

ESC TODAY

A full-page photograph showing a soldier in camouflage uniform and a cap assisting a young child in climbing into the back of a military vehicle. The soldier is standing on the ground, holding the child's back as they step onto a platform inside the vehicle's cargo area. The child is wearing a green camouflage shirt and blue jeans. The vehicle is a large, tan-colored truck with a large tire visible in the foreground. The background shows a dry, grassy field and other vehicles.

... real American heroes **Pg. 5**
Soldier on the Street ... **Pg. 6**

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<< On the Front Cover

Sgt. Ramirez, a Soldier from the 196th Transportation Company, helps a young boy board an Armored Security Vehicle Jan. 22 at the 6th Annual Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show held in Oviedo, Fla. The show's proceeds benefited youth programs and childhood cancer research projects. This is the first time any military branch has participated in the show.

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Photo by Spc. Aaron Ellerman, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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ESC Today is the monthly command information magazine of the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense, according to provisions in Army Regulation 360-1. The opinions and views expressed in ESC Today are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Defense Department, Department of the Army or the headquarters, 143rd ESC. The

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ESC TODAY



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The Command Post

The 143d ESC is off to a great start in 2011! Across the command I see Soldiers preparing for deployments, annual training, Best Warrior Competitions, and much more. Even with the successes to date, the year continues to challenge the command as multiple factors affect our ability to conduct operations.

As many of you know, the Department of Defense is making sweeping changes to the budget, current policies, force structure and much more. We must be flexible and vigilant in the months ahead. Cutting costs while maintaining current output will be this year's operating environment. Units remain immersed in operations while staffs become leaner and leaner. Our focus on success and mission accomplishment must not falter. Everyone will feel the squeeze. Re-evaluate your standard operating procedures to determine their efficiency. Perhaps a change to the norm through robust communication and teamwork will give you the edge needed. Overcoming these challenges will be felt across our great command. I challenge all of you to focus and as always, I'm confident the 143d ESC will end up on top.

Additionally, we must not lose sight of our primary responsibility as leaders. Success depends

on everything working well. Our biggest asset is our people. We must ensure that they know where to go to succeed. This extends beyond the individual Soldiers to each and every family member. Our Soldiers and their families bear the burden of the nation at war, setting themselves at risk not just physically in the war zone but mentally and emotionally due to separation and a multitude of stresses. Gen. Peter Chiarelli recently made note in the Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention (HP/RR/SP) Report 2010 (the "Red Book") that "... risk in the force cannot be mitigated by suicide prevention alone." Army leaders must take a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to address this risk in order to "... increase resiliency in our Soldiers and Families who continue to serve under a high operational tempo." We must all be vigilant of the perils associated with a stressed Force. Leaders at all levels must stress accountability. You must continue to aggressively survey, detect and intervene to first promote health and well-being and then second to reduce the risk to the individual and others. Our Soldiers, families and civilians deserve nothing less. Leaders at all levels must relearn how to lead



Col. Mark W. Palzer
Commander
143d Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

and watch out for the wellness of their Soldiers and families when not deployed. Indeed, I ask everyone to keep an eye on their battle buddy and be aware of changes in your fellow Soldiers' lives.

Army Strong!
Sustaining Victory!

The Bottom Line

Soldiers from across the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and active Army are competing with each other. They are being tested on their knowledge, aptitude, and physical abilities. They face close scrutiny as they react to urban warfare simulations and battle drills and respond to board interviews. Their military bearing and knowledge of critical Army topics and military history will be brought into question.

The prize is to be the Best Warrior.

Whether you are competing for the prestigious title this year or not, I encourage you to take pride in your unit and yourself as a Soldier. Take the initiative to learn the new Physical Readiness Training (PRT) drills from TC 3-22.20. Do you meet the Army standard? Do

you exceed the standard? Challenge yourself to learn more about the legacy left to you as a Soldier. Visit the U.S. Army Center of Military History at www.history.army.mil to browse and read through a vast collection of photos, biographies, and books. The Soldier's Creed states, "*I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.*" There are 15 Warrior Tasks and four Battle Drills. Do you know them?

Noncommissioned officers, you are the backbone of the Army. It is your responsibility to ensure the Soldiers under your watch reach their potential. Soldiers, don't be satisfied to remain mediocre. Leaders, expect the best from your troops and lead by example.

Army Strong!



Command Sgt. Maj. James Weaver
Command Sergeant Major
143d Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

REFLECTIONS BY THE CHAPLAIN: *THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS!*

■ BY LT. COL. TIMOTHY LANCE
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
Chaplain

In the book of 2 Kings, Chapter 20, the Bible gives us the story of King Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, being confronted by three great armies coming against him. Jehoshaphat was afraid because he knew that it was physically impossible for his army to be successful against such a multitude. Jehoshaphat called his entire nation to fast and pray as he cried out to God for help. He acknowledged that he had no power against such a great army. In verse 15 God responded saying, "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." In verse 17 God said, "You will not have to fight this battle. Take

up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you." May these words encourage your soul whenever you are faced with challenges that appear to be too big for you to handle. God never promised us that we would not have difficult moments, but He did promise that He will be with us through it all. Do not be afraid, call on God. There is no obstacle too great, no valley too deep, and no enemy too strong for God to deliver. Cast all your cares upon Him and allow Him to fight your battle for indeed the battle is not yours, but God's and there is nothing too hard for God. May He give you the victory and cause you to prosper in all that you set your hands to do. ☒



319th MPAD- driving on

■ BY SPC. DARRYL L. MONTGOMERY
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT JACKSON, S.C. – The 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment continues to prepare for its approaching deployment to Afghanistan this summer by learning more and more at each battle assembly.

During the January BA, Sgt. Angelo Veguilla, unit medical sergeant for 1/321 C Company, 2nd Brigade, 108th Training Command, taught the public affairs specialists of the 319th about first aid and other life-saving skills that may save a Soldier's life while overseas. Skills learned ranged from things they may encounter at home, such as how to treat burns, to things that would only be encountered in a combat zone, like treating and evacuating casualties while in contact with enemy forces.

Veguilla, a Westmoreland, N.Y. native, is comforted to know the

Army is doing its job in training every Soldier medically. "Life saving skills will always be a necessity in everyday life, but, especially in the military."

Maj. Darren Luke, commander of the 319th from Airy, N.C., seemed enthused by the training. "I went home and told my father-in-law how to treat a collapsed lung. I really learned a lot more than I thought I would during the few hours we had in the class," he said.

Spc. Catina M. Booker, a broadcast journalist, said she feels much better about deploying now having the knowledge to take care of herself and others if needed. This deployment will be the first for Booker, a Smyrna, Ga., resident.

Although this will be the first deployment for some Soldiers in the detachment, it will be just one more of many that seasoned Soldiers in the unit have had. One of those Soldiers, 1st Sgt. Deborah P. Williams, is prepar-



Photo by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery | 319th MPAD

2nd Lt. Daniel Brown of the 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment volunteers as a training aid as Sgt. Angelo Veguilla, unit medical sergeant for 1/321 C Company, 2nd Brigade, 108th Training Command, demonstrates first aid techniques. The 319th MPAD is preparing for an up and coming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

ing for her second deployment.

"This training is important for my Soldiers to have for both their safety and the safety of others around them," Williams said.

"Knowing what to do when the time comes can save a Soldier's life, and if that brings just one more Soldier home, then this training will prove invaluable." ☒

DID YOU KNOW?

You can register to vote or change your address at the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov. For more great resources available to you, visit www.facebook.com/143dESC.

OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE at the MARKETPLACE

■ BY SPC. JOHN L. CARKEET IV
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla. - Families who decided to spend Saturday, Jan. 22, shopping at the Oviedo Marketplace Mall in Oviedo, Fla. witnessed some of the finest vehicles to ever touch a paved surface competing in the 6th Annual Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show. Those who navigated through the parking lot packed with purring engines and pristine paint jobs came face-to-face with the impressive men and machines from the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Area Maintenance Support Activity 50 and the 196th Transportation Company.

"This is the first time we've collaborated with the Army Reserve," stated Lt. Mike Beavers, public information officer for

the Oviedo Police Department. "They're a great addition to our remarkable display of cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles and helicopters."

Hundreds clamored to get a close-up view of the Army's latest Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) and Humvee. Many children waited anxiously for their turn to sit in the driver's seat and stand atop the gun turret.

"We don't need flashing lights and loud sirens to get the kids' attention," declared Sgt. Richard Serrano with the 196th TC as he lifted a young boy into the ASV. "To some, this is more amazing than Disney World."

When asked about the growth and popularity of the show, project chairman Mark Beaulieu replied, "What started six years ago with a few squad cars parked in front of an elementary school now fills



half of the mall's parking lot. Last year, we registered a record 178 cars and attracted more than 4,000 visitors, and we're on track to break those records this year."

Oviedo's Chief of Police Jeffrey Chudnow discussed the importance of law enforcement and the military collaborating in these events. "This show allows people to see us in a different light other than stopping them for running a red light. We earn their trust by giving them a chance to interact with our highly trained personnel and sophisticated equipment designed to serve and protect the community."

In addition to uniting civilians and citizen Soldiers, the event

raised funds and awareness for Optimist International, one of the world's largest volunteer organizations. Proceeds supported the organization's International Campaign for Childhood Campaign as well as youth programs conducted by the Oviedo-Winter Springs Optimist Club.

The show even drew the attention of costumed superheroes who, like wide-eyed adolescents, couldn't wait to climb aboard the Army vehicles. Their amusing act could have stolen the show, but Spiderman, perched atop the ASV, pointed to the Soldiers of the 196th and exclaimed to his admirers, "Let's give a hand to our real American heroes." ☒



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

Spiderman and Daredevil strike a heroic pose atop of an Armored Security Vehicle at the 6th Annual Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show Jan. 22 in Oviedo, Fla. The ASV is primarily used during military police and convoy missions. This was the first time the Army Reserve has participated.

DID YOU KNOW?

Effective Oct. 1, 2011, the Post-9/11 GI Bill may be used at vocational and technical schools, vocational flight schools, correspondence schools, and for apprenticeship/on-the-job training. For more information, visit www.gibill2.va.gov.



Photo by Spc. John L. Carkeet IV | 143d ESC

A young girl adjusts her helmet while sitting in the driver's seat of an Army Reserve Humvee. She was one of 5,000 people who attended the 6th Annual Central Florida Law Enforcement Car Show held at the Oviedo Marketplace Mall in Oviedo, Fla.

We got this!

■ BY MAJ. JOHN ADAMS
143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
Public Affairs Officer

MACON, Ga. —The loud and thunderous roar of family clapping, friends cheering and Soldiers singing cadence summed up the scene at Macon State Colleges' Professional Science and Conference Center in Macon, Ga. Jan. 23 in honor of the 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and their upcoming mobilization in support of Operation New Dawn.

More than 300 Soldiers, family

members, local leaders and friends came together wishing the Soldiers from the 352nd CSSB a safe and successful mission. The ceremony opened with remarks made by John Cole, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Macon State College. He expressed his gratitude and respect for the men and women in front of him, explaining the many sacrifices servicemembers make for our country.

"Take care of each other and do the right thing, even when it may be the hard thing to do," said Cole.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Col. Mark Palzer, commander, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), addresses the crowd honoring troops, their family members and those in the support network of deployed Soldiers during a mobilization ceremony for the 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Macon, Ga. Jan. 23. The 352nd CSSB is headed to Iraq.

Col. Mark Palzer, commander, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), addressed the attendees and leaders of the 352nd CSSB with passion, thanking those supportive of the Soldiers standing proud in front of them. Palzer personally recognized the spouses, children, fathers and mothers of the unit by having them stand up to receive their rightful applause.

The ceremony continued to captivate the audience, especially when Lt. Col. Debra Jenkins, commander, 352nd CSSB, took the stage.

"We got this," she said loudly.

The Soldiers followed with their own, "We got this"—the unit's motto.

Jenkins addressed her unit with vigor, pride and enthusiasm inherent with the unit's proud history of deployments and lineage.

"The 352nd was there in the beginning, and we've been asked to help finish it up," she said, referring to the mission at hand, Operation Iraqi Freedom, now named Operation New Dawn.

"Start training your staff now; focus on collective level battle drills as soon as you can," said Jenkins when asked what she would recommend to other commanders preparing for a deployment.

The unit will deploy to Iraq after completing additional training at Fort Bliss, Texas. ☐



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Soldiers of the 352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Staff Sgt. Hart and Command Sgt. Maj. Annette M. Andrew, joke with family and friends at the mobilization ceremony for the 352nd CSSB in Macon, Ga. Jan. 23.

Soldier on the Street:

352nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

"What was the hardest thing you had to do to get ready for this mobilization?"



Staff Sgt. Shanita Young
Hampton, Ga.

"Preparing my 4 year old daughter to live with relatives in Atlanta."



Spc. Fredrick Watson
Quincy, Fla.

"Boarding the plane and watching your little sister crying and waving."



Spc. Shane Matthews
La Grange, Ga.

"Telling my friends and family that I'd see them in a year."



CW2 Raymond Jackson
Dothan, Ala.

"Getting myself and my family physically and mentally prepared for my absence."



Pfc. Joseph Walter
Tampa, Fla.

"Leaving the loved ones behind."



Spc. Chris Moore
Baton Rouge, La.

"Leaving my music career and the kids I mentor at Volunteers of America."

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE WLC

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla. -Previously called the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) has undergone recent changes. The Army launched its revised form of the WLC this past fall. The overall change of the program is an increased focus upon leadership development. Some obvious changes would be the elimination of the Army Physical Fitness Test and the land navigation exercise in the WLC.

If you are an E-3 or E-4 Soldier within the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), you may be chosen by your unit to attend the WLC at Camp Shelby, Miss. In your two weeks there, expect long days. There is a vast amount of Army leader material to learn. You will study cultural awareness, counterinsurgency, battle mind principles, Army leadership, health and fitness, Army correspondence, suicide prevention, and much more.

You will take three written tests during your course that evaluate your ability to research and your knowledge of the material. If you fail, you will be allowed one opportunity to retake the test you have failed. If you do not pass the re-

test, you will be sent home for academic reasons.

You will lead a session of the Army's new Physical Readiness Training. You will be tested on your ability to conduct drill and ceremony, which consists of inspecting your troops and marching them through a variety of commands. During the oral history evaluations, you will give a short presentation about an assigned section of noncommissioned officer history. As part of the individual training portion, you will train your classmates on a delegated task like evaluating a casualty, map reading or maintaining noise discipline in the field. You will be given the opportunity to lead your comrades as team leader, squad leader, platoon sergeant and/or student first sergeant. Students also learn how to compose an NCO evaluation report (NCOER), memorandum for record, sworn statement and an award recommendation.

During the situational training exercise, you will lead your squad or team in a field environment, plan and make decisions during simulated contact like improvised explosive devices, indirect fire, and direct fire.

Although it may seem a daunting amount of information and tasks to learn and accomplish in two weeks, the instructors and staff are there to

ensure your success. Most of all, remain confident in yourself. Everyone goes to WLC to learn. Study and practice with your peers and classmates. Ask your instructors for help when you need it.

Even more changes to the Army's noncommissioned officer development system loom ahead. By FY 2013, all junior Soldiers will be required to complete Structured Self Development 1 (SSD-1), an 80-hour track of online education, prior to attending the WLC.

"It's all those things we want a young Soldier to be, to know and do before getting to the WLC," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston, senior noncommissioned officer of the U.S. Army, regarding the WLC during a leadership forum at the Pentagon Jan. 25.

Structured Self Development is a mandatory training program that continues throughout an enlisted Soldier's career. There are four levels of SSD that must be completed at specific stages, before attending Warrior Leader, senior leader, and Sergeants Major courses. Beginning May 1, 2013, SSD-5 will be required for all sergeants major and promotable master sergeants after completing the Sergeants Major Course.



Honored to Serve

■ BY SPC. H. MARCUS MCGILL

319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT JACKSON, S.C. -Three Soldiers ended a weekend of challenges Sunday, Jan. 23 when two of them were named winners of the 518th Sustainment Brigade Best Warrior Competition.

Previous to their board appearance on Sunday, Specialists Mitchell Reynolds and Joshua Dupree and Sgt. Don L. Holder took the Army Physical Fitness Test, performed weapons qualification, took a written exam and maneuvered a land navigation course.

"At each level of the competition something new is added," said Reynolds, a Biscoe, N.C., native

from the 175th Ordnance Support Company. "The original events seem to get easier but the new stuff is challenging."

Dupree, a Morgan City, La., native, and Reynolds split the first four events before Dupree edged out Reynolds after Sunday's boards.

Dupree will be conducting military occupation specialties training during the next level of the competition and will not compete. Reynolds will compete in his place.

Holder, a Fayetteville, N.C., native, will join Reynolds at the end of February when the two will represent the 518th at the 143rd



Photo by Spc. H. Marcus McGill ■ 319th MPAD

Spc. Joshua Dupree, Sgt. Don L. Holder, and Spc. Mitchell Reynolds were winners of the 518th Sustainment Brigade Best Warrior Competition. Holder and Reynolds will represent the 518th next month at the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) level competition in Florida.

Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) competition in Florida.

Both enlisted men thanked their sponsors, and all three Soldiers thanked everyone in their units who helped prepare them for the

event.

Dupree and Holder both stated that while they were very proud of this accomplishment, they were truly honored to simply have the chance to serve. ☒

Army Reserve chief visits, meets with reservists serving in Afghanistan

■ BY 1ST SGT. TYRONE WALKER

210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Army Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, recently completed a tour of Afghanistan to greet and meet hundreds of reservist Soldiers serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

During a three-day trip that included stops in Nangarhar, Helmand, Kandahar, and Paktika provinces, Stultz visited Army reservists serving at Camp Eggers, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Forward Operation Base Sharana, Bagram Airfield, Forward Operating Base Leatherneck and Kandahar Airfield. As of mid-January, more than 6,000 Army Reserve Soldiers serve in bases, camps and outposts in Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Robbie Roe, the first sergeant of the 592nd Ordnance Company based in Billings, Mont., said the face-to-face talk with the general is a morale booster for his Soldiers who operate an Ammunition Supply Point at Bagram Airfield.

"The visit helps us know that leadership in the States cares about what we do over here," said Roe, who lives in Butte, Mont.

In all, Stultz visited and dined with Soldiers from more than 20 units. He awarded a



Photo by 1st Sgt. Tyrone Walker | 210th MPAD

1st Sgt. David Smith, 425th Transportation Company, briefs Army Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, Jan. 23 about Soldiers' responsibilities in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Purple Heart, re-enlisted 17 Soldiers, pinned 25 Combat Action Badges on Soldiers, and presented his commander's coin to nearly 50 Soldiers

In five town hall meetings, Stultz first thanked Soldiers for their service and re-



Photo by 1st Sgt. Tyrone Walker | 210th MPAD

Army Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, speaks during a town hall meeting Jan. 23 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. In a three-day tour, Stultz visited Army reservists serving across Afghanistan, including Camp Eggers, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Bagram Airfield, Camp Leatherneck, and Kandahar Airfield. During the visit to Afghanistan, Stultz dined with Soldiers, visited and talked with them in their work areas and hosted several town hall meetings, where he talked about the Army Reserve and answered questions about Soldiers' concerns.

mind them of the important roles they play in Afghanistan and around the world.

"The Army can't do what it does without you," Stultz said.

Stultz also shared his insights on present and future issues affecting the Army Reserve and his vision with dealing with each. He touched on a range of topics, including the posture of the Army Reserve after Operation Enduring Freedom, stressing the need for the Army Reserve to remain an operational reserve that provides citizen-warriors with meaningful, value-added training.

Stultz also spoke about employment for Soldiers who return home after deployments, and the need civilian employers have for employees who are physically fit, disciplined and drug free.

"Employers are looking for you," Stultz told Soldiers. "They value you. You're a national treasure."

As he traveled across Afghanistan, among those with whom Stultz met were Soldiers operating or repairing million-dollar military equipment, training the Afghan National Army soldiers, manning entry control points

of forward operating bases, clearing improvised explosive devices from roads and piloting UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

He talked with mothers and fathers, husbands and wives. He talked with landscapers and students, biochemists and factory workers. The Soldiers were from across America, from small cities like Cary, N.C., to large cities like San Diego, Calif. ☒



Photo by 1st Sgt. Tyrone Walker | 210th MPAD

A 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier listens as Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, speaks during a town hall meeting Jan. 23 at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. In a three-day tour, Stultz visited Army reservists serving across Afghanistan, including Camp Eggers, Forward Operating Base Fenty, Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Bagram Airfield, and Kandahar Airfield.

Around the ESC



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell | 210th MPAD

Sgt. Richard A. Darval, kneeling, takes cover while Spc. Corey C. Canterbury fires mortars from a mountain top overlooking the Ganjgal valley in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar province, Dec. 11, 2010. Darval and Canterbury are assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment.

ATTENTION

Classes for Casualty Notification Officer and Casualty Assistance Officer are scheduled for:

February 24-25

April 28-29

June 9-10

August 25-26

October 27-28

December 8-9

This class is mandatory for E-7 and up, CW2 and up, and O3 and up. For more information, contact SSG Guillermo Diaz Hidalgo, 407-242-6843, willie.diazhidalgo@usar.army.mil.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Blount | 362nd QM BN

Spc. Breanna Weston, Spc. Tiaris Northern, and Spc. Thomas Cooper, members of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 362nd Quartermaster Battalion, gasp for air after they exit the gas chamber during battle assembly Jan. 8 held at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in N.C. The unit traveled by convoy in Humvees and spent the day building confidence in the use of their gas masks during nuclear, biological, and chemical training.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jane E. Sammon, Human Resources Command, informs warrant officers about the promotion system while speaking at the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Warrant Officer Symposium Jan. 7 to 9 in Orlando, Fla. The symposium was videotaped and will be uploaded to the Internet where currently deployed warrant officers can access the training.

Around the ESC

ATTENTION

If you are interested in becoming a Voting Assistance Officer or if you have any questions about the VAO program, please contact SSG Guillermo Diaz Hidalgo, 407-242-6843, willie.diazhidalgo@usar.army.mil.



Photo by Maj. Bill Keltner | 469th FMC

Spc. Bolts, Sgt. 1st Class Briggs, Master Sgt. Nelson, and Sgt. 1st Class Bowman, of the 469th Financial Management Center, begin training on the Deployable Disbursing System. Used by both the Army and the Marine Corps, the DDS provides finance disbursing capabilities and services to troops deployed in tactical environments.



Photo by Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | 204th PAD

Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commanding general, 377th Theater Sustainment Command; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Hardy Mitchell; Col. Edith Greene; and Col. Mark W. Palzer, commander, 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), stand together after a promotion ceremony for Mitchell and Greene Feb. 4 at the 1st Lt. David R. Wilson Armed Forces Reserve Center in Orlando, Fla.



Photo by Maj. John Adams | 143d ESC

Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commanding general, 377th Theater Sustainment Command, addresses warrant officers during the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Warrant Officer Symposium held Jan. 7-9 in Orlando.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Blount | 362nd QM BN

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 362nd Quartermaster Battalion, test the ability of their gas masks during nuclear, biological, and chemical training in a gas chamber at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in N.C. The unit traveled by convoy in Humvees and spent the day building confidence in the use of their gas masks during battle assembly Jan. 8.

UNIT PHOTOS WANTED

Seeking photos of Soldiers from your unit performing operational duties and basic soldiering skills. Include a basic caption with names, ranks, place, date and a short description of what is happening in the photo. Send photos and/or any questions you may have to john.adams16@usar.army.mil

ATTENTION

Welcome to Jeff Blackman, the command's newly contracted Community Outreach Assistant (COA). Working with Family Programs, Blackman will provide referral services and training to Soldiers and family members.

The Community Outreach Assistant works for Soldiers and families by providing this information on various support services in their local area. These services include financial assistance, Veterans Affairs, child-care, employment assistance, emergency support (such as house fires), Red Cross and other non-profit organizations, including the VFW and United Way.

Soldiers, unit personnel and family members who have questions regarding available services, family readiness, or training are free to contact Blackman by email at jeff.blackman@usar.army.mil or 1-800-221-9401 ext. 1272.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christine K. Rogers | 207th RSG

Left to Right: Leigh A. Coulter, safety specialist for the 207th Regional Support Group; Command Sgt. Maj. Don B. Jordan, senior enlisted Soldier for the 207th RSG; Col. Edwin R. Marrero, safety officer for the 143d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); and Col. James C. Bagley, commander of the 207th RSG, display the 143d ESC FY 2010 brigade-level unit safety award presented to the 207th RSG Jan. 22. The 207th RSG has been nominated for the USARC level II safety award. The board will convene in March 2011 to determine the winner.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell | 210th MPAD

As the sun heads toward the horizon, two UH-60 Black Hawks and a CH-47 Chinook prepare to land at Forward Operating Base Connolly to pick up Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates after he visited troops at Forward Operating Base Connolly in eastern Afghanistan Dec. 7, 2010.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE CIVIL WAR



National African American History Month Celebrating the Service of African American Soldiers During the Civil War

February 2011

Each year, in February, the Army honors and recognizes the remarkable contributions of African American men and women to our Nation's security. This year, we particularly wish to highlight the distinguished military heritage of African Americans who committed themselves to this Nation's defense during the Civil War.

Over the course of the Civil War, 4 million people of African descent in the United States rallied around the Union flag in the cause of freedom. Their sacrifice and accomplishments helped transform our Army and our Nation, and all Americans should realize that the efforts of African American Soldiers and Civilians contributed greatly to the preservation of our fledgling country.

Today, let us pay tribute to these Soldiers who while enduring unequal treatment, massacres and riots, continued to serve as they pursued their quest for freedom and equality.

We are grateful for the past and present contributions African American Soldiers and Civilians have played in the success of the Army and this Nation. We believe it is vital for the entire Army Family to be aware of, and to honor publicly, the contributions of our African American Soldiers and Civilians by encouraging all leaders from across the Army to plan and execute appropriate commemorative activities to celebrate African American History Month.

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