

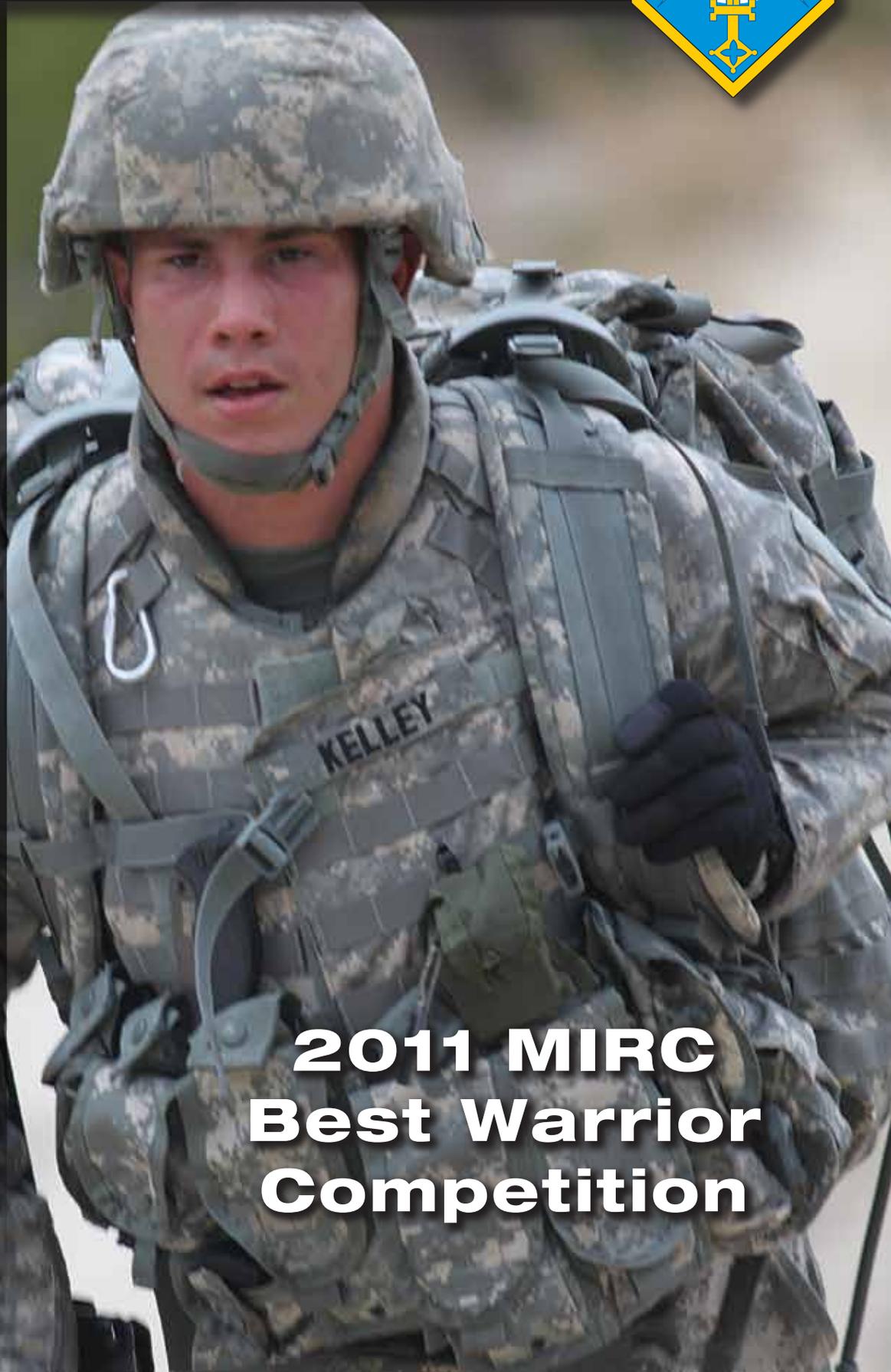
# ALWAYS ENGAGED



VOL. 5/NO. 2 • SUMMER 2011

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- 323rd MI Soldiers Train at DL
- 325th MI BN Returns from Iraq
- Post 9-11 GI Bill
- Military OneSource
- Warrant Officer Symposium



## 2011 MIRC Best Warrior Competition





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## MIRC COMMAND TEAM

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Deputy Commanding Officer

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**Chief Warrant Officer 5 Denise Scarboro**  
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**ON THE COVER** — Spc. Chad Kelley, with Bravo Company, 301st Military Intelligence Battalion, pushes through the blisters on this feet during the ruck march event on Day 3 of the MIRC Best Warrior Competition.

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF  
THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE  
READINESS COMMAND

# ALWAYS ENGAGED



**SUBMISSIONS** — The MIRC Magazine invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the MIRC. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to MIRC, Attn: Public Affairs, 8831 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, telephone 703-806-6126. All e-mail submissions should go to [mirc\\_news@usar.army.mil](mailto:mirc_news@usar.army.mil). All articles must be submitted electronically or on CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

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# FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL



## State of the MIRC



As I come to the end of my command time at the MIRC, I want to thank each member of the MIRC for your hard work and dedication. I have said it many times - being the MIRC Commander is the best job in the Army and you all make it that way. This has truly been the best two years of my professional life.

When I take the time to look back on the time that I've been here, I see all the milestones that we aimed for, reached, and eventually surpassed. We have solidified our presence in the military intelligence community through diligence and hard work and innovative ways of achieving support. Our relationship with INSCOM is great and the Agencies and COCOMs consistently praise the quality and quantity of our work. Across all of our formations - tactical and strategic - the command is strong and you should be proud of your terrific work.

Since our establishment in 2004, the MIRC has developed significant initiatives designed to integrate our organization into the active intelligence community and ensure the success of our MI professionals throughout their careers. Our Soldiers continue to mobilize and deploy in support of contingency operations and combatant commanders around the world. Whether in a battalion-sized element or a 2-person team, MIRC Soldiers have made a name for themselves in the military intelligence community as well as throughout the entire Army. Our TPU Career Management program will be a model for USARC moving forward. Our Junior Officer and NCO Development Programs are paying great dividends for many Soldiers. MATP is proving value added across numerous formations. The MI Rebalance implementation plan, while pre-decisional, is a strong and cogent road map for the MIRC's future.

Looking into the future of the MIRC, we recently completed the MIRC 2020 Vision and Strategy document,

outlining who we are, what we believe, what we do, and, most importantly, where we are going.

As I mentioned before, the Citizen-Soldiers of the MIRC are performing magnificently in every sense. But we must also devote attention to tomorrow's threats as well as opportunities. The MIRC 2020 Vision and Strategy document is a 'living document', meaning that it is a starting point for moving the command into the future, but will need refining and adjustments over time. This document is consistent with the Army Reserve 2020 Vision, the Army Campaign Plan and overall guidance received from our senior defense leaders. You can find the document on AKO at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/239108> and printed copies will be available soon. Take a moment to read it and understand where the MIRC is heading and how we're going to get there. Think about it, debate it and help create the next chapters.

I sincerely appreciate all the support and dedication that MIRC Soldiers have shown during my tenure as Commanding General. Please extend a warm welcome to your new CG, Brig. Gen. William Duffy, who I have had the pleasure of knowing as a Soldier and friend for many years. As we look to perfect many of the elements of the Operational Reserve and the Operational MIRC, we have a new CG with an incredible amount of recent operational experience. Truly the right person at the right time.

Thanks again and best of luck of each of you in your future.

**Brig. Gen. James "Boe" Young**  
**Commanding General**  
**Military Intelligence Readiness Command**

# FROM THE ACTING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



Throughout the past six months, I have had the distinct pleasure of serving as the Acting Command Sergeant Major of the Military Intelligence Readiness Command. Throughout my tenure, the MIRC continued to provide premier intelligence support for complex operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and regions around

the globe. Our first-rate team of professional Soldiers and Civilians are among the best trained, dedicated and standard setting within USARC. I am very proud and honored to serve as part of the MIRC Team.

We continue to better our force by identifying and rewarding the best and brightest within our formations. Completing an outstanding MIRC Best Warrior Competition this year, we had our battle-hardened Warriors compete in an extensive 5-day event at Fort Dix, N.J. It was an extremely close competition this year, with Sgt. Matthew Bledsoe (CSC) and Spc. Mitchel Dolan (378th MI Bn) edging out the other competitors. The CG and I took part in several of the events and were awed by the drive and focus of the young NCOs and Soldiers.

The MIRC has established several other programs designed to reward our hard working Soldiers. These include: The Linguist of the Year, Command Language Program of the Year, the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and the inaugural MIRC Combatives Tournament.

Having a close partnership with the Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), we have built a great new initiative, the Junior NCO Development Program (JNDP). This program allows our future leaders the opportunity to work with our AC counterparts both in garrison and deployed environments. The JNDP targets senior Specialists through the rank of Staff Sergeant, performing jobs ranging from ACE NCO/NCOIC, Tactical/Strategic

HUMINT positions, Linguist mission support and SIGINT Analysts. If you are interested, contact your NCO Support Channel.

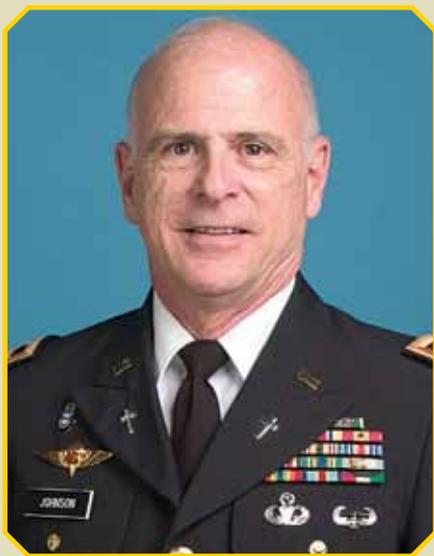
As you are aware, we have a new Army Chief of Staff, General Martin Dempsey. Gen. Dempsey lists the building blocks of leadership as "Trust, Discipline and Fitness". Physical Fitness and well-being are the building blocks of a comprehensive unit fitness program. With our robust ARFORGEN cycle, it is paramount that we stay in shape and meet the Army Standards. Think outside of the box with this and be creative at the team level to strengthen our overall physical fitness readiness.

Our command's structure is changing. The leadership has been briefed on the many moving parts with the implementation of DP142 and how it will affect 80% of the MIRC formation. Maj. Gen. Mike Flynn stated, "If we aren't training and changing our structure to win the war, the rest doesn't matter". Please keep that in mind as we go through this process.

I thank each and every one of you for your commitment to this command and Army Reserve.

**Sgt. Maj. Robert Swift**  
**Acting Command Sergeant Major**  
**Military Intelligence Readiness Command**

# FROM THE CHAPLAIN



“Now that’s just perfect!” My wife had been laboring over her gardens all spring and summer, coaxing her horde of vegetables, flowers and plantings to match up to her expectations. Woe to the weed that dared to show itself in her flower beds! Each and every plant was lovingly tended

and disciplined to reach its full potential. Now her flowers are in full bloom and all of the various vegetables and herbs are producing a wonderful summer crop. She stood up, wiped her brow, and just enjoyed garden perfection! We both knew it wouldn’t last. Gardens are always growing, always in transition, always becoming something that they are not now.

The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, taught his students that everything is always changing and nothing ever remains the same. The seasons change, my house which was in good shape now needs repair, and soon I may have to think about another car. Both my civilian and military bosses are different than they were five years ago. My kids grow up, my marriage has matured, and I find that my health is changing as I age. Now the stock market has lost its mind, and way too many people we know are unemployed. Nothing ever stays the same. It seems that we are always in some sort of transition, some of them by choice, most just come our way.

People change, don’t they? We do, and so do our families and even our military units. The story of humanity is one of progress or decline but nothing ever stands still. The MIRC is going through another predictable round of personnel changes – this time from the top and down through all of our various units and sections. Sometimes change makes us uncertain and uncomfortable. When a new commander arrives, we all know that things will be different. But it will take some time to figure out just how different. One thing is

for sure is that we will head out in new directions and work on a new set of priorities.

Our lives are full of change. That is exactly why we need faith in an unchanging God who is the anchor for our lives. God’s love and care for us is constant and dependable. Even more than that, we look through our faith in God to find those things that keep us on course – grace, kindness, faithfulness, morals, truth, and above all, love. For God is the standard of these things. God is the one who teaches us about unchanging values which are necessary for our soul. Our faith in God gives us direction in the wilderness of change that we live in each day. If you want to think of it this way, our faith in God is the GPS, or the living compass that guides us through the land navigation of life.

I have lived in many places, served numerous commanders in many units, and have made friends of Soldiers on four continents. I have weathered many storms in my life. When you think about it, I’m not so different than most Soldiers. We are all different but we do share so many things including our spiritual needs.

Through my life, I have found a great inner strength in my faith. The Scripture provides all of us required daily wisdom for living each day. Consider this simple yet intense counsel: ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”*** [Proverbs 3:5-6]. Now I don’t know what will happen tomorrow, much less next year. I make plans like everyone else, but who knows how things will turn out? I need to know that God is guiding my life, and so do you! I don’t know what the future will bring, but I know Who holds the future!

If you are careless about your spiritual condition, or if you have been starving your soul, then get busy building a real faith in God. Don’t forget that your family has the same spiritual needs you have. Build your spiritual muscles; life is filled with so many transitions that we must be spiritually strong.

**Chaplain (Col.) Wylie Johnson**  
**Command Chaplain**  
**Military Intelligence Readiness Command**

# FROM THE COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER



It is a privilege to be given some space in this magazine to share my thoughts. I want to discuss a subject that is close to my heart and one I frequently discuss with warrant officers across the MIRC. The topic is Mentorship.

I have been a Warrant Officer for over 28 years; I always try to incorporate the Code of the US Army Warrant Officer into

every challenge I undertake. The code is spelled out using the letters WARRANT OFFICER and is quite eloquent. The "T" in the code reads: "Teach other people in a way that effectively expands and perpetuates the scope of their technical competence".

Effectively expanding and perpetuating the scope of our technical competence is unique to warrant officers because we are, after all, the Army's Technical Experts. However, I believe warrant officers occupy a unique position that affords opportunities to mentor/teach other Soldiers and leaders in our Army.

Having come from the enlisted ranks, we enjoy the assumption from our enlisted brethren that we 'walked in their shoes' while at the same time we are commissioned officers often tasked with challenges shared by our commissioned "O" grade brothers and sisters.

Mentoring is a type of teaching. Teaching other people that shares a part of ourselves with others, giving them insight to our experiences and how we successfully or unsuccessfully learned from those mistakes.

According to the Army Mentorship Handbook, dated January 2005, the definition of mentorship is "The voluntary, developmental relationship that exists between a person of greater experience and a person of lesser experience that is characterized by mutual trust and respect."

When you provide a fellow Soldier mentorship, remember it is not about the mentor. A bond of trust between mentor and protégé demands the confidences shared must remain confidential and in the context of the military, we must maintain certain distinguishable boundaries. Keep in mind that a mentor has limitations. As a mentor, we continue to learn from our protégé and develop ourselves as better officers and leaders.

There are times when the mentor becomes the protégé and must be receptive to feedback and advice. I encourage each of you to look around and not only find a fellow Soldier with whom you can share your knowledge. Seek out a fellow Soldier from whom you can obtain knowledge.

It is very complimentary to be approached and asked to share expertise or asked to demonstrate a skill you can perform well, pay that compliment to someone else and you might just learn something in the process.

Learn from the mistakes of others, you will not live long enough to make them all yourself!

**Chief Warrant Officer 5 Denise Scarboro  
Command Chief Warrant Officer  
Military Intelligence Readiness Command**

# CAPTURING THE

With indirect fire and intense gunfire all around, Soldiers from the 373rd Military Intelligence Battalion (MI BN), based in Tumwater, Wash., dismounted from their vehicles and ran towards various buildings in the small town. They

kept in verbal and visual contact with one another as they dodged bullets and shrapnel.

Partially obscured by white smoke, one team stacks up outside a building and prepares to storm in. Their mission is to capture a known bomb maker living in the small Iraqi village and who was seen in a window as the convoy approached.

Although the effects were very good, none of this was a real battle in a combat zone. The indirect fire explosions



A Soldier with the 373rd MI BN searches and secures an insurgent during training at Regional Training Center-West.



Soldiers with the 373rd MI BN prepare to storm a building in search of the local bomb maker and insurgents during training at Regional Training Center-West.

# BOMB MAKER

Story and photos by Maj. Annmarie Daneker, MIRC Public Affairs Officer



Soldiers with the 373rd MI BN receive instructions from the convoy commander prior to a mission to capture the local bomb maker during training at Regional Training Center-West.

A townsman watches a convoy of Soldiers from the 373rd MI BN approach the town looking for the local bomb maker and insurgents during training at Regional Training Center-West.



were training canisters, the bullets were blanks, and the town was a collection of CONEXs converted into makeshift buildings. It was all part of the final stages of pre-deployment training at Regional Training Center-West (RTC-W), Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., for the 373rd as they prepared for mobilization to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

In the scenario, which was played out during the day by three different convoys, the local sheik had been run out of town by insurgents and the Soldiers with the 373rd MI BN were tasked with neutralizing as many of those insurgents as possible, including the locally-known bomb maker. When the convoy of vehicles approached the town, they were not coming in peace.

Playing the part of trainer and bomb maker was Staff Sgt. Douglas Lowe, an Army Reserve Soldier assigned to Alpha Company (A Co.), RTC-W. Lowe has been with A Co. since July 2010, and always looks forward to training the Soldiers.

"We're trying to get these Soldiers in the proper mindset," he said, after being "wounded" by the first group of 373rd Soldiers.

"The training that we provide is not overly structured... we let them use their SOPs [Standing Operating

Procedures] and see how their planning works in a chaotic environment," he said.

The 373rd MI BN has been training constantly for several months to fulfill their pre-deployment training requirements, including Annual Training and attendance at RTC-W. While the battalion is based in Washington State, it is deploying with over 100 "cross-levels" or Soldiers brought in from other units to fill vacancies. These Soldiers come from 25 states across the US.

"All of the Soldiers did exceptional," said Lt. Col. Dustin Schultz, commander of the 373rd.

"I am truly impressed at their resiliency and commitment to the mission," she said.

Integrating new Soldiers into a unit is never easy, especially when the unit is moving quickly through extensive training. All members of the battalion worked hard to ensure that the new Soldiers were integrated into the unit.

"All team members were not only welcomed into the unit, but also engaged as critical members of the team," said Schultz.

By the end of the day's training all the hard work by the Soldiers in the 373rd paid off...in all three scenarios the bomb-maker, as well as other insurgents, were captured. ♦

# 203rd MI BN Conducts



*Story and photos by Maj. Annmarie Daneker, MIRC Public Affairs Officer*

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.** – The 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion (MI BN) conducted a five-day Combined Joint Captured Materiel Exploitation Center (CJCMEC) training exercise to bring intelligence personnel together to learn skills necessary for the exploitation of foreign materiel from a battlefield.

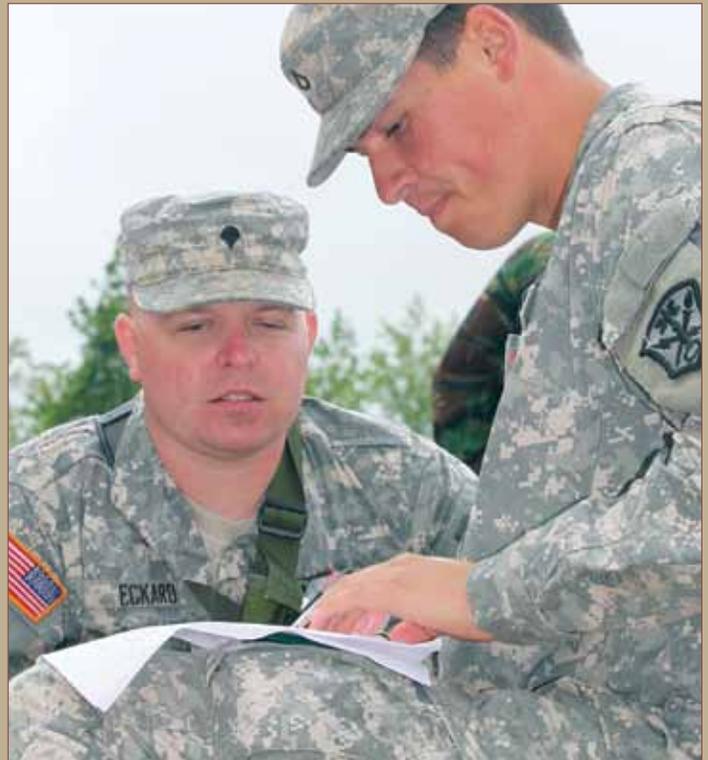
Intelligence personnel from the US Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) as well as Canadian forces, the British Army, and a large contingent from South Korea participated in the exercise.

Training opportunities included a foreign weapons familiarization range, foreign weapons and vehicle exploitation, Improvised Explosive Device familiarization and then a culminating event to bring all the tasks together.

Although the DIA-mandated CJCMEC has been conducted annually, this year's event is the first time the exercise has been conducted solely by US Army Reserve (USAR) Soldiers.

"It is heartening because this mission was previously mainly run by our Active components and we just participated, so I'm happy that our Reserve TPU [Troop Program Unit] Soldiers can step into what used to be just an Active component mission," said Lt. Col. Troy Heskett, 203rd MI BN Commander.

One of the main training events for the intelligence personnel was a series of four Technical Intelligence (TECH INT) lanes where teams were given a scenario of searching



Pfc. Brent Sessions, right, Intelligence Analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion writes down information given to him by Spc. Bradley Eckard, with Charlie Company, during the CJCMEC exercise conducted by the 203rd.

# Joint Training Exercise



Lt. Col. Ma Homyong, Program Officer, Science Technical Intelligence Division, South Korea Defense Intelligence Agency, in green windbreaker, speaks to the South Korean personnel participating in the CJCMEC exercise conducted by the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion.

a vehicle or a designated area. The teams were graded on a variety of tasks, including securing the scene, searching the premises, documenting the site, and collecting evidence.

Pfc. Kira Anderson, a Multi-Media Illustrator with Delta Company, was the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) specialist on her team when it went through the lane. Her tasks included taking photos of the vehicle and drawing a scene sketch.

“My job is also to check for any chemicals or gasses that might be unsafe for my team,” she said.

For Pfc. Brent Sessions, an Intelligence Analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the exercise was a chance to better understand working conditions he might face in theater.

“I am just trying to get a feel for what it would be like out in the field and get good training for if I ever do get deployed with this unit,” he said.

“I also want to learn what my role would be, and how to act in an environment under enemy conditions,” he said.

Learning exploitation techniques was the purpose of the exercise, but it also gave Soldiers with the 203rd the experience of working alongside military personnel from other US military branches and nations.

“It’s very different...I’ve never done anything like this before,” said Anderson.

“I like getting to see what other cultures are like and see how they associate with each other,” she said.

The exercise wasn’t all hard work, especially for the participants from other nations. The visiting personnel were given a chance to eat at some local restaurants and attend a Baltimore Orioles baseball game. ♦



Pfc. Kira Anderson, a Multi-Media Illustrator with Delta Company, 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion conducts a search of an ‘enemy’ vehicle during the CJCMEC exercise conducted by the 203rd.

# 323rd MI BN Soldiers Train at Defense Language Institute

By Spc. Brett Lovelace,  
Bravo Company, 323rd MI BN



Six Soldiers from Bravo Company, 323rd MI BN attended Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, from left to right: Spc. John Margeson, Spc. Michael Davies, Staff Sgt. Sean Terry, Spc. Soninka Dupeyron, and Spc. Wisam Karim. Not pictured is Pfc. Brian Card. Photo supplied by DLIFLC.

When a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) collector tactically debriefs a foreign national, the likelihood of obtaining actionable intelligence from the subject significantly increases if the HUMINT Soldier speaks the native language. The path to learning one of the 40 foreign languages that US Army Soldiers might encounter during such missions starts with the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), located at the Presidio of Monterey, Monterey, Calif.

Six Soldiers with Bravo Company, 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion have recently attended DLIFLC: Staff Sgt. Sean Terry, Spc. Michael Davies, Spc. Soninka Dupeyron, Spc. Wisam Karim, Spc. John Margeson, and Pfc. Brian Card.

The school's mission is to train students to a basic level of competence in the Arabic language. Davies, Dupeyron, Margeson and Karim enrolled in the 64-week Arabic-language program Middle East I School, known as Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

DLIFLC teaches MSA, a refined form of the language that is spoken throughout the Middle East. Learning MSA gives students the foundation upon which they can then build their skills in various regional and national dialects. MSA is also the language of the Quran, and used by broadcasters throughout the Arabic-speaking world.

Students undergo cultural introduction during the first weeks of class. To assist their learning, Soldiers are issued

iPods and laptops, and all classrooms are equipped with SMART Board interactive whiteboards.

"We have a full-time schedule of Arabic classes 6-7 hours daily and a couple of hours of homework every day," said Dupeyron. "It makes our days fairly intense," he said.

Because the students at DLIFLC are training to use language in military or intelligence applications, training includes modules that deal with the vocabularies specific to those disciplines.

To polish their language skills and stay up-to-date on the culture, politics and current events of the Arabic speaking world, students watch Al-Jazeera and other Arabic-language TV networks.

Shortly after starting the class, Karim learned to adopt a new strategy for absorbing the material and exceeding the standards on exams.

"You have to be proactive in this course...with all the study material you are given it's important to find what type of resources work best for you in terms of learning and using the vocabulary," said Karim.

"Straight memorization of individual words is not enough in the Arabic language because a word meaning can change depending on the context in which it is used. The most challenging aspect of the course is listening and speaking," he said.

"I expected the course load to be intense. Now that I am about half way done, I see the course as relentless. It just keeps coming," said Davies.

"However, if you hang in, the rewards are there. I remember the day I came to the end of a news broadcast before I realized that I understood enough to summarize it. Moments like this keep me motivated," he said.

Davies also participated in a simulation exercise designed to prepare students for traveling in the Middle East.

"One scenario put us at the airport where you have to deal with ticket agents, airport staff, money exchange booths, and rental agents and customs agents," Davies said. "I was required to handle unexpected problems like lost luggage or haggling for souvenirs at the *suuk*." ♦



Staff Sgt. Sean Terry, left, and Spc. Michael Davies, both with Bravo Company, 323rd MI BN, help each other through classes at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. Photo supplied by DLIFLC.

# 377TH CONDUCTS BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

*Story by 1st Sgt. Richard A. Hall, Bravo Company, 377th Military Intelligence Battalion*



Sgt. Patrick Hardy, Bravo Company, 377th MI BN Best Warrior NCO.



Pfc. Patrick Wright, Bravo Company, 377th MI BN Best Warrior Soldier.

The 377th Military Intelligence Battalion conducted their 2nd annual Battalion Best Warrior competition in Orlando, Fla. The event assessed the soldiering skills of some of the battalion's best Soldiers as they competed to earn the title Best Warrior Soldier and Best Warrior NCO.

Day one of the three-day event started with the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). The prerequisites for the competition dictate that each competitor must score 270 or above on the APFT to be eligible to compete and advance to the brigade-level Best Warrior competition. The next event found the Soldiers on a land navigation course which was conducted at the University of Central Florida Reserve Officer Training Corps training site. Day One concluded with the Soldiers being assessed on a variety of Army Warrior Tasks.

Day Two started with a four-mile road march where the participants were scored based upon their completion time. Following the road march, the competitors completed a 100-question quiz that assessed their knowledge in the following subject areas: Leadership; Responsibility and Authority; Chain of Command; Military Customs and Courtesy; Drill and Ceremony; Land Navigation/Map Reading; First Aid; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN); Security and Intelligence; Training the Force; and Army Programs.

The competition concluded on Day Three with the Soldiers competing in a physical appearance board in the green Class A uniform or Army Service Uniform. Each Soldier was assessed on physical appearance, oral presentation, and knowledge. Each competitor was

subjected to 80 questions presented by the board members and Command Sgt. Maj. Morris Bacon. Some of the topics presented during the oral presentation included Current Events, NCOERs, Equal Opportunity, Army Programs, the Army Weight Control Program, Wear and Appearance of the Uniform, and Leadership.



Sgt. Patrick Hardy, with Bravo Company, competes in the road march event during the 377th MI BN Best Warrior Competition. *Photos by Capt. Douglas Williams*

The event culminated with the announcement of the winners. Sgt. Patrick Hardy, Bravo Company, was selected as the Best Warrior NCO and Pfc. Patrick Wright, also of Bravo Company, was selected as the Best Warrior Soldier. These two outstanding Soldiers then represented the 377th in the brigade-level Best Warrior Competition conducted by the 208th Regional Support Group at Fort Jackson, S.C.

The three-day Best Warrior Competition assessed the basic soldiering skills of the competitors and provided a platform for each of them to showcase their physical ability, knowledge, and skill. The strength of our collective Army originates from the mastery of basic skills of each individual Soldier. When Soldiers are provided the professional leadership to guide and develop junior Soldiers, the outcome is the strongest, best-prepared, combat force in the world. ♦



Sgt. Matthew Bledsoe, center, with Detachment 6, 3100th Strategic Intelligence Group, kicks off Day 1 of the 2011 Best Warrior competition with the Army Physical Fitness Test.



Spc. Brett Lovelace, Bravo Company, 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, checks out the shot group on his 25-meter target to zero his weapon during the weapons qualification event on Day 1.

# 2011

# MIRC BEST



Sgt. Jerry Estrellado, with Bravo Company, 368th Military Intelligence Battalion, reassembles an M9 pistol after the ruck march event on Day 3.

Four Soldiers and three Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) from units in the Military Intelligence Readiness Command gathered at Fort Dix, N.J., to compete for the title of Best Warrior Soldier and

## DAY ONE

Day 1 started with an early morning Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). In the afternoon competitors zeroed and qualified on their assigned weapons. Soldiers then competed in a “Move & Shoot” exercise, where each competitor was required to move through a lane of various obstacles, shooting at targets from various positions with both an M16A2 rifle and an M9 pistol.

## DAY TWO

Competitors’ mettle was tested by the Military Operations in an Urban Terrain (MOUT) course. Soldiers were given a Warning Order and a squad that they had to lead into a hostile urban environment to find a wounded ‘Soldier’. The competitor then had to apply basic first aid, carry the Soldier to safety and call in a MEDEVAC. The afternoon saw the combatives tournament where MIRC Soldiers competed against each other and competitors from the 99th Regional Readiness Command. Spc. Mitchel Dolan, a MIRC Soldier with the 378th MI BN was declared the overall winner of both groups.



Sgt. Stephen Berry, with Bravo Company, 301st Military Intelligence Battalion, evaluates a casualty during the MOUT scenario event on Day 2.



Spc. Tavada Ly, standing, with Alpha Company, 368th Military Intelligence Battalion, stands at attention during the board appearance event on Day 4.

*Story and photos by Maj. Annmarie Daneker, MIRC Public Affairs Officer*

# WARRIOR

**Best Warrior NCO.** For four days these competitors worked through multiple grueling events to test their Army Warrior skills, pushing themselves to their mental and physical limits.

## DAY THREE

Day Three started with a 7-mile forced road march with a full rucksack. Once competitors crossed the finish line, they were required to disassemble and reassemble both an M16A2 rifle and an M9 pistol. The rest of the day was spent on the land navigation course for day and night land navigation. Competitors were given 4 grid coordinates to plot on a map and then they had to go to those points and write down the number at the point.

## DAY FOUR

Day Four was the day to put away the ACUs and pull out their green Class A uniform or Army Service Uniform for the uniform inspection and board appearance. Soldiers were required to report to the 5-member board and answer questions on various topics such as leadership, training, and Army operations.



Spc. Chad Kelley, with Bravo Company, 301st Military Intelligence Battalion, pushes through the blisters on his feet during the ruck march event on Day 3.

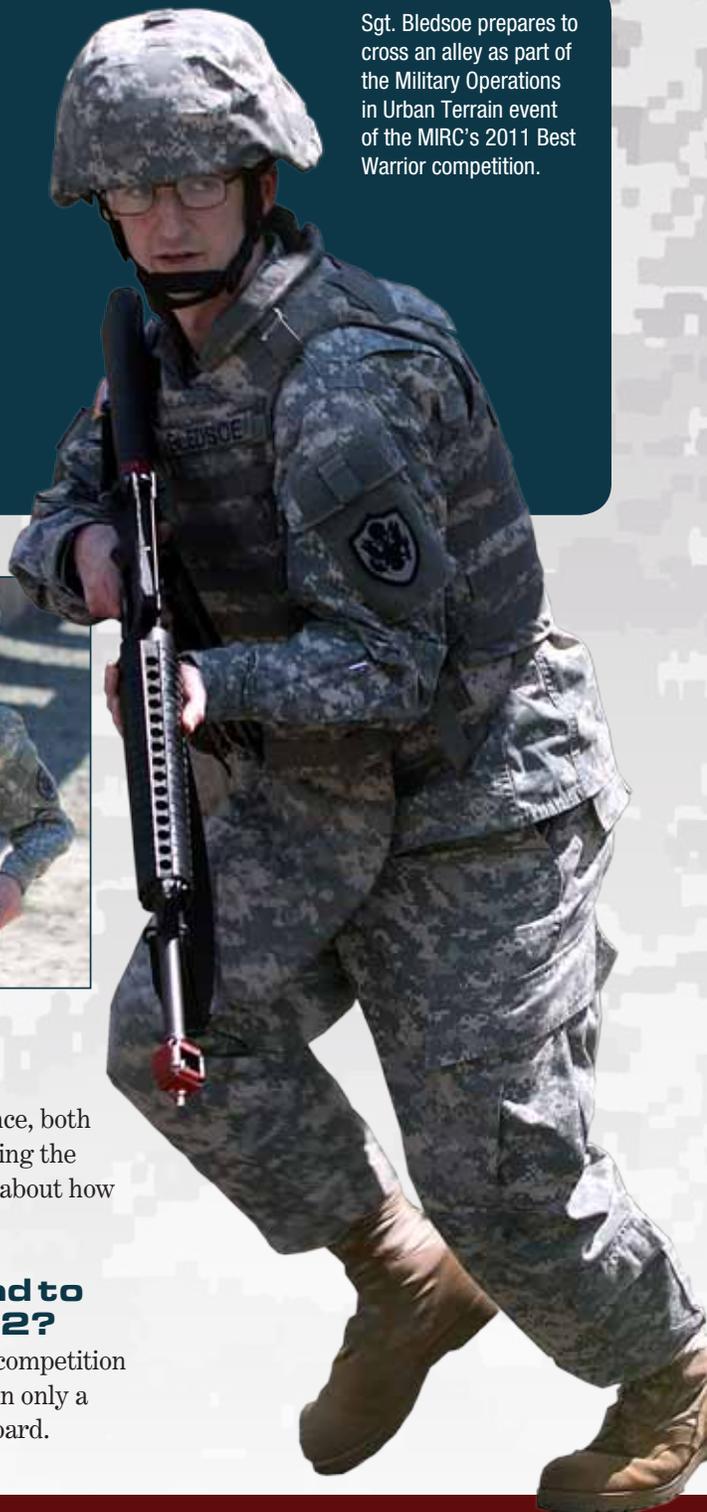
# Meet the MIRC's

# 2011 BEST WARRIORS!

## Best Warrior NCO

Full name: . . . . . Matthew Joseph Bledsoe  
Year enlisted: . . . . . November 2003  
MOS: . . . . . 35F - Intelligence Analyst  
Any other MOS: . . . . . 21B - Combat Engineer  
Hometown: . . . . . Bartlett, Tenn.  
Civilian occupation: . . . . . Full-time student  
College: . . . . . Senior at the University of Memphis  
studying Electrical Engineering and  
Computer Engineering  
Military Career goal: . . . . . Submit a packet to the Warrant Officer  
selection board

Sgt. Bledsoe prepares to cross an alley as part of the Military Operations in Urban Terrain event of the MIRC's 2011 Best Warrior competition.



To finish out the Military Operations in Urban Terrain event, Sgt. Bledsoe carried an injured 'Soldier' out of harm's way and then called for a MEDEVAC.



### What did you learn about yourself while competing in BWC?

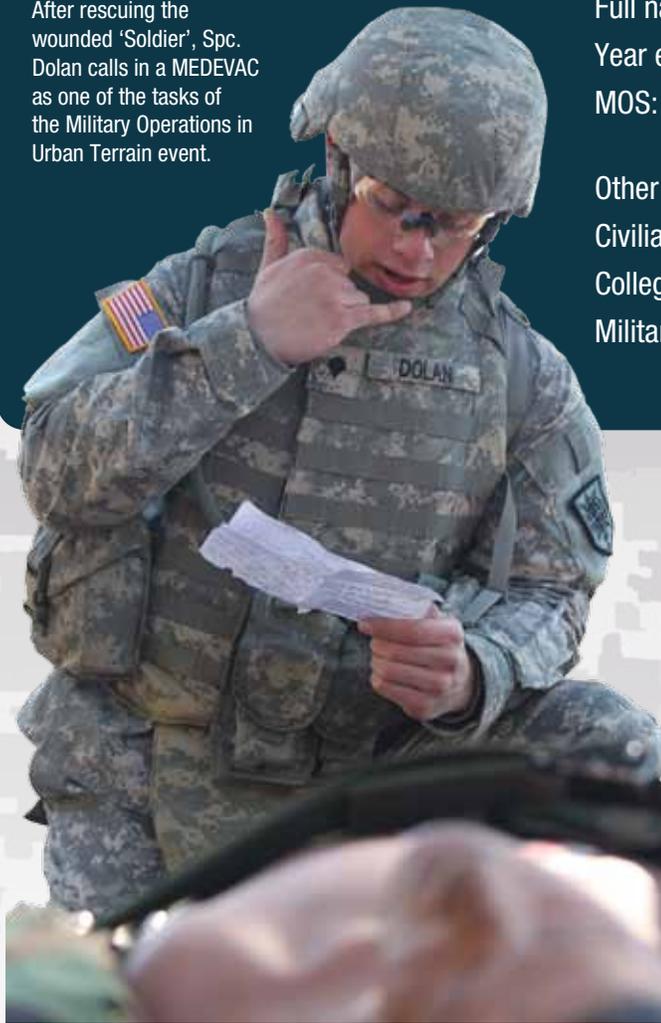
The BWC was a great test of all the competitors' abilities and endurance, both physically and mentally. There were quite a few 'gut check' moments during the competition that really tested my mettle. In the end I learned quite a bit about how much I can handle and how far I can push myself when the time comes.

### What piece of advice would you recommend to Soldiers thinking about competing in 2012?

Take a step back and inventory your strengths and weaknesses. The competition covers a lot of ground and you have to prepare for that. Being an expert in only a handful of areas will not be sufficient, you must be proficient across the board.

# Best Warrior Soldier

After rescuing the wounded 'Soldier', Spc. Dolan calls in a MEDEVAC as one of the tasks of the Military Operations in Urban Terrain event.



Full name: . . . . . Mitchel Patrick Dolan  
Year enlisted: . . . . . 2009  
MOS: . . . . . 74D – Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist  
Other MOS: . . . . . None  
Civilian Occupation: . . . . . Full time student  
College attending: . . . . . University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Military Career Goal: . . . . . Reclass to 35 Mike, Human Intelligence, and become a Warrant Officer.



Spc. Dolan, right, is declared the overall winner in the combatives event, competing against both MIRC and 99th RRC Soldiers.

## What did you learn about yourself while competing in BWC?

I learned how to push myself to the limit to reach my goals. Each competition was progressively more difficult, no matter how much information was put out in the Op Order there were always surprises and learning to adjust, adapt and perform the tasks we were given showed me that I can do almost anything.

## What piece of advice would you recommend to Soldiers thinking about competing in 2012?

If you get the chance, DO IT! As reservists, we're often relegated to PowerPoint and classroom training because we don't have the time or the means to do the high speed stuff we like doing. Competing has opened up a world of opportunities for me as far as schools and possibility of promotion. I highly recommend it to any Soldier thinking about competing.

# Welcome Home

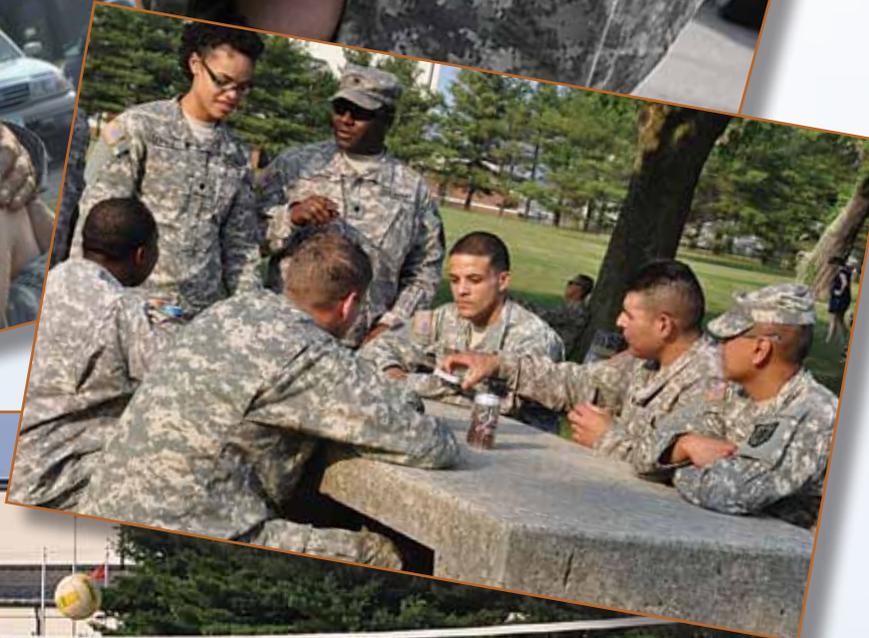
## 325th Military Intelligence Battalion!

*Photos by Spc. Erika Montano, MIRC Family Programs Office*

After spending time in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, the Soldiers of the 325th MI Battalion finally returned home in June. The unit returned to Fort Dix, N.J., for demobilization but took some time out from their busy schedule to relax, have a cookout, and reunite with their Families and loved ones. The Soldiers were also presented with their Welcome Home Warrior Citizen awards for their service in Iraq.

Welcome home!





# The New Post 9-11 GI Bill

*By: Levoy Achenbach, 99th RSC Education Office*

The introduction of CH (Chapter) 33 Post 9-11 GI Bill in 2009 brought a shift in how Soldiers may view the larger package of education benefits. Prior to 2009, education by GI Bill was a matter only for the Soldier. This newest GI Bill provides for a very generous transfer of benefits to the Soldier's dependents.

The full bill is complex so Soldiers should contact their Education Officer for more detailed guidance.

Any active duty time over 90 days since Sept. 10, 2001, is the qualifier for CH 33 while the total months of time on active duty sets the level of eligibility. Selecting CH 33 at the VA site, [www.GIBill.va.gov](http://www.GIBill.va.gov), will require that one bill the Soldier might already have will be surrendered.

Most Army Reserve Soldiers have CH 1606. This Chapter pays the least, currently \$337 full-time monthly, and is the most likely the one that the Soldier will have to give up.

Active duty time usually qualifies a Soldier for CH 1607 Reserve Education Assistance Plan as well. Pay varies from \$570.40 to \$1140.80 full-time monthly. Some Reservists still carry eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill CH 30 from previous full active duty status. CH 30 currently pays \$1,426 full time. How much GI Bill time you have used to date must be considered. If any CH 30 has been used then that time will be taken off CH 33,

giving a total of 36 months combined education available. Other GI Bills can be used in combination with CH 33 to a total of 48 months. With some restrictions, all these may be used by a Soldier in conjunction with the Tuition Assistance Program while still in TPU status.

It's important to remember that once you stop using one GI Bill and transfer to another there can be no return to the first.

Transferring any part of CH 33 to dependents must be completed while the Soldier is still in full TPU or AD status. Any portion of CH 33 eligibility a Soldier has can be transferred to dependents in monthly amounts. Dependents must be enrolled in DEERS to receive the funds.

Informed selection is important because transferring CH 33 benefits to dependents gives them exactly the benefits the Soldier might have. This includes school tuition, fees, Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), and a stipend payment. Time to use these benefits will vary. There are also new changes that began on 1 August and are explained in the slide set "*Post 9-11 Improvements Act*", available from the Education Office.

To find out which GI Bill you have and your level of CH 33 eligibility, start with a call to your Education Officer. The name, e-mail and address can be found at the GoArmyEd site. ♦



## Information Packets Available from the Education Office

*"Post 9-11 GI Bill"* The basic information about CH 33.

*"Post 9-11 Improvements Act"* All those changes coming in August and October.

*"GI Bill Programs, Quick Reference Handout, 2010"* A must have summary.

Please contact Mr. Levoy Achenbach at [levoy.achenbach@usar.army.mil](mailto:levoy.achenbach@usar.army.mil) to get these slide shows.

# POST - 9/11 GI BILL

## A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY



The Post - 9/11 GI Bill provides:

**TUITION AND FEES**  
**MONTHLY HOUSING ALLOWANCE**  
**BOOKS AND SUPPLIES**



For more information, go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)

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### Websites To Use For More Information

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) Total GI Bill access website.

<https://iris.custhelp.com> To find out which GI Bill you have and status.

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/> To transfer benefits to your dependents.

<https://www.GoArmyEd.com> To get information on Tuition Assistance Program.

# MIRC HOSTS WARRANT OFFICER SYMPOSIUM

*Story and photos by Maj. Annmarie Daneker, MIRC Public Affairs Officer*

## THE SPEAKER'S WORDS BROUGHT A RESOUNDING CHEER FROM THOSE IN THE AUDIENCE:

“When in doubt, the warrant officer is never wrong!” The source of the advice was Chief Warrant Officer 5 James E. Thompson, Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Army Reserve, as he addressed the 150 warrant officers in attendance at the 2011 Warrant Officer Symposium hosted by the Military Intelligence Readiness Command (MIRC).

Thompson was just one of many speakers over the 3-day event, offering warrant officers guidance and information on many topics, including leadership development (awards, valuations, and the Army Reserve funding process) and emerging technologies. The conference was also a chance to network with peers and mentors.

The symposium also offered the MIRC Command Chief Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Denise Scarboro, the chance to have face-to-face meetings with warrant officers throughout the MIRC.

“The symposium gives myself and the command staff a chance to reach out to the individual warrants in the MIRC to insure that they are maintaining the basics required as a leader and professional,” she said.

“It also enhances the mentorship opportunity and encourages professional networking,” she said.

Also in attendance were Warrant Officer Candidates (WOCs), all looking for some insight on the Military



Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Thompson, Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Army Reserve, addresses the 150 attendees at the 2011 Warrant Officer Symposium.

# “WHEN IN DOUBT, THE WARRANT OFFICER IS NEVER WRONG!”

Chief Warrant Officer 5 James E. Thompson

Intelligence (MI) warrant officer career field.

“I was looking for an opportunity to learn what the future holds for MI warrant officers before I go to school,” said WOC Heather Martinez, with Detachment 4, Central Command.

Martinez, who was a master sergeant when she was accepted into the WOC program, was also looking for a way to utilize her previous experience.

“I am trying to find the best way to use my leadership skills as a senior Non-Commissioned Officer and how I can bring that experience into my new role as a warrant officer,” she said.

In the past five years, over 50% of the warrant officers assigned to the MIRC have deployed, making these Soldiers proficient in a variety of technical skills. With over 80%

of the MIRC forces operationally aligned to Active Duty formations, including 40% of MIRC units aligned to the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), the MIRC warrant officers bring institutional memory and the continuity needed for long term projects and training requirements.

With all this experience, they are the subject matter experts in almost any topic related to MI or other technical fields. So again, when in doubt, remember...you should listen to that warrant officer who is advising you. ♦



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Denise Scarboro, Command Chief Warrant Officer of the MIRC, addresses the 150 attendees at the 2011 Warrant Officer Symposium.

# Training for the Final Days of Operation New Dawn

Story and photos by Maj. Annmarie Daneker, Military Intelligence Readiness Command PAO

Soldiers look through their Improved First Aid Kit as part of pre-mobilization training at RTC-C.



For Army Reserve Soldiers, a 400-day order for deployment to Iraq seems like a long time. But in reality that time for deployment is even longer. Reserve units deploying overseas are required to complete a rigorous and time-consuming schedule of pre-mobilization tasks, both at Home Station and at one of three Regional Training Centers throughout the US.

Almost 80 Soldiers with Alpha Company (A Co.), 377th Military Intelligence Battalion (MI BN), are finding out just how much training is required as they finish up their pre-mobilization training at Regional Training Center – Central (RTC-C) at Fort McCoy, Wis. Though the days are long, the Soldiers find the time well-spent as they prepare for their upcoming mission.

“I know that I’m being trained properly,” said Pvt. Eric Bryn, an Imagery Analyst with A Co.

“I know that any situation can happen downrange that’s unexpected, but I’m feeling pretty confident with the people I’m deploying with,” he said.

Units attending training for 21 days at RTC-C spend their days in classes and outside on the ranges and training lanes. Classroom training includes Improved First Aid Kit familiarization, Cultural Awareness, and combatives. Soldiers also go through M16 rifle and M9 pistol weapons qualification, convoy lanes and Urban Operations training. All this hard work is designed to prepare Soldiers for whatever they might face while theater.

Spc. Juan Allegue, left, practices putting a tourniquet on the arm of Pvt. 2 Marc Albin during Improved First Aid Kit familiarization class as part of pre-mobilization training at RTC-C.



Sitting beside Bryn in several classes is Spc. Juan Allegue, also an Imagery Analyst, who is looking forward to moving downrange and starting his mission. He thinks about that mission while he is training.

“What goes through my mind as I’m doing the training is what’s going to happen once we get there...like what I’m going to be doing,” he said.

As the senior officer in A Co., Lt. Col. Reuben McCoy, the Analytical Control Element Chief, keeps an eye out for the Soldiers in the company.

“I see them starting to work together as a team,” he said, after several hours of combatives training.

“I see the sergeants remembering and doing things sergeants are supposed to do, and that’s good for teambuilding,” he said.

The late deployment to Iraq is not lost on the Soldiers of A Co. They mobilize in July...only six months before US forces are scheduled to completely leave Iraq on Dec. 31, leaving a large portion of their 400 days on orders undetermined.

The Soldiers know that they could eventually be sent to another mission, such as Afghanistan. Or they could be sent home, which is what Bryn does not want.

“I was a bit concerned about being sent home early because I want to deploy for as long as possible,” he said.

“I am hoping that when we pull out of Iraq then they send us somewhere else so we can continue the mission,” he said.

“The uncertainty is big, and not knowing if we’re going to have a change of mission after December 31st is allowing us to be flexible,” said McCoy.

“We plan for the worse, and hope for the best,” he said.

Soldiers with listen to Sgt. 1st Class Mark Williams give the Escalation of Force class as part of pre-mobilization training at RTC-C.



Soldiers listen to the Army Combatives instructor on correct techniques for entering a house and subduing threats during the combatives portion of pre-mobilization training at RTC-C.

# MIRC Soldiers Compete in ALL ARMY CHAMPIONSHIP

*Story by 2nd Lt. David Walker, 208th Regional Support Group*

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – Five Soldiers with the 208th Regional Support Group (RSG) competed in the U.S. Army Small Arms Championship, also known as All Army. The seven-day competition is an advanced combat live-fire training event and is open to all Army personnel and members of sister services assigned to Army units.

The 208th RSG team was made up of the following Soldiers: Sgt. Eric Nystrom, Staff Sgt. Joseph Weston, and Capt. Kevin Halleran with Charlie Company, 377th Military Intelligence Battalion; Staff Sgt. Jesse Frigo with the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion; and 2nd Lt. David Walker, 208th RSG.

Soldiers from as far away as Fort Greely, Alaska, and Guam attended the event. Competitors were given training and skill exercises applicable to all military small arms firing disciplines. While the elements and spirit of competition are important, all Soldiers are reminded the Army's critical intent is to develop combat firing skills at the entry and intermediate level. The training is also used to raise the standard of marksmanship across the entire force and recognizing superior skill at the highest levels.

Soldiers were given the opportunity to earn Excellence in Competition (EIC) credit points by competing.

They also had a chance to earn EIC points toward the appropriate badge, such as the President's One Hundred, which are awarded to the top scoring 10% of eligible non-distinguished competitors.

"This presented the opportunity to reward select Soldiers of the command that excel in both rifle and pistol marksmanship and physical fitness," said Lt. Col. John Mohor, S-3 with the 208th RSG.

"While participation was not mandatory, we wanted to encourage subordinate commanders to recognize exceptional Soldiers that have excelled within their units. We hoped to can get enough interest to field two teams with necessary support for this training opportunity," he said.

The 208th RSG is hoping to again send Soldiers to this event next year and perhaps even send a team to the National Championships held at Camp Perry, Ohio, during the summer.

All Army is also used to showcase the latest technology in weapon development and marksmanship.

This year's All Army was the biggest in the history of the competition with 301 Army personnel and one airman competing. A minimum team was comprised of four firing members, two of whom must be new shooters. ♦



Five Soldiers with the 208th RSG recently competed in the 2011 U.S. Army Small Arms Championship, also known as All Army. They are, from left to right: Sgt. Eric Nystrom, Staff Sgt. Joseph Weston, and Capt. Kevin Halleran with Charlie Company, 377th Military Intelligence Battalion, Staff Sgt. Jesse Frigo, with 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, and 2nd Lt. David Walker, with 208th Regional Support Group. *Photo supplied by unit.*

# What Can Military OneSource Do For You?

*By: Maj. Annmarie Daneker, MIRC Public Affairs Officer*



Wouldn't it be nice if the military had a one-stop website to help military members and their families with a variety of topics...anything from mental health issues to getting help fixing the water heater while your spouse is deployed? Or a toll-free number that is staffed 24/7 with free, confidential support?

Hold on...the military has such a website and telephone number. It's called Military OneSource, and it's free and available to Active and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines and their dependents. All Army Reserve Soldiers, whether AGR or TPU, are eligible to use Military OneSource.

"It's important that military personnel understand the breadth and depth of what Military OneSource can offer," said Barbara Thompson, Director of the Office Family Policy/Children and Youth, which oversees Military OneSource.

"Our services are offered both telephonically and web-based," she said.

Military OneSource came about after the attacks of 9/11 and the deployments of thousands of Soldiers first to Afghanistan and then to Iraq. With those deployments came extra needs that quickly swamped the existing systems of support available to Soldiers and their Families.

"One of the main issues that started up in 2002 is that we realized it was important to have resources available to

augment existing military programs, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year," said Thompson.

"Military OneSource offers non-medical counseling, life coaching, and dealing with challenges in day-to-day living or during deployment," she said.

Once you go to the website there are a variety of areas to choose from on the main page: Military Life and Deployment; Family and Recreation; Health and Relationships; Career and Education; Financial and Legal; and Crises and Disasters.

There are also podcasts, popular links, information on military installations, Permanent-Change-of-Station (PCS) moves, and even special offers on gym memberships, babysitting services, and tutoring.

And all services are confidential with one exception: If there is a chance the Soldier will hurt him or herself or others, then the counselors have a responsibility to respond accordingly. ♦

**[www.MilitaryOneSource.com](http://www.MilitaryOneSource.com)**

**1-800-342-9647**

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**

**1-800-273-8255**

# AROUND THE COMMAND



Sgt. Maj. James Whipple, center, sergeant major of the 2200th Military Intelligence Group, poses with 2 employees of the Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pa. Whipple was at the Gettysburg battlefield with a group on a staff ride that was part of the 2011 Combat Agency Support Command's Senior Leader's Conference. *Photo by Capt. Brian Bilzor.*

Spc. James Loftis, currently deployed to Iraq with Alpha Company, 345th Military Intelligence Battalion, sings the national anthem during the celebration of the Army's 236th birthday at the Al-Faw Palace in Baghdad. Alpha Company left for Iraq in October of 2010.



Commanders, Sergeants Major, and other senior officers and NCOs with the Combat Support Agency Support Command (CSASC) attend a staff ride at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pa. The staff ride at the Gettysburg battlefield was part of the CSASC's 2011 Senior Leader's Conference. *Photo by Capt. Frank Lumia.*



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Denise Scarboro, right, MIRC Command Chief Warrant Officer, presents a check in the amount of \$1,085 to Mr. Maurice Borde, manager of the Fisher House at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Joining them is Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Pavlich. The money was from a fundraiser that was part of the MIRC's 2011 Warrant Officer Symposium.

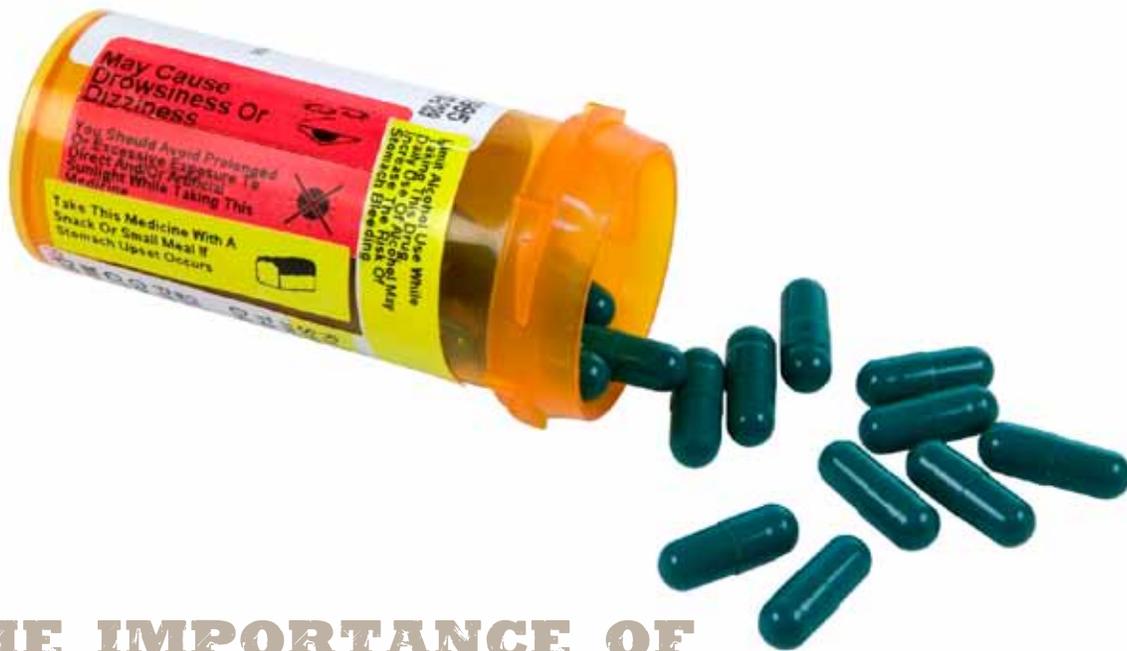
Col. Robert Michnowicz, right standing, MIRC G 3/5/7, addresses a group of ROTC cadets during the MIRC's Military Intelligence ROTC Cadet Day. Cadets from local ROTC programs were given briefings about the MIRC and a chance to ask staff members questions about the MI field. *Photo by Spc. Erika Montano.*



1st Sgt. Jim Davis, right, 373rd Military Intelligence Battalion, currently deployed to Baghdad, presents Maj. Luis Oakley, an intelligence officer with the 25th Infantry Division, a football autographed by North Carolina Representative Heath Shuler, a former Washington Redskins quarterback. *Photo by Sgt. Jesus J. Aranda.*



Check out Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kimberly Simmons, right, with Bravo Company, 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion (but currently deployed to Afghanistan) as she shakes hands with Gen. David Petraeus, Commander of US forces in Afghanistan!



# THE IMPORTANCE OF **DRUG TESTING AND THE MILITARY**

*By Mr. LeGrand K. Langford, Sr MIRC Alcohol and Drug Control Officer*

As soldiers in the United States Army Reserve and assigned to the Military Intelligence Readiness Command it is extremely important to remain drug free. There have been several incidents cited throughout the military and army wide where Soldiers have injured themselves or others while under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol. Your service to your unit and our country is very important and you must remain drug free and abstain from over consumption of alcohol. It is truly important that as an American Soldier you remain fit for duty and be prepared to render combat support if necessary.

Based on Army Regulation 600-85, The Army Substance Abuse Program, all soldiers with a Top Secret Clearance are required to provide a urinalysis specimen annually. Unit Prevention Leaders that are assigned to your units should take a proactive role and ensure that prevention training is being conducted throughout the year. There are various resources on the Army Center for Substance Abuse Programs web-site, [www.acsap.army.mil](http://www.acsap.army.mil), that will enhance your training program. I encourage each and every one of you to make it a priority to assess what resources would benefit your unit regarding drug and alcohol awareness. Please make your units drug and alcohol program a success. Remember to look out for your Battle Buddy and strive to make your military career both challenging and rewarding.

It is a pleasure to serve with you!

**“Warrior Pride!”**

## **THINKING ABOUT USING SPICE?**

## **THINK AGAIN.**

The use of Spice, or any other synthetic cannabis, is prohibited by Soldiers and detection will fall under the jurisdiction of AR 600-85, Army Substance Abuse Program. Synthetic cannabis is designed to mimic the effects of marijuana, including excitement and intoxication. The use of Spice can create hazards to the mission of the Army, the health of the user, and to the safety of the Army community. Stay away from it!



# THE SOLDIER'S CREED

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my Warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.



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# ALWAYS ENGAGED



## NEXT ISSUE: INAUGURAL MIRC COMBATIVES TOURNAMENT



Also...Are you ready for the new Physical Fitness Test?