over the course of Resolute Castle 17, though their efforts have not been solely placed on the NSLF Range and MATS.

In fact, they have created myriad others in their limited time while conducting operations in Romania.

"The breadth and number of projects assigned for our mission were daunting, but we understand that building training infrastructure strengthens the United States' and our partners' ability to galvanize our forces and quickly respond when called upon in the Eastern European Region," Sgt. Brandon Cowan, a Quality Assurance and Quality Control personnel, said. "Not all of our projects are monumental undertakings, though they are all valuable in different ways."

An Urban Breach facility, constructed through the joint efforts of Romanian, U.S. and U.K. forces, was designed and built for future Soldiers to conduct forcible entry in simulated, real-world environments.

To facilitate preparation of tanks training on the Non-Standard Live Fire Range, engineers of RC17 constructed an Ammo Loading Dock, Operations and Storage Building and a Multi-Purpose Covered Shelter all within a 100 meter proximity of each other.

Ammo loading docks enable tank crews to quickly load rounds into a tank's weapon system. An operations and Storage Building provides a shelter in which vital supplies are stored for preparation of tanks entering the firing range. And lastly, a Multi-Purpose Covered Shelter provides an area in which troops shelter themselves from the elements while awaiting their training opportunity on a nearby range.

The final project, which engineers of Resolute Castle 17 have created, is a Sniper Tower. Romanian,



Top left: U.S. Army Reserve Engineers of the 926th Engineer Brigade training during several rotations for Resolute Castle 17 at the Joint National Training Center, Cincu, Romania, designed and constructed a Sniper Tower, from which Soldiers can engage targets up to a mile away.

Top right: From the displayed vantage point, one can view the 2,000 and 1,800-meter Moving Armored Target Systems. The barriers are a part of one of eight Battle Positions which are strategically placed on a Non-standard Live Fire Range, from which tanks train by firing at target systems 2,000 and 1,800 meters away.

Bottom: U.S. Army Reserve Engineers of the 926th Engineer Brigade at the Joint National Training Center, Cincu, Romania, operate D7 Dozers in an effort to construct a Moving Armored Target System, (MATS) at which tanks fire rounds for practice. The MATS are 350 meters in width and necessitated he movement of hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of earth.

U.K. and U.S. troop labor constructed the training asset which will serve troops by allowing them to practice in engaging enemies from up to a mile away.

Currently, Resolute Castle 17 finds itself in the seventh of eight engineering rotations. Though Soldiers of the United Kingdom's Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers and the U.S. Navy Seabees concluded their operations at the JNTC, the 926th Engineer Brigade, South Carolina National Guard and Romanian Land Forces continue their combined effort in accomplishing the remaining tasks necessary for the completion of their engineering projects.

Resolute Castle began in 2015 as an operation commissioned under the European Reassurance Initiative. In June 2014, President Obama instituted the ERI in order to increase U.S. force presence in Europe, expand exercises and training with NATO Allies and partners, and augment pre positioned equipment for use in joint exercises.

Engineers of Resolute Castle 17 concluded their construction operations in September, and planners of the operation will set their focus on next year's iteration.

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No Bridge no problem

Story/Photos by Staff Sgt. Shaiyla Hakeem 354th MPAD

RAFTON, W.V., -- The 459th Engineer Company, 463rd Engineer Battalion, 411th Engineer Brigade located in New Martinsville, West Virginia, and known as the "River Rats," spent time building on Tygart Lake near here in a several-day training event to support the Department Of Defense's Immediate Response Authority (IRA) Sept. 8-10, 2017. The company practiced assembling and dissembling six sections of an Improved Ribbon Bridge (IRB) in the lake.

Public and local officials were invited to the marina at Tygart Lake State Park Sept. 8 to view the company putting together an IRB and showcase its bridge building competence. U.S. Army Reserve 1st Sgt. Marti Durst, with the 459th Eng. Co., said the exercise was "of course" for Soldier training, but was also used to spread awareness of the unit's potential.

"We were trying to put together a demonstration of our capabilities and what we can do for disaster flood relief as far as our rafting operations and boats," explained Durst, "but also for emergency bridge replacement."

Heavy flooding caused a bridge to collapse in Elkwood, West Virginia, on June 23, 2016. The collapse left hundreds of citizens temporarily stranded and resulted in an isolated shopping center.

"That could have been an easy fix for us," said Durst, "We could have put a dry support bridge section over

that gap where the bridge those business could have

According to the Defense Authorities directive, "DOD an immediate response employing the resource under to any supplemental direction headquarters, to save lives, suffering or mitigate great within the United States." "I would much rather work out the kinks now than somewhere in Iraq"

-- Sqt. Jaron McLain

washed down and stayed open."
Support of Civilian officials may provide by temporarily their control, subject provided by higher prevent human property damage

Durst explained that under DoD directives, and company commander's discretion, the company could assist with a 72-hour rescue mission and emergency

response support if requested by civil authorities.

The state of West Virginia has a history of flooding and the need for emergency and disaster flood relief. According to a press release published June 30, 2016, by the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, there were 657 reported power outages and 356 West Virginia National Guard members were deployed for rescue efforts due to state flooding. It also stated there were 20 confirmed fatalities due to the flooding; 18 of the 20 individuals' determined cause of death was asphyxiation.

The IRA prescribes that the policy is the same for small incidents, local emergencies or large-scale catastrophes. Training is paramount to ensure reserve forces are ready to deploy at any moment. U.S. Army Sgt. Jaron McLain served as bridge commander during the training exercise. He said the company has a lot of new recruits and the training was a great way to give them hands-on experience and practice. He believes training like this provides the opportunity for Soldiers to learn, make mistakes and learn by those mistakes.

"I would much rather work out the kinks now than somewhere in Iraq," said McLain. "You can die in practice

a million times, but in real life you've just got one shot."







U.S. Army Reserve Sgt.
1st Class Justin Carman
in the 420th Engineer
Company, 458th Engineer Battalion,, 411th Engineer Brigade, instructs
his Soldiers on how to
breach an obstacle using
a M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System
12-gauge shotgun at a
Ballistic Breaching range
on Fort Drum, N.Y., Aug.
10, 2017.

Route Clearance Company earns ballistic breaching Story/Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood



ORT DRUM, New York – "Muzzle placement, weapon at 45" degree angle, weapon on fire, head tilt," said U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Justin Carman a second before there was a loud boom at the Ballistic Breaching Range here Aug. 9, 2017. Carman had just mentored one of his Soldiers from the 420th Engineer Company, 458th Engineer Battalion, 411th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, based in Indiana, Pennsylvania, how to breach an obstacle in-a four-man stack using the M26 Modular Accessory Shotgun System 12-gauge shotgun. The obstacle was a plywood door attached to a concrete entry way. A wooden block nailed on the edge of the door and centered was the "doorknob."

This company was among 10 units of America's Army Reserve Soldiers training in the 479th Engineer Battalion's Extended Combat Training (ECT) at the fort from Aug. 5-19. ECTs like this ensure U.S.

Army Reserve Soldiers like these numbering more than 400 become the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal federal reserve force in the history of the Nation.

Carman said this training went well.

"For many of the Soldiers it was an opportunity to do more than just fire the new weapons system," said Carman. "They got practical hands on training."

Pfc. Jason Beckley, a combat engineer and groundskeeper at a golf course in Montgomery, Penn., agreed that

it was good hands on training.

"It is definitely something you should do if you're a 12B (Combat Engineer)," said Beckley.

A fellow combat engineer, Spc. Joshua Harshman remarked this type of training is "what he signed up for." "This is the best [U.S. Army] Reserve unit I've ever been in," said the drill pipe inspector from Morgantown, West Virginia.

Carman noted that his Soldiers learned how important shot placement is despite the plywood doors.

"They liked and enjoyed the fact that everyone got to make more than one or two attempts at breaching as

This training wasn't the only training that any U.S. Army Reserve Soldier would enjoy. The company had already expended more than 3,000, M2.50-caliber machine gun rounds and coordinated with the Active Army 10th Mountain Division's 7th Engineer Brigade on a breaching with demolitions lane.

"Our company's biggest push was firing our weapons systems," said Carman.

He pointed out that by the end of the ECT, more than 70,000 rounds were fired from the M2, M240B Machine Gun, MK 19 40-millimeter grenade launcher and M16A2-rifle. The ranges varied from qualification to reflexive fire and known distance.

Capt. Dan Gusich, company commander, pointed out that his company was in an offensive training strategy of a three-year training cycle.

"We are going back to all of the basics for a route clearing company," he said. "(The training) ties in with one of the Mission Essential Tasks approved for this training year.

"We will be significantly more ready by going through this lane and all the other ranges we have set up for this ECT," continued Gusich.

He described this individual training as "the walk phase."

Squad and platoon movements are the run phase, said Gusich.

He explained that next year, his company will train on defensive tasks. The following year, he will lead his company into route clearance training techniques which will include vehicle training.

"Typically when you are doing clearance now, 50 percent of your patrol is dismounted," noted Gusich. "So they really need be able to refit and reorganize as infantry."

And at the same time, become a lethal fighting force.

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Hands on Training Pro

Story/Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

ORT DRUM, New York — This U.S. Army Reserve unit based near here has found a way to increase its maintenance and supply readiness while at the same time allowing its Soldiers to become proficient in their Mechanical Maintenance Fields. Since January, the 479th Engineer Battalion, 411th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer

Command, has been paired with the 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) on Fort Drum for the Hands on Training (HOT) Program. The program provides

Soldiers a chance to work on a variety of track and wheeled vehicles in the ECS shop.

"It is a great opportunity for these Soldiers and a great opportunity for the supporting shop to help them get their numbers up," said Sgt. 1st Class Erik Taylor, 366th Engineer Company, 479th Eng. Bn., 411th Eng. Bde. "It helps our higher commands ensure everything is up to standard and that is the goal here."

Taylor was the noncommissioned officer in charge for the HOT Program from Aug. 5-17. The more than 20 Soldiers worked a normal eight-hour day shift but stayed overnight in the field training areas and slept in tents

as every other Soldier did who underwent the Battalion's Extended Combat Training.

One of the tasks the Soldiers complete is annual service on a variety of vehicles. This includes changing oil, fuel, transmission and hydraulic filters, checking lights and repacking the bearings with grease inside the

Taylor noted that this program also assists Soldiers in learning their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) but also cross training them in other MOSs.

"They are able to function in a field environment in a better aspect," explained Taylor.

He continued with this scenario. A generator goes down while a unit is deployed overseas. The unit does not have a generator repairman but a wheeled vehicle repairman who participated in a HOT Program and learned how to fix generators.

For Sgt. William Moss with the Battalion's Forward Support Company, he sees firsthand how this program helps all parties involved. He is a Military Technician at the ECS during the week and said the program definitely helps the ECS with its backlog.

"I have heard nothing but good things, said Moss. "They like the training because they actually get to do their

job and come here and train. They even do a little bit of cross training on other equipment."

Case in point: Pfc. Cory Bassett, a server and bartender who chose the Mechanical Maintenance Field to gain knowledge and experience. He is a track vehicle repairman and has been in America's Army Reserve for only two-and-a-half years.

"Doing this HOT mission enables me to actually engage in my job and work on vehicles and also cross train as a



gram win-win situation

wheeled vehicle mechanic and become a more fluid mechanic," said Bassett as he was using a torque wrench to tighten lug nuts on a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck A4 M983A4 Light Equipment Transporter in one of the shop's bays.

Lyndon Tuttle, the manager of the ECS, said the program is a win-win and the Battalion is "on board."

"It's working out great," said Tuttle. "They've been right on task."

He noted that Soldiers with the Automated Logistical Specialist are also studying the new Global Combat Support System-Army in classes.

He added that the program is a recruitment tool for his ECS. He noted that MILTEC positions are hard to fill because the federal employee must stay in the U.S. Army Reserve in order to stay in the MILTEC Program.

Tuttle noted that the 479th Eng. Bn., is the only unit so far participating in HOTs.

"They are set up for success if they get mobilized," pointed out Tuttle.

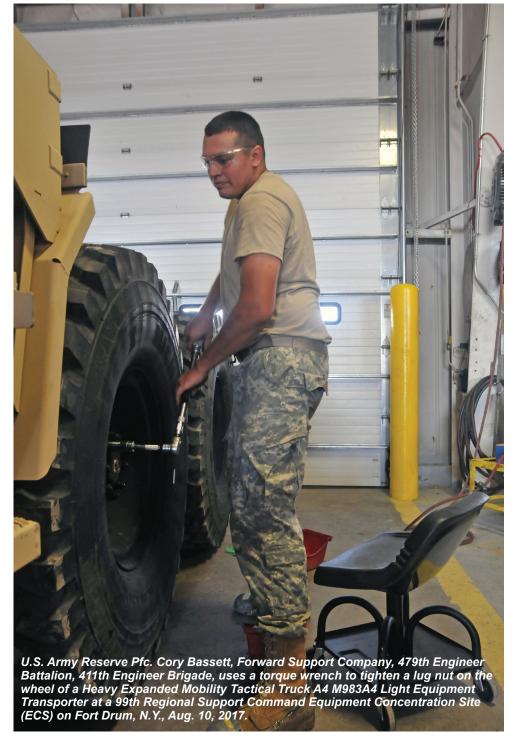
The mobilizing of thousands of troops during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom for the past several years was the reason that the HOT Program was not a priority, said Master Sgt. Danny Putnam of the TEC's Maintenance Division.

"Now our units are deploying with their own equipment verse having theater-provided equipment," noted Putnam.

Taylor said that he personally feels this program should be implemented U.S. Army Reserve-wide especially if the units are near a maintenance shop so they can bring their equipment there.

Even if a unit's equipment is not stored at an ECS, it should develop a plan in order to move that equipment to an ECS.

"It is just a great opportunity overall for everybody," remarked Taylor.



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Fall/Winter 2017

Small maintenance team gets the job done in Romania

Story/photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

OINT NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, Cincu, Romania — It is mid afternoon here July 15, 2017, and this U.S. Army Reserve noncommissioned officer (NCO) knows that an rear axle on a M917 20-ton 8x6 dump truck needs to be replaced.

"Working late would actually get that dump running," remarked Sgt. Anthony Harley Sr., a wheeled

vehicle mechanic with 391st Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, based in Greenville, South Carolina.

Dedication like this sums up this maintenance team composed of Harley and three other U.S. Army "I enjoy knowing that I am a part of a mission that makes a difference."

-- Sgt. Jarrod Hudson, Sr., 391st Eng. Bn.

Reservists and four Army National Guard Soldiers participating in the multinational Resolute Castle 2017 at JNTC from June 27 until July 18. This was the fifth, 21-day rotation of the five-month engineering operation.

Coincidentally, the day before, team member Sgt. Jarrod Hudson Sr., also of the 391st Eng. Bn., replaced one of these rear axles.

"We have pretty much been actively engaged for 10 hours a day," said Hudson.

He reflected that on their first day, they did not leave the shop until 10 p.m.

That first day also was déjà vu for Harley and him. Both had volunteered for an earlier rotation from May 20 until June 10.

When asked why he volunteered for this rotation, Hudson replied, "I enjoy knowing that I am a part of a mission that makes a difference."

Harley, who was the officer in charge (OIC) then, said his reason was that he wanted to experience the NCO experience and "get his hands dirty."

The earlier rotation saw the maintenance shop receive high marks.

Hudson went so far to say it set the standard.

Hudson said they maintained a 90 percent or better percentage of the vehicles out there on the lanes running.

"That is a very high standard," noted Hudson.

Harley agreed considering the type of vehicles and the conditions.

"It is pretty good when you have a lane NCO tell you we have more equipment than we have operators," said Harley, who has spent the last 14 years either in America's Army Reserve or the Guard. "That is what we want to do here, you bring us one dump, and we are going to give you two back before you leave."



Hudson credited the shop working hard and its teamwork for setting the standard.

"It was all there," said Hudson. "We came together like a well-oiled machine."

Harley said his team spent most of its time changing

tires on the dump trucks.

This rotation has an increased work load because of several major repairs of the M917 dump trucks, including engines and drive trains, said Hudson. The repairs also included four destroyed rear axles on as many trucks.

Hudson pointed out that the suspension and drive trains of "these old skeletons" are not built for the terrain that includes hard rocks and drops offs.

This is not counting the much talked about mud. "When it rains out here, it is slicker than Slick 50,"

described Harley of the mud.

Similar to mechanical parts being put to their limits in mud, this rotation also tested the team in the first few days, said its OIC, Capt. Aaron White, Forward Support Company (FSC), 178th Engineer Battalion, 59th Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard based in Rock Hill, S.C.

White said along with the "culture shock", the battalion-led task force, demanded a lot from the

maintenance shop.

"It was pretty stressful in the beginning," said White. "We had to ensure we had a can do attitude and know that we were not going to get the equipment that we needed to do some of the repairs."

To overcome this, White said his team put all their experiences together and developed ways to execute

repairs with the available tools.

For example, his Soldiers used bottle jacks (small hydraulic pistons shaped like small bottles) in order to

change Humvee's transmissions and wreckers to lift the vehicles to make repairs.

He pointed out that the U.S. Army Reserve and the Guard Soldiers seamlessly worked together.

"FSC operations are the same and we use the same doctrine," he said.

The challenge was synchronizing the different units and identifying leadership positions, said White.

He recognized how Harley and a Guard NCO, who both work as mechanics as civilians, cross trained the Soldiers.

Pvt. Amos Serpa, 391st Eng. Bn., was one of these Soldiers. He is a track vehicle repairmen but had already changed several tires and worked on wheeled vehicles.

"It has been an adventure," said Serpa, a civilian electrician.

White noted that this adventure is also a "behind the scenes" experience because the engineers moving tons of dirt get the notoriety.

"When that dump truck goes down, they need that dump truck back up and they need it back up now," said White. "We have to go out there and either get the dump truck or make repairs on the spot.

He explained that he felt that his team was doing both Field and Sustainment Maintenance. In other words, it diagnoses, repairs, and rebuilds components.

"They have been making it happen," said White.

Resolute Castle 17, led by the Brigade that ended Sept. 12 supported the European Reassurance Initiative and Operation Atlantic Resolve by developing training infrastructure in eastern Europe, enhancing interoperability among NATO partners, demonstrating commitment to the alliance and strengthening relationships among participating nations.

U.S. Army Reserve Pyt. Amos Serpa 391st Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, 412th Theater Engineer Command, works on a D7R II Dozer's radiator at Joint Multina-

tional Training Base Cincu, Romania, July 15, 2017.



This is our





Pfc. Ryan Kinney, 316th Engineer Detachment, Engineer Battalion, 411th E right, briefs Pfc. Ashley Hasenauer, also with the detachment, on how to di the detachment's Extended Combat Training on Fort Drum, N.Y. This was t months that Hasenauer drove a roller. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Woo



Command







Dedicated Paving Detachment

