

THE NORTHWEST Sustainer

Mission Accomplished: 364th ESC Returns from CENTCOM

U.S. Army 250

“This We’ll Defend”

Best Warrior Competition

USAR FY25 Soldier of the Year



DECEMBER 2025

THE NORTHWEST Sustainer

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Cover photo: Solider from 364th ESC headquarters deplane at Fort Cavazos after successfully completing their CENTCOM deployment. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Brian Hare)

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From the Commander



I want to take a moment to reflect on where we're headed as a command and what it takes to get there. Our focus remains laser-sharp on the Indo-Pacific theater. Exercises like RIMPAC, Balikatan, and Salaknib aren't just training opportunities, they're our chance to train as we fight, where the fight will likely be. These operations put sustainment in action and remind us why mastering the basics of our craft matters. Readiness and innovation go hand in hand, and both start with discipline and preparation.

My vision for the 364th ESC is simple: forge a resilient, combat-ready force—grounded in integrity, driven by innovation, and strengthened by its people—ready to deploy, transform, and prevail in any operational environment. **The end state?** A combat-ready, agile, modernized force—anchored in a people-first culture, led by empowered leaders, and unified through cohesive, mission-focused teams. To get there, we're focused on five key tasks:

Build and sustain combat-ready formations.

Drive adaptation and modernization.

Cultivate a people-first culture.

Develop empowered and accountable leaders.

Strengthen team cohesion and morale.

During this holiday season, take time to rest, reconnect with loved ones, stay safe and look out for each other. We need every member of this team ready to go when we return in the new year.

Thank you for all you do for your units and for this command. *Sustain the Fight! To the End!*

-BG Matthew M. Cain

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U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class True Thao



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class True Thao



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India N. Hunter



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India N. Hunter



In celebration of the Army's 250th birthday, 364th ESC unit partnered with 7th Battalion US Army Reserve Careers Group to complete the challenging Norwegian Foot March, June 14, 2025. Among the participants, **Maj. Jerry Duong (top left)**, 654th Regional Support Group, showcased exceptional performance, finishing third overall, while **1st Lt. William Bafaro (bottom left)**, HHC, 364th ESC, secured an impressive fifth-place finish. During HHC, 364th ECS's annual training, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christine Stanley whipped up a freedom-themed cake to honor the occasion.

For 250 years, America's Army has served and defended the people of the United States, the American way of life and our nation.

364th ESC Change of Command

This summer, on Aug. 16, 2025, we celebrated the continuity of leadership at the Change of Command ceremony, presided over by Maj. Gen. Dianne Del Rosso, Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve. Brig. Gen. Vivek Kshetrapal passed the colors before beginning his new assignment as Deputy Commanding General of the 81st Readiness Division.

Brig. Gen. Matthew Cain, coming to us from the 311th Signal Command (Theater), accepted command and the responsibilities ahead. Saluting your service, BG Kshetrapal—honored to have you, BG Cain!



U.S. Army Photos by Sgt. 1st Class True Thao

364th ESC Assumption of Responsibility

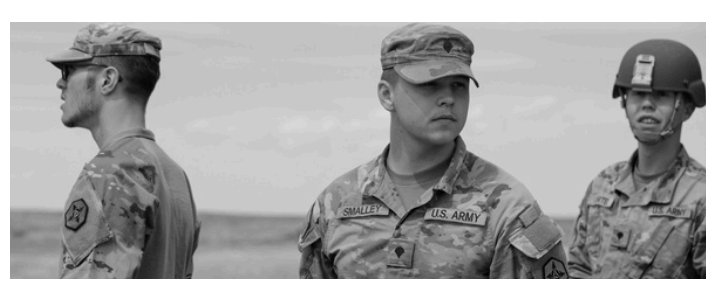
As every Soldier knows, Noncommissioned Officers are the backbone of the Army—leaders who inspire readiness, enforce standards, and sustain the strength of our formations.

We held the Assumption of Responsibility for Command Sgt. Maj. David R. Sayers on June 12, 2025. Joining us from the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Sayers brings a wealth of experience and a steadfast commitment to our Soldiers and mission.

We also greatly appreciate Command Sgt. Maj. Freddy Trejo for his exceptional service and dedication as he's gone on to his new role as the Command Sergeant Major of the 84th Training Command. Thank you for your past leadership, and welcome to our future!



U.S. Army Photos by Maj. India N. Hunter & Sgt. 1st Class True Thao



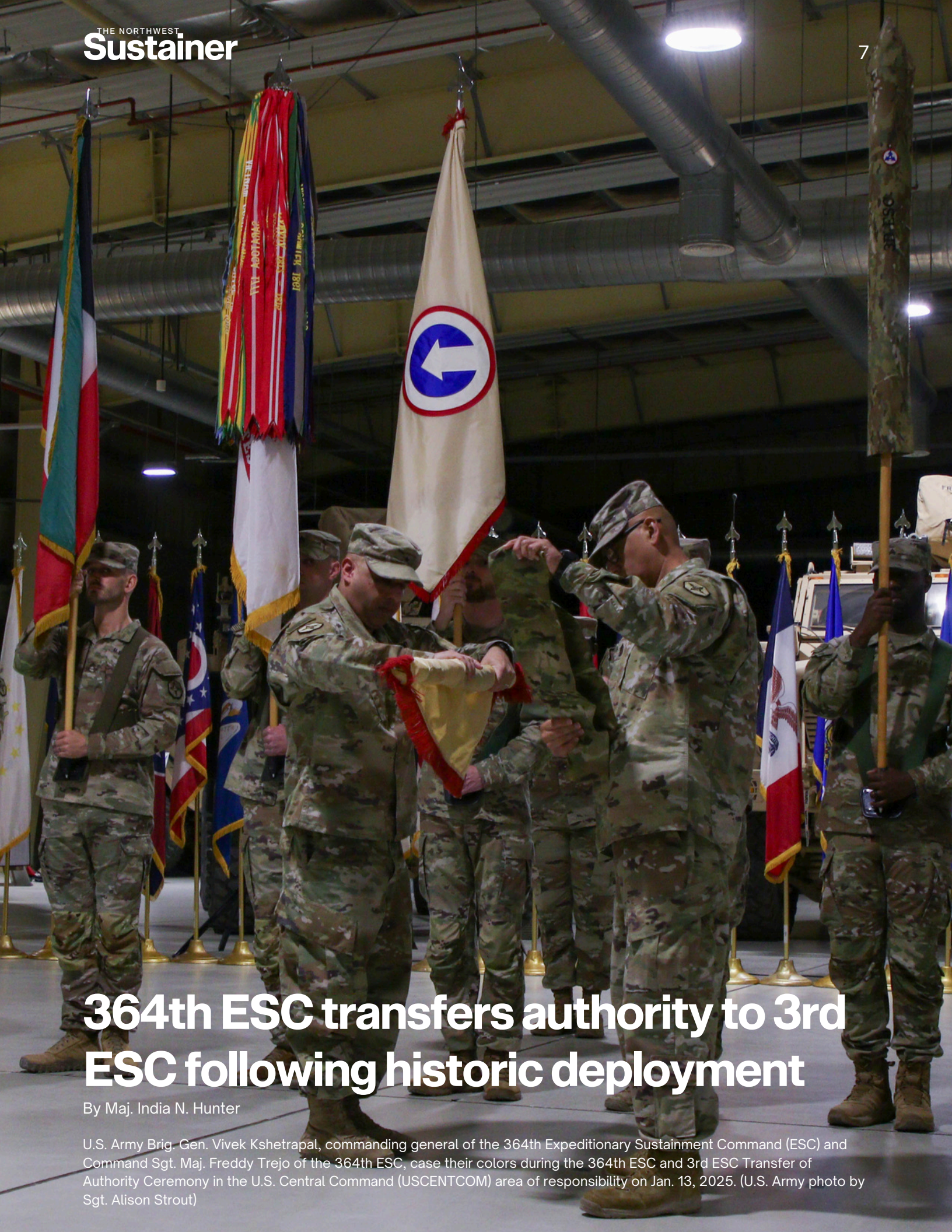
OPERATION TRAIL BREAKER



Operation Trail Breaker Gunnery, conducted April 28 - May 16, 2025, was a vital training event for the 364th ESC, involving gunnery crews from the 96th Sustainment Brigade, 652nd Regional Support Group, and 654th RSG. It focused on crew-served weapons qualification and developed the cadre needed for future gunnery programs across the command.

Photos by Maj. India N. Hunter and Spc. TylerAnn Bishop





364th ESC transfers authority to 3rd ESC following historic deployment

By Maj. India N. Hunter

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Vivek Kshetrapal, commanding general of the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) and Command Sgt. Maj. Freddy Trejo of the 364th ESC, case their colors during the 364th ESC and 3rd ESC Transfer of Authority Ceremony in the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility on Jan. 13, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alison Strout)

364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command transferred authority to the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command in a relief in place transfer of authority ceremony, Jan. 13.

The 364th ESC played a vital role in sustaining operations across the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, managing complex logistics operations spanning nine countries and supporting multiple operational commands including Operation Inherent Resolve and Task Force Spartan.

"Your efforts will, without question, have a lasting impact on the future of our partners in securing their borders, deterring aggression, and stabilizing the region," said Maj. Gen. Eric P. Shirley, commanding general, 1st Theater Sustainment Command. One of the unit's most significant achievements came through their participation in Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore operations, executing what became one of the largest humanitarian assistance missions in recent history. The operation successfully transported 20,000 pallets of aid across the sea and coordinated the movement of 45,000 metric tons of assistance through ground, air, and sea channels.

Reflecting on the deployment, Brig. Gen. Vivek Kshetrapal, commanding general, 364th ESC, emphasized the historic nature of their service. **"At Command Post Exercise 2 (CPX2) at Joint Base Lewis-McCord in November of 2023, I said to you all that this deployment may represent the most important contributions we make in our professional careers. After nine months here, I think that statement rings true for many of us," Kshetrapal said.**

During their nine-month deployment, the 364th ESC managed over \$5 billion in munitions across ten countries, supporting 16 presidential directives. The command orchestrated the movement of millions of dollars' worth of supplies, managed 51,000 lines of material across 10 Supply Support Activities, and significantly improved generator readiness throughout the theater.

Their efforts extended to partnering with Task Force Spartan to establish and operate the ARCENT Innovation and Manufacturing Center. They also brought structure and organization to the Western Access Network, operationalizing its footprint to two key locations.



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India N. Hunter



U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Brianne Maze



U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Leslye Cuevas



The temporary pier, part of the Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore capability, enables the maritime delivery of international humanitarian aid to the citizens of Gaza. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jordan KirkJohnson)

Col. Peter L. Gilbert, commander, 3rd ESC, expressed confidence in assuming the mission and continuing the high standards set by the 364th ESC. During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Freddy Trejo, command sergeant major, 364th ESC and Command Sgt. Maj. John S. Jerkins, command sergeant major, 3rd ESC joined their commanders in casing and uncasing, respectively, their command colors. This tradition marks the transition of command and demonstrates the continuity of the mission.

The 3rd ESC assumes command from the 364th ESC as the forward element of the 1st TSC. This adaptable force combines with rotating personnel from 1st TSC's headquarters at Fort Knox, Kentucky, to form the Operational Command Post. This integrated team directs daily sustainment operations across USCENTCOM's area of responsibility, ensuring continuous support to forces throughout the region.



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India N. Hunter



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India N. Hunter



MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

CITATION

During the period 20 April 2024 to 12 January 2025, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 364th Sustainment Command displayed exceptional meritorious service in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. Through its seamless sustainment support to the 1st Theater Sustainment Command and Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, the unit significantly contributed to mission success. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 364th Sustainment Command's exemplary performance is in keeping with the finest of traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon themselves, the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, and the United States Army.

BACKGROUND

The 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command earned the MUC for their work during their CENTCOM deployment. This award goes to units that go above and beyond for at least six consecutive months, delivering the kind of performance that would earn an individual Soldier the Legion of Merit. Our team showed up, executed the mission with precision, and proved what sustainment excellence looks like in a complex operational environment.

The MUC ribbon—solid red framed in gold—represents everyone who contributed to making this deployment a success.

Wear it with pride.



Onboarding Workshop

Over the course of two days, May 6-7, 2025, participants engaged in section briefings, networking, breakout sessions, and round robin activities, along with Q&A opportunities. This event was a great chance to welcome our new teammates and help them get started on the right foot by orienting them to our SharePoint, introducing them to their counterparts, and teaching them our SOPs. These essential activities are designed to boost readiness and foster strong teamwork from the very beginning.



Consider this:
How can each of us contribute to creating an inclusive environment that helps our new teammates feel welcomed and valued?





U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ervin Rivera, 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, rings the bell in honor of the thousands of American and Filipino soldiers who suffered and died during the Bataan Death March, (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India Hunter)

Bells of Honor: Presidio Ceremony Marks 83 Years Since Bataan Death March



Korean War veteran Robert Meyer, U.S. Army Col. Alfred Chang, 319th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) commander, and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bradley Smith, 319th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) executive officer after the Bataan Death March Commemoration at the San Francisco National Cemetery, April 5, 2025. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. India Hunter)

The resounding toll of ceremonial bells echoed through San Francisco’s National Cemetery Saturday, marking 83 years since thousands of American and Filipino Soldiers suffered through the Bataan Death March. Each toll honored those who died during one of World War II’s most brutal chapters.

Following the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in December 1941, American and Filipino forces fought courageously for months on the Bataan Peninsula despite limited supplies and reinforcements. On April 9, 1942, after holding out against tremendous odds, some 75,000, American and Filipino troops surrendered. What followed was the 65-mile forced march to prison camps that’s now known as the Bataan Death March.

Col. Alfred Chang, 319th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) commander, took part in honoring the fallen during the ceremony. He said the tolling of the bells was designed to honor those who served and explained how historical events shape today’s military training. “The event of this weekend has inspired the need of military training in resiliency, studying history and living up to the Army Values. The survivors of the Bataan Death March demonstrated their resiliency in enduring the horrific march and living conditions,” Chang said.

Read the full article [here](#).



BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION



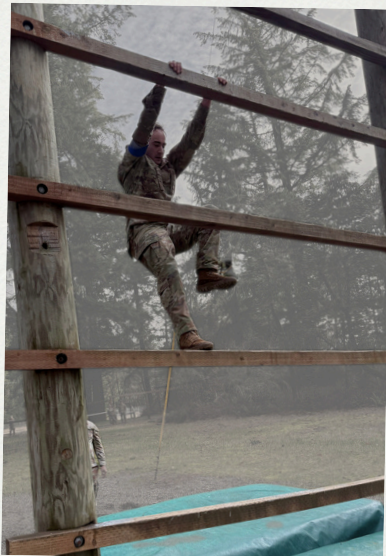
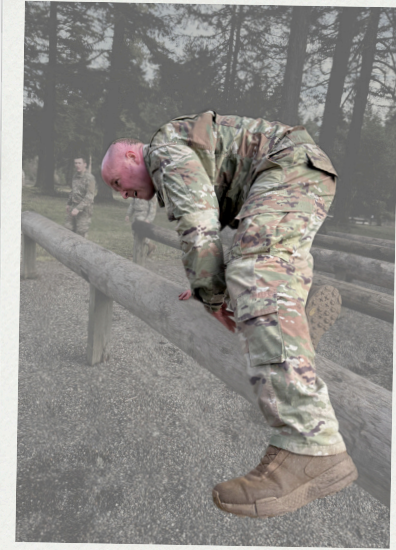
364th ESC BWC Winners

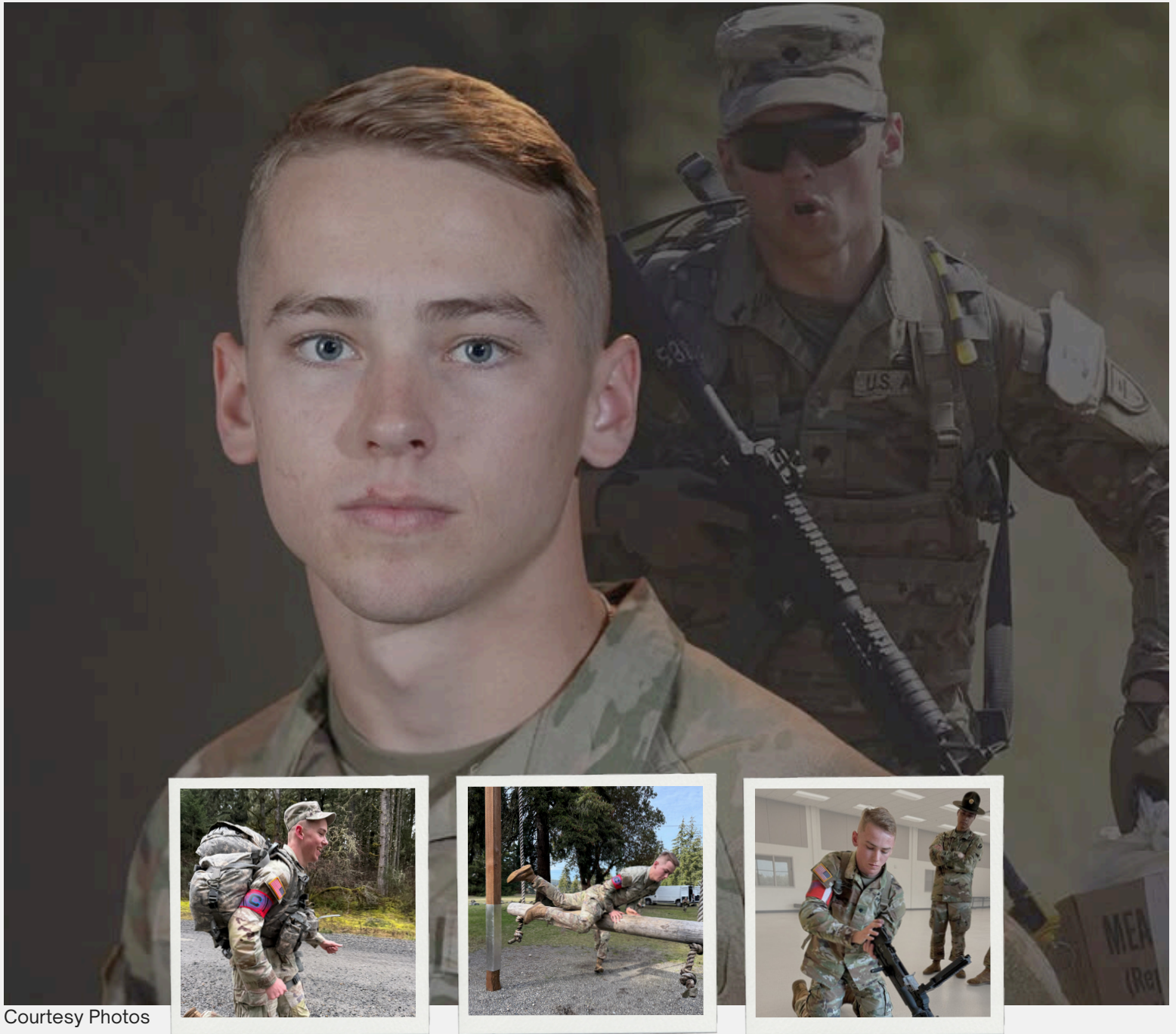
Best Warrior NCO: Staff Sgt. Rene Romero

Best Warrior Junior Enlisted: Spc. Toby Chapman

Competitors proved their warrior skills across multiple demanding events. They disassembled and reassembled four service weapons—the M17, M4, M249, and M240B—under time constraints, then tested their marksmanship on the Engagement Skills Trainer II. The competition pushed endurance limits with a 12-mile ruck march and both night and daytime land navigation courses.

After navigating through the woods to locate their assigned points, competitors tackled the obstacle course. The final days brought the Army Combat Fitness Test and a knowledge evaluation before the Command Sgt. Maj. board alongside tests on drill and ceremony.





Courtesy Photos

USAR Soldier of the Year 2025

SPC Toby Chapman

Winning at the 364th ESC level is just the beginning. Top competitors go on to form a squad representing the command at the 79th Theater Sustainment Command Best Warrior Competition. From there, winners advance to compete at the Army Reserve level, where Spc. Chapman earned the prestigious Soldier of the Year title.

It takes discipline, endurance, and expertise across warrior tasks to claim the Best Warrior crown. But the payoff goes beyond the title. Winners gain opportunities to attend career-enhancing schools like Air Assault and Airborne, setting themselves apart as elite Soldiers ready for any mission.



Ready to compete next year?

Contact the 364th ESC G37 for information
on future competitions.

BWC photos Courtesy of Maj. Elizabeth Ohloff and BWC UPAR

Community Relations

Strong community relations are essential to building trust, fostering mutual understanding, and creating lasting partnerships between 364th ESC units and the communities we serve. Ultimately, investing in community relations builds bridges that benefit both the military and our communities.



Soldiers from the 191st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion teamed up with Matt's Offroad Recovery to tackle extreme off-road terrain in Matt's Off Road Games 2025 in Utah. (U.S. Army Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jose H. Perez)





Students from two Helena, Montana high schools teamed up to create upgraded starters, entrees, and desserts while learning about military culinary careers. (U.S. Army photos by Maj. India N. Hunter)

"We don't just heat up food; we can also make these really amazing dishes and be super proud of them, too." - Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christine Stanley

Watch the video [here](#).





654th Regional Support Group Soldiers at Tukwila's Touch-A-Truck event.



948th Transportation Company Soldiers at Marysville's Touch-A-Truck event.



HHC, 364th ESC Soldier assists with the recruiting booth at Seattle Seafair.

From Seafair recruiting tables and equipment displays to Touch-A-Truck events in Tukwila and Marysville, our Soldiers engaged with families, showcased Army Reserve capabilities, and gave kids (and adults!) unforgettable hands-on experiences with our vehicles. Proud to serve alongside such incredible communities!

(U.S. Army Photos by Maj. India N. Hunter)



Transfer of Authority Marks New Chapter for Fort Bliss Mobilization Operations

Story and photos by Sgt. SSG Jean-Baptiste Kanangwe

Soldiers, family members, and distinguished guests gathered at Paul A. Noel Parade Field on Aug. 25, 2025, to witness the transfer of authority between the 654th Regional Support Group (RSG) and the 653rd RSG, marking the official handover of responsibility for Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Division operations.

The ceremony highlighted Fort Bliss' longstanding role as a premier mobilization platform. Since its activation in 2005, the Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Division has supported more than 550,000 service members and contractors. Its origins trace back to the early 2000s, when Fort Bliss was first tested as a mobilization platform during a Fifth Army Call Forward exercise.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the installation shifted into execution mode, supporting homeland security missions under Operation Noble Eagle and deploying reserve component units worldwide.

Templeton reflected on his unit's accomplishments over the past year, praising his Soldiers' dedication and hard work. "We consciously and deliberately tried to empower leaders at every echelon to execute upon our vision and guidance. You took that vision and executed superbly for the good of our Soldiers and the mission," he said.

Read the full article [here](#).



364th ESC Command Teams Advance Leadership Skills Through 83rd US ARRTC Army Reserve Command University Phase II

Building on the Army Reserve's commitment to developing combat-ready leaders, command teams from 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) participated in Army Reserve Command University Phase II, an intensive five-day leadership development course designed to enhance training management and unit readiness capabilities through collaborative team training.

The 83rd U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command (USARRTC) mobile training team instructed this course, focusing on equipping leaders with practical tools and doctrinal knowledge necessary to lead effective, disciplined and combat-ready units.

All participating command teams came from units under the 364th ESC. This gave participants valuable chances to network and learn from each other since they work under the same policies and expectations. Because they share the same organizational structure, teams could collaborate better and share ideas that work across their command.



U.S. Army Photos by Maj. India N. Hunter

“The things they learn in this course are inherent to on-the-job training as if they were active duty.”

The course curriculum covered critical leadership competencies including long-range training plans and training management, team building, personnel management, leadership theories, conflict resolution and effective communication. Participants worked through group discussions and hands-on exercises based on real challenges commanders face every day.

The week wrapped up with command teams presenting mission readiness briefs to COL Kurtiss Lukins. This final challenge put everything they learned to the test, requiring teams to turn classroom lessons into real training plans for their units. The exercise created a realistic environment where teams had to work together and solve problems while receiving valuable feedback from senior leadership.

Read the full article and watch the video [here](#).

881st Quartermaster Company



Philip A. Connelly Competition



Courtesy Photo

African Lion

The 881st Quartermaster Company made history as the first unit to provide field feeding support for Operation African Lion, deploying a dedicated team to Tunisia. Their efforts ensured quality meals for U.S. troops as well as partnered forces from Ghana and other participating nations. By delivering exceptional food service in a multinational environment, the 881st demonstrated the critical role of Army Culinary Specialists in strengthening coalition operations and mission readiness.



Culinary Specialists in the 1004th Quartermaster (QM) (Field Feeding) Detachment under the 881st QM CO demonstrated their culinary excellence while participating in the Philip A. Connelly Competition Jan. 10-11, 2025.

U.S. Army Photos by Maj. Elizabeth Ohloff

MOJAVE FALCON



Mojave Falcon 2025 is a multi-faceted first-of-its-kind Army Reserve training exercise that integrates port operations, Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX), National Training Center (NTC), Global Medic, Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise (QLLEX), and Nationwide Move. 146th TC and 191st CSSB are among several of the 364th ESC units in attendance.



“This is our Super Bowl. It’s how we validate that our Soldiers, formations, and systems are ready to fight and win in large-scale combat operations the moment we’re called. Every convoy, every scenario, every decision here is about building lethal, survivable combat power.”

- Lt. Gen. Robert Harter, Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Command

Reach full article [here](#).



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jose H. Perez

INNOVATION COMES FROM THE BOTTOM UP A LOT OF TIMES. IT'S IMPRESSIVE AS A RESEARCHER TO SEE THE GREAT WORK THAT THESE SOLDIERS ARE DOING. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT'S VERY IMPRESSIVE TO SEE FIRSTHAND THE NEEDS OF THE SOLDIERS."

CAROL BAILEY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



OPERATION MOJAVE FALCON 2025
—THE LARGEST AND MOST
COMPLEX TRAINING EVENT IN
ARMY RESERVE HISTORY.

Readiness

Soldiers of the 96th Special Troops Battalion maintain peak combat readiness through rigorous physical and tactical training. Whether pushing through the Army Fitness Test or honing marksmanship skills on the firing range, they ensure they're prepared to deploy at a moment's notice.

Readiness is about building the strength, discipline, and proficiency needed to accomplish the mission in any environment. Every rep, every round fired, and every standard met reinforces the 96th STB's commitment to operational excellence and force readiness.



Financial Wellness

Personal Financial Counselors (PFCs) are financial resources provided by the Department of Defense. Take advantage of their free, trusted support services to improve your financial literacy. PFCs can help you make the most of your money today as you develop your financial plan for tomorrow.



364th ESC Local PFC Email:
pfc.marysville@magellanfederal.com

Visit <https://finred.usalearning.gov/pfcmap> to find your local PFC.



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Inspector General

The IG serves as the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the commander—reporting on the economy, efficiency, discipline, morale, readiness, and resources across the command. IGs perform four essential functions: **Teaching and Training, Inspections, Assistance, and Investigations.**

Any Soldier can file a complaint or request assistance with the IG, either orally or in writing, without going through their chain of command first. Access to the IG cannot be denied, and no retribution will be taken against Soldiers who submit complaints. While using your chain of command is generally the best first step, the IG provides an independent avenue when needed. Remember: exercise common sense and get permission before leaving your place of duty. Knowingly submitting false statements to an IG can result in charges under the UCMJ.



Your Support When MilLife Happens

Military OneSource from the Defense Department is your 24/7 gateway to trusted information, resources and confidential help. When MilLife happens, it's your "first line of support" — giving service members and military families tools to stay well and thrive. Call us anytime at **800-342-9647** — we're here for you.

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