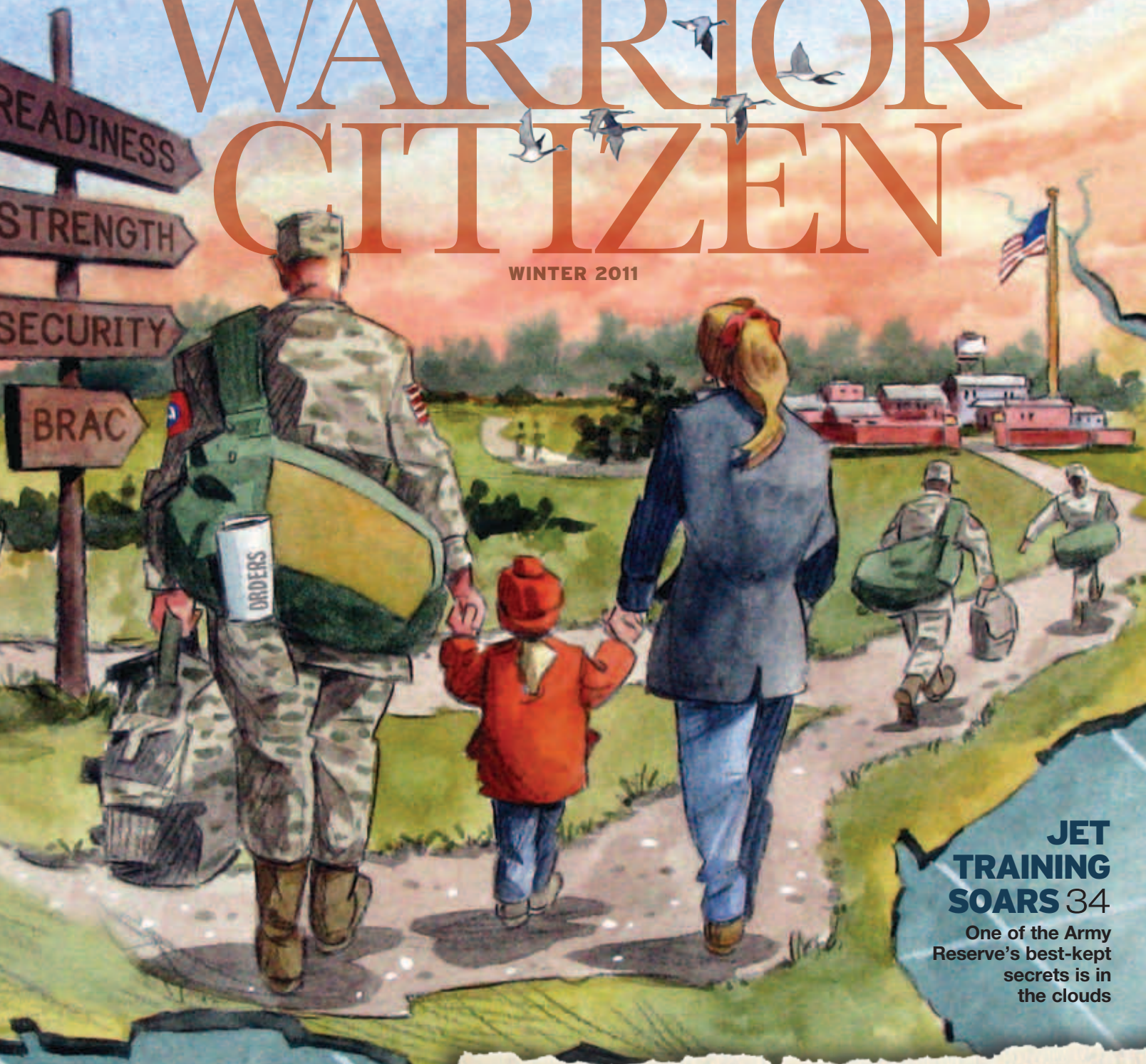


WARRIOR CITIZEN

WINTER 2011



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In this issue of Warrior-Citizen magazine we showcase the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) of 2005 and its impact on the Army Reserve. Lt. Gen. Stultz's "From the Top" piece on pages 4-5 explains how BRAC is reshaping the

Army Reserve and playing a key role in the Army

Reserve's transition from a strategic reserve to an operational force. To put BRAC into perspective we have added a map which illustrates the number and location of armed forces facilities to be built, closed or realigned by BRAC and a USARC fact sheet showing the impact of the relocation of the USARC headquarters from Fort McPherson, Ga. to Fort Bragg, N.C. as well as the OCAR move from Crystal City to Fort Belvoir, Va.

In follow-on articles Melissa Russell, Army Reserve Communications and Jim Hinnant, U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs pull everything together in their articles, "Down the BRAC Roads" and "Plug and Play" on pages 18-21. And finally 'moving day' comes in Tim Hale's piece "BRAC to Bragg."

In our Communities Section is Christina Douglas's heart-warming story, "In the Wake of the Tsunami," from American Samoa about Soldiers of 9th Mission Support Command who received the Humanitarian Service Medal for their heroic efforts in providing disaster relief to help the most critically-affected villages in need immediately following the tragic 2009 tsunami. Significantly, many of these Soldiers had had homes that suffered significant damage or had been completely destroyed, but these Soldiers persevered. It's a story you don't want to miss.

Also included in this issue on pages 34-37 is a story on the best kept secret in the Army Reserve (according to unit members), a little known unit just outside Atlanta providing big-time real-world missions both in the U.S. and overseas. In words and pictures Tim Hale writes about the U.S. Army Jet Training Detachment, which flies missions for the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center in support of DoD, most of which include senior leaders from any of the four services.

USARC photojournalist Tim Hale spent a week at Fort Lee, Va. chronicling the journey of two Army Reserve Soldiers in words and pictures in their quest to become Department of the Army Best Warriors. We hope you will enjoy his account of "Best Warrior Dispatches" on pages 30-33.

We at Warrior-Citizen Magazine wish all of our readers a safe and happy holiday and a safe and prosperous new year.



Paul R. Adams
Editor-in-Chief



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22 **COMMUNITIES** IN THE FAST LANE

The Army Reserve was featured front and center before a crowd of thousands and a television audience of millions on the hood of a 700-horsepower Chevrolet Impala during the Emory Healthcare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

BY TIMOTHY L. HALE, ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ON THE COVER >>

ILLUSTRATION BY JIM HAYNES

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005 will affect all Army Reserve Operational and Functional Commands and all Training structure.



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16 **COMMUNITIES** DOWN THE BRAC ROADS

While leaders from across the Army Reserve met to plan and discuss how to execute the most complex move Army Reserve headquarters has ever faced in its 102 years of existence, moving day finally arrived for 22 U.S. Army Reserve Command civilians from Fort McPherson, Ga., as they in-processed at the renovated Old Bowley School building to start their new lives on the sprawling Army post in the Sand Hills of North Carolina.

BY MELISSA RUSSELL, ARMY RESERVE COMMUNICATIONS



34 **TRAINED + READY** JET TRAINING SOARS

What may be one of the best-kept secrets about the Army Reserve is located just outside the perimeter in Atlanta at the U.S. Army Jet Training Detachment.

BY TIMOTHY L. HALE, ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS



30 **PEOPLE** BEST WARRIOR DISPATCHES

Photojournalist Timothy Hale spent a week at Fort Lee, Va., chronicling the journeys of two Soldiers representing the U.S. Army Reserve Command in their quest to become the best Soldiers in the Department of the Army.

BY TIMOTHY L. HALE,
ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS



26 **HEALTH + WELLNESS** FLOATING HOPE

The best humanity can offer is when numerous groups of people band together to help others who are desperately in need. 150 Soldiers of the 807th MDSC, along with other U.S. armed forces, agencies and organizations, did just that aboard the U.S. Naval Ship Mercy.

BY SGT. CRAIG ANDERSON, ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS



BY LT. GEN. JACK STULTZ
CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE AND
COMMANDING GENERAL,
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND



“We cannot lose sight of our overall responsibility; we exist as an organization for one purpose: to provide trained and ready troops and units whenever the nation calls us.”

— LT. GEN. JACK STULTZ
CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE AND
COMMANDING GENERAL,
U.S. ARMY RESERVE COMMAND

BRAC means increased strength and readiness

The largest transformation to impact the Army Reserve since World War II must, by law, be completed by Sept. 15. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Act of 2005 has played a significant part in reshaping the Army Reserve and will affect all Operational and Functional Commands and all AR training structure.

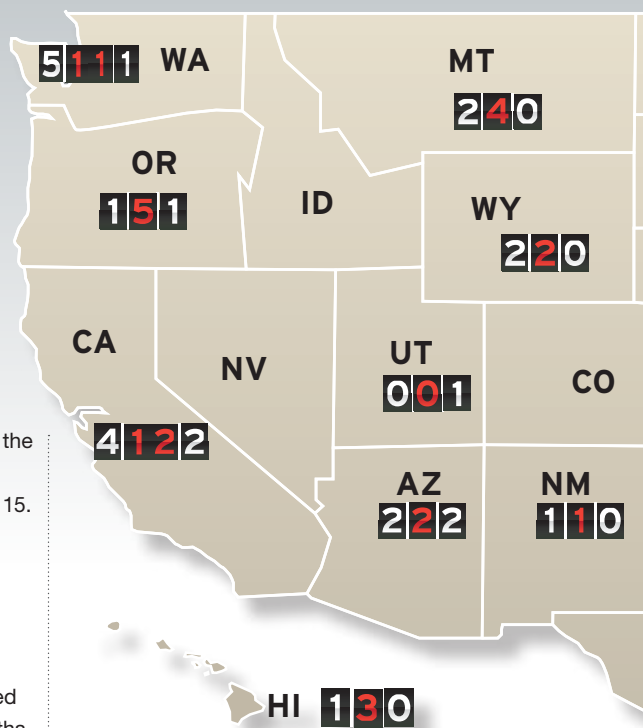
The majority of impacted commands are slated for realignment or closure in the upcoming months. BRAC will transform the Army Reserve into a force structure that parallels the active component—better positioning our forces to support current operations while streamlining our command, control and support structure.

These final months are crucial as we execute the most complex move the Army Reserve has faced in its 102 years of existence. The Army Reserve will move the U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) from Fort McPherson, Ga., to Fort Bragg, N.C.; and its Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR) from Arlington, Va., to Fort Belvoir, Va.

I intend to use the opportunity that BRAC provides to power down to our major commands some of the functions that are typically managed at the Army Reserve Headquarters.

We are implementing the Army’s enterprise approach within our staff, which includes managing things like personnel issues and logistics issues at the lowest possible level of organization. When we power down some of these management issues to our regional and O & F (operational/functional) commands during our BRAC move, it may make sense for those commands to retain management of some of those issues.

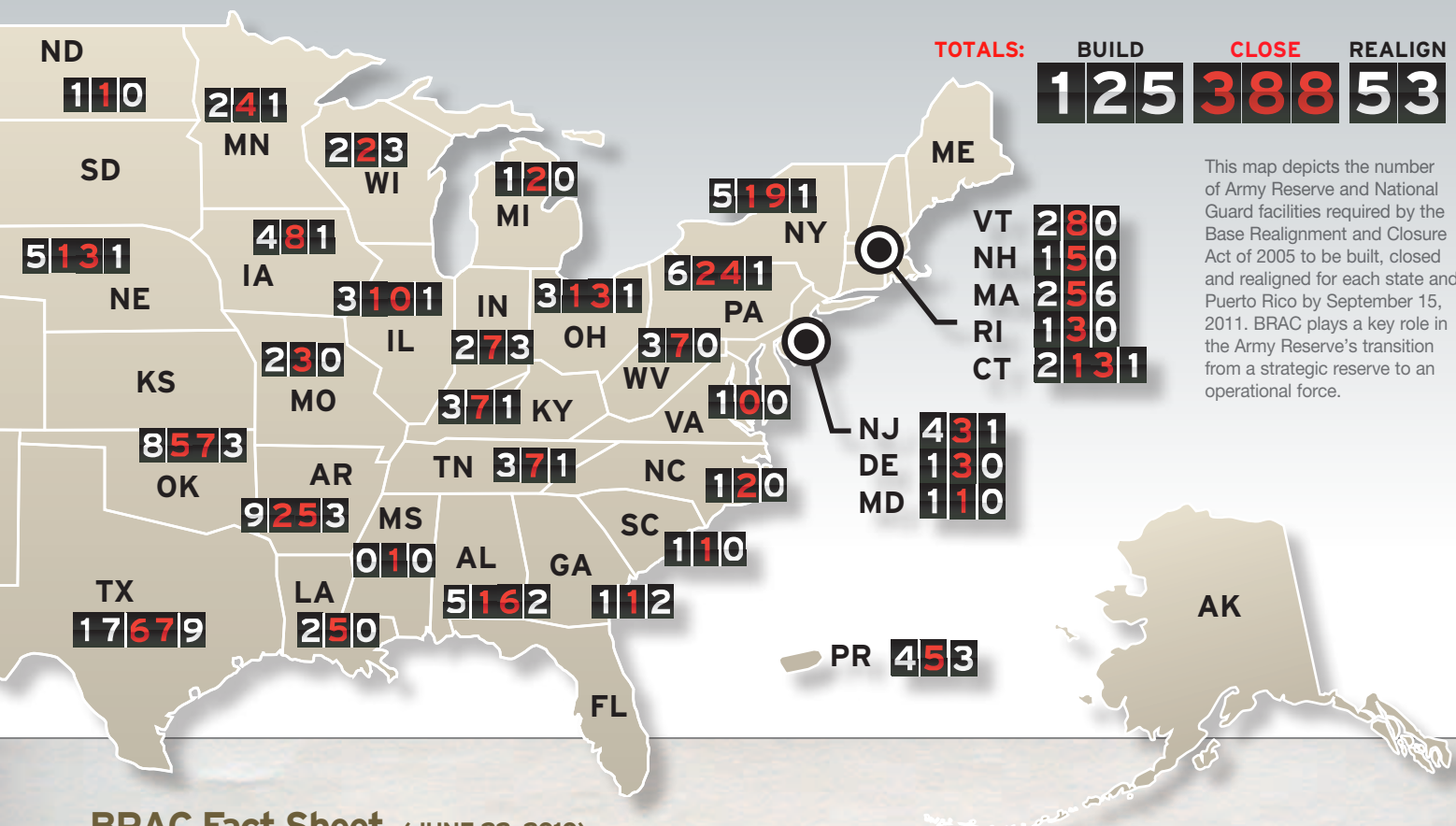
Another benefit of BRAC is an initiative to ensure the latest level of modern equipment be built into the new Armed Forces Reserve Centers, where space and resources will be shared between components—Reserve and National Guard—or other services.



At the Regional Support Command level, base transition coordinators are synchronizing the remaining BRAC actions between RSCs, operational and functional commands and the local community. The moves will not be too disruptive to drilling Army Reserve Soldiers, as most Soldiers will continue to drill within fifty miles of their home of record. Many resources are available to impacted Soldiers and Family members, as outlined in this issue of Warrior-Citizen. Questions and concerns should be routed through the traditional chain of command as we execute these actions.

Though a significant number of BRAC actions remain, the transition of people and resources will occur through hard work and diligence at every level within the command. But while the BRAC move ensures we will be in place by September of 2011, transformation never stops.

We cannot lose sight of our overall responsibility; we exist as an organization for one purpose: to provide trained and ready troops and units whenever the nation calls us. The Army Reserve has proven to be a crucial and valuable force in a near decade at war and these changes will help us align our headquarters for the future, stationing our forces in modern facilities with the best training and equipment available so we can continue the best investment the nation makes in its defense. ■



BRAC Fact Sheet (JUNE 22, 2010)

USARC: FORT MCPHERSON TO FORT BRAGG

- USARC Personnel: 1,345 total (475 military, 870 civilian)
- FORSCOM Personnel: 1,428 total (478 military, 950 civilian)
- The Army Reserve represents 49% of the new HQs being built at Fort Bragg.
- The new construction cost has an impact of over \$300 million, with additional impact for renovation.
- The long term impact is the addition of almost 3,000 more full time employees to the NC area.

OCAR: CRYSTAL CITY TO FORT BELVOIR

- OCAR Personnel: 438 total (263 military, 175 civilian)
- Ground-breaking and construction of the new HQ and Staff facility on north Fort Belvoir, Va. is forecasted to begin in September 2010.
- Occupancy of the new HQ is based upon a 'fast-track design and construction' plan. No occupancy date is published at this time.
- OCAR staffs are scheduled to begin moving to Fort Belvoir during late FY-11, depending upon the functional readiness of the building.
- OCAR staff will have an effect on the Fayetteville economy as many will spend time at Fort Bragg, where they will purchase services such as hotel rooms, rental cars, meals in restaurants, etc.

IMPORTANT POINTS

USARC is roughly the same size as FORSCOM. About 60% of the USARC jobs are either government civilian or contractor, which will bring additional revenues and potential employment into the Fayetteville community.

The Army Reserve is committed to accomplishing stationing actions and maintaining readiness while simultaneously working to ensure that our Soldiers and Families enjoy the benefits of installation improvements which help preserve our All-Volunteer Force.

Stationing is complex. There are many factors to consider and synchronize in order to ensure the Army Reserve becomes more efficient—while sustaining our operational commitments. We are committed to ensure that installation quality of life essentials—such as child care centers, family housing, and barracks—are in place upon the arrival of Soldiers and their Families.

BRAC 2005 is enabling the Army to become more relevant and ready. This move is designed to enhance the well-being of our Soldiers, Families, civilians, and members living, working and training on our installations. ✘

To learn more about BRAC and the Army Reserve's progress in achieving our transformation, along with the various strategies and resources that are in place to assist Soldiers and their Families, see our feature stories beginning on page 16.



blogs + websites

The Web offers many free, interactive resources to help Warrior-Citizens and their Families make informed decisions regarding their health, finances, career and education. Here are some of the latest new and useful online tools for Soldiers.



AW2.ARMYLIVE.DODLIVE.MIL




THE AW2 BLOG IS THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF THE ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR

PROGRAM. Taking care of wounded warriors is an important part of the Army's mission. The Army Wounded Warrior Program is the official U.S. Army program that assists and advocates for severely wounded, injured, and ill Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families, wherever they are located, for as long as it takes. AW2 provides individualized support to this unique population of Soldiers and Veterans, who were injured or became ill during their service in Overseas Contingency Operations since 9/11. AW2 is a key component of the Army's commitment, the Army Family Covenant, to wounded warriors and their Families. All wounded, injured and ill Soldiers—who are expected to require six months of rehabilitative care and the need for complex medical management—are assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit to focus on healing before returning to duty or transitioning to Veteran status. Those who meet AW2 eligibility are simultaneously assigned to the AW2 and receive a local AW2 Advocate to personally assist them long term. Wounded Soldiers are eligible for a wide array of benefits in order to help them recover physically, prepare financially and build their skills for a rewarding career.




WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MYARMYRESERVE

 **THIS IS THE OFFICIAL FACEBOOK SITE OF THE ARMY RESERVE.** The MyArmyReserve facebook site is a community of Soldiers, Family members, and others who want to share resources, information and a personal connection with the Army Reserve. The site gives each user the ability to interact with other members of the community, ask questions of subject matter experts, and to share their own point of view. Those who follow MyArmyReserve will have access to the latest information, news and resources and a place where their voice is heard.




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WWW.HQDA.ARMY.MIL/ACSIM/BRAC/BRACO.HTM



BRAC IS A MEANS BY WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) RECONFIGURES ITS INFRASTRUCTURE into one where operational capacity is optimized for both warfighting capability and efficiency. The BRAC website offers tools, resources and background information that helps both Soldiers and Families plan, prepare and conduct re-locations across all 50 states. Want to know about schools, real estate and programs in the state you're moving to? BRAC 2005 is your site.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PFC.
CHALON E. HUTSON, 301ST
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT



“If I’m telling Soldiers, ‘this is what you need to do,’ but I’m not doing it myself, I’m not leading from the front.”

— MICHAEL D. SCHULTZ, COMMAND
SGT. MAJ., U.S. ARMY RESERVE

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Shultz presents the Army Reserve Sergeant Audie Murphy Award to Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Mercado on behalf of her husband, the late Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado, for his legacy of service, “which exemplifies the attributes of those deserving this prestigious honor,” according to Schultz.

back to basics

PHOENIX — After nearly a decade at war, the once strategic force of “weekend warriors” has given way to an operational force of Army Reserve Soldiers blending seamlessly with their active-component counterparts.

“As a result of multiple deployments, we have the most seasoned combat veterans since World War II,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, command sergeant major for the U.S. Army Reserve Command. “Still, we can do a better job providing true mentorship to our junior non-commissioned officers and Soldiers.”

“Getting back to the basics” was the senior NCO theme at the recent Army Reserve Senior Leader Conference. The biannual conference gives leaders the opportunity to discuss and plan the Army Reserve’s future.

Schultz said that the Army has been in such a constant state of high operations tempo supporting multiple, recurring deployments, that leaders have lost awareness or neglected some of the basic Soldier care and Family support programs they used to focus on in the garrison environment or at home station. These programs include things like counseling, uniform issues, Family readiness and accountability for the physical readiness of Soldiers.

“We haven’t been doing a good job of taking care of our Soldiers,” Schultz said. “Training,

teaching and mentoring are fundamental NCO responsibilities.”

Schultz cited an increase in Soldiers attending NCOES who exceed body fat standards as a quantitative example of NCOs letting down their junior enlisted Soldiers.

“Overweight Soldiers not in compliance with AR 600-9 should be flagged and barred from attending schools. As a result of NCOs failing to uphold the standard, an increased number of Army Reserve Soldiers are achieving course standards marginally, which can adversely impact that Soldier’s career,” he said.

Schultz plans for this to change. According to a directive he gave command sergeants major in attendance at the conference, leaders should refer to his acronym “HOA,” whenever they make a decision, where “H” stands for hypocrisy, “O” stands for ownership and “A” stands for action.

“If I’m telling Soldiers, ‘this is what you need to do,’ but I’m not doing it myself, I’m not leading from the front,” he said, giving an example of poor leadership.

“Most Soldiers joined this all-volunteer Army because they want to be challenged,” Schultz continued. “They knew they would be doing PT and dealing with stressful situations. They want to train and it’s up to their NCOs to get creative, challenge them and provide that training.”



A second acronym Schultz refers to is TT or “tree time”. He explains it as a time spent talking to and getting to know the Soldiers in the unit.

“As a squad leader, team leader or platoon sergeant, leaders have the opportunity to grab their Soldiers and take them out - under a tree or somewhere in the Reserve center - and have lunch together,” he said. Mentoring in such a way is the right thing to do as an NCO, he added, and it also provides an opportunity to get to know your Soldiers better than reviewing records or communicating through e-mail.



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz speaks to the Board of Directors at the Army Reserve Senior Leader Conference in Phoenix, Ariz.

During the Senior Leader Conference, Schultz had the opportunity to honor a Soldier who exemplified “getting back to the basics.” On Oct. 16, he presented an honorary Army Reserve Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Award to Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Mercado, on behalf of her husband, the late Master Sgt. Pedro Mercado, who was killed on June 17, 2010, at Fort Gillem, Ga.

Following the Fort Gillem shooting, Schultz had the opportunity to learn from Soldiers and leaders about the kind of Soldier Mercado was and felt he would be the ideal candidate for the award, which honors Soldiers who epitomize the highest standard of NCO leadership.

“Master Sgt. Mercado was a Soldier’s Soldier,” said Schultz. “He took care of everyone, not just the NCOs. He was always leading from the front and always looking out for their best interest. I wish I would’ve had that NCO serving with me – for me in one of my units because that’s the kind of NCOs I want out there leading the troops.”

“That’s really what it’s about. We have to do our jobs to get back to the basics.” ■

THE heroes of ohio

BY MAJ. JENNY LYNN GRIFFIN,
310TH EXPEDITIONARY
SUSTAINMENT COMMAND,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Bedford Heights, Ohio Mayor Fletcher D. Berger talks about the courageous actions of the three 319th Quartermaster Battalion Soldiers, Specialists James Taylor, Pauline Vu, and Zachary Thompson.

BEDFORD HEIGHTS, Ohio — Bedford Heights, Ohio Mayor Fletcher D. Berger recognized three Ohio Soldiers with the 319th Quartermaster Battalion Oct. 5, 2010, for their bravery and leadership in responding and assisting the town’s emergency staff following a serious vehicle accident on Aug. 6. Berger presented special commendation awards to Spc. James Taylor, Spc. Pauline Vu and Spc. Zachary Thompson at their city council meeting.

As fire department paramedic Mark Famiano arrived on the scene and began his medical assessment and treatment, the three 319th Soldiers stopped their vehicle and ran toward the EMT to render medical support. All of the Soldiers, having received first aid training in the military, assisted Famiano as he administered intravenous fluids and controlled the bleeding of the victims.

According to Famiano, the brave Soldiers from the 319th greatly improved the patient’s outcome. “Even though we are trained to adjust to all situations, being the only paramedic on the scene while the rest of the guys are en route can be a bit daunting,” Famiano said. “The assistance provided by the members of the 319th Quartermaster Battalion greatly complemented my abilities as a trained paramedic,” Famiano said.

“Such actions are not as common as one would suspect,” Fire Department Lt. Daniel Fritz explained. “We are used to rolling up and having bystanders look on, but when men and women with their kind of training are available and are willing to assist us, it makes our job that much easier.”

Overwhelmed by all the attention Taylor, Vu and Thompson received for their heroic actions, they simply gave the credit to being trained as Soldiers by the Army Reserve. Thompson, a combat lifesaver, who also serves as a petroleum fuel tester, said his comrades would not hesitate to act in the same manner if the situation arose again.

After the 30-minute ceremony, Thompson unassumingly stated, “We were just doing what we’re trained to do. That’s all.”

Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commander of the 377th TSC, whose area of responsibility includes the 319th, commended the brave Soldiers for their initiative and resilience. “Being able to respond at home or abroad at a moment’s notice, as we see these young Soldiers do, quite literally meaning the difference between life and possible death, is what the Army Reserve is all about.”

“I am proud of them, I am honored they took their training seriously and when fate called on them, they were ready, trained and able to serve.” ■

“...when fate called on them, they were ready, trained and able to serve.”

— MAJ. GEN. LUIS R. VISOT, COMMANDER, 377TH TSC

in the wake of the tsunami

Villagers walk around debris and a house that was smashed by a tsunami in Pago Pago Harbor, one in a series of tsunamis that flattened villages and left thousands homeless.



PHOTO BY HUGH GENTRY, COURTESY REUTERS AND CORBIS IMAGES

BY CHRISTINA DOUGLAS,
9TH MISSION SUPPORT
COMMAND, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“I won’t forget that day. I had never seen something like that before – not in my whole life.”

— SGT. 1ST CLASS TATA AGA

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa —

On the morning of Sept. 29, 2009, four massive waves ripped through the hearts and homes of local communities throughout the island of Tutuila.

“I won’t forget that day. I had never seen something like that before—not in my whole life,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tata Aga, 42, who had just weeks before returned from a year-long deployment where he led convoys in the desert.

When the sea calmed, Aga’s two-bedroom, shoreline home lay in ruins. There was no power, no potable water and food that would only last a couple of days. While going through the wreckage, Aga came across his ocean-soaked uniform and laid it out to dry.

He teamed with neighbors to care for those in need. Then, just days after the devastating tsunami that left 34 dead, Aga donned his uniform, left his house in shambles and went into the Army Reserve Center where he assisted in organizing disaster relief efforts to help the most critically-affected villages in need.

Aga was one of 49 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 9th Mission Support Command honored in a Humanitarian Service Medal Award presentation on Sept. 29 at the Sergeant First Class Konelio Pele Army Reserve Center in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

In the ceremony, U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the historic 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 411th Engineer Battalion’s Forward Support Company, the Theater Support Group and the 127th Chaplain Detachment were recognized for providing disaster relief efforts immediately following the tragic 2009 tsunami.

The HSM for Operation Pacific Wave was authorized earlier in 2010 by the Department of Defense for service members who directly participated in the humanitarian efforts in American Samoa.

According to Brig. Gen. Michele G. Compton, commanding general, 9th Mission Support Command, roughly one-third of the Soldiers providing disaster relief efforts had homes which had suffered significant damage or had been completely destroyed, and yet these Soldiers persevered. “They did what needed to be done to help others. They carried on, placed the mission first and didn’t quit.”

Following the 8.3-magnitude earthquake that resulted in the devastating tsunami waves, Soldiers from the 9th MSC sprung into action to support their brothers and sisters in arms and the local American Samoan community.

As the first U.S. federal responders, the 9th MSC became the lead in reporting to U.S. Army, Pacific, and transformed the U.S. Army Reserve Center in

American Samoa—Tutuila's only standing federal military installation—into a hub for all military responders.

The Soldiers conducted ground assessments and provided other crucial information that facilitated the larger response effort that would eventually come.

Throughout the day and night, Army Reserve Soldiers used what they had available to help, including their own ingenuity. They looked for survivors, cleared debris and offered a hand where ever they could, said Compton.

During the days of relief assistance that followed, the Soldiers supported the FEMA's missions to include the American Red Cross by moving critical supplies to villages that were hit the hardest. Soldiers also continued to provide search and recovery operations, medical care to civilians and conducted massive debris removal across Tutuila.

This was part of a total joint force effort as active duty, Reserve and National Guard service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard combined their resources to provide a wide range of emergency response capabilities in support of the lead U.S. government agency, FEMA, as it addressed requirements from the local government in the villages of Pago Pago and Leone.



9th Mission Support Command Soldiers move critical supplies to villages that were hit hardest by the tsunami.

American Samoa Lt. Gov. Faoa Sunia, the ceremony's guest speaker, said that the Soldiers were heroes in his mind.

"Support came so quickly that the citizens almost didn't have time to mourn," he said.

Sunia then looked at the Soldiers and said, "All you had were your hands and your kind hearts ... on behalf of the people of the community, we are very grateful." 📷

PHOTO COURTESY 9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND PAO

SOLDIERS TOWN HALL

WITH LT. GEN. JACK STULTZ



What does the future look like for the Army Reserve?

We are in a period of uncertainty. Both the impact of the draw-down in Iraq and Afghanistan to the Army Reserve and the current state of the economy is uncertain. A number of studies being conducted around the world indicate the future of the Army, and defense forces, is not set in stone. However, we as a force cannot wait for studies. I am pushing leaders to move forward; forward with training, forward with plans for the Operational Reserve, and forward with our goals and strategies. Relevant, engaging training will enable our Soldiers to be trained and ready on a cyclical basis. Knowing what to expect in the ARFORGEN cycle, and having tools and information Soldiers and their Families need when the time to deploy comes, creates a stability that the Operational Army Reserve is designed to do..

What will happen to the Army Reserve when the drawdown happens?

I feel really great about the missions we're doing around the world — it's not just about Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a tremendous role for the Operational Army Reserve outside of the current Iraq/Afghanistan OPTEMPO. Army Reserve forces are doing some great nation-building. Soldiers in Singapore, Kenya, Vietnam, Cambodia and many other countries are doing outstanding work for the people and the host nations. There are some really incredible opportunities for the Army Reserve all around the world.

What are some challenges we'll be facing in the near future in the Army Reserve?

There are still many battles to face. In an era of diminished and limited resources, we need to come together as One Army to overcome obstacles, eliminate redundancy and elevate efficiency. It's going to require a whatever-it-takes mentality. We will have to make stronger and harder choices to keep things going. We will likely have fewer resources in a declining OPTEMPO. We will need to explain to Soldiers why we're constrained. This could mean eliminating some of the more repetitive programs we have available. This does not mean we're going to remove the assistance those groups provide, it's just being smarter with what we have and how we use it. We will take care of our Soldiers and their Families. We're headed for some growing pains, but they are manageable.

For the full Q&A from the Soldiers Town Hall, visit the Army Reserve site at www.usar.army.mil/arweb/soldiers/Pages/townhall.aspx.

go

BY MAJ. MARK WILLIFORD,
75TH BATTLE COMMAND TRAINING
DIVISION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Maj. Clayton White, 1st Battle Command Training Brigade, 75th Division, mentors company-level soldiers of the 23rd Infantry Brigade, Armed Forces Liberia. As a member of a U.S. Africa Command Traveling Contact Team, White spent a week mentoring officers and NCOs on the principles, roles and responsibilities of an NCO.

“They have the same problems as we do within our Army.”

— 1ST SGT. JUAN MEDRANO, 75TH
BATTLE COMMAND TRAINING DIVISION

Warrior Mentors in Liberia



PHOTO BY 1ST SGT. JUAN MEDRANO, 1ST BCTB

EDWARD BINYAH KESSELY

BARRACKS, Liberia — When two 75th Battle Command Training Division Army Reserve Soldiers from Houston travelled to Africa to serve as mentors to Liberian soldiers, little did they realize their mission would be the first step in fulfilling the dreams of a people once longing for freedom.

1st Sgt. Juan Medrano and Maj. Clayton White of the 1st Battle Command Training Brigade, Ellington Field, Texas, quickly noticed the pride and professionalism of the officers and NCOs of the Liberian 23rd Infantry Brigade: shined boots, pressed uniforms and a historic star and stripes flag sewn on their right uniform shoulder.

“They proudly wore their national flag on their woodland pattern camouflage uniforms,” said Medrano. Medrano didn’t realize that the lone white star on a field of blue with red and white stripes was symbolic of the nation’s initial ties with the United States. Liberia’s history began as a nation birthed by U.S. citizens in 1827 as haven for former black slaves.

Their weeklong training in August 2010 began a new mission for the 75th that supports U.S. Army Africa’s vision of training, coaching and mentoring African armies.

White said the Traveling Contact Team concept is an effort to support AFRICOM’s responsibility for developing relations with 53 continental African nations.

Medrano and White said the 35 Liberians asked questions ranging from how to “put up with” difficult superiors to leading troops.

“They have the same problems as we do within our Army,” Medrano said. He stressed to the Soldiers that mission accomplishment and loyalty to the nation were paramount when dealing with superiors.

Medrano understands how important loyalty is within an Army and the importance of the mentoring training. In 1980, Master Sgt. Samuel K. Doe, a Liberian NCO, led a bloody coup that toppled the government, thus sparking years of civil unrest.

White said the goal of the training was to enhance the professionalism of the Armed Forces of Liberia by familiarizing the students with U.S. Department of Defense military values, standards, professionalism and devotion to duty.

“I was impressed by the level of professionalism and devotion to duty the AFL presented,” White said. ☐



Alabama Governor Bob Riley poses with Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families from around the state. The Governor invited them to an hour-long entertainment program designed to show his appreciation.

sweet home alabama

STORY AND PHOTO BY GAIL E. ANDERSON, 81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Every year, the Alabama Department of Economic and Consumer Affairs (ADECA) presents a week-long exposition called “Living in Alabama” as part of its Alabama Advantage Program. The Alabama Advantage Program is designed for residents new to Alabama. As a culmination to the week’s events, ADECA hosted a 40-45 minute entertainment program to showcase benefits of living in Alabama communities, to unveil its annual magazine and to honor Army Reserve Soldiers.

Last year, the primary audience for the program consisted of Army National Guard Soldiers and their Families from throughout Alabama. This year, Governor Bob Riley and ADECA’s director, Doni Ingram, said “wait a minute; let’s honor Army Reserve Soldiers that call Alabama home.”

For Mrs. Ingram, thinking to invite Alabama’s Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families to the show was as natural as breathing. After all, she is the wife of Maj. Gen. (ret.) Charles Ingram, the former commander of the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command.

When ADECA leaders decided to highlight the service of Army Reserve Soldiers and their Family members, the 81st Regional Support Command became the catalyst to identify 15-20 Army Reserve Soldiers who live throughout the state.

The 81st worked with commands with units in Alabama, and Soldiers quickly agreed to attend the ADECA program and meet the Governor.

Approximately 45 Alabama Soldiers and their Family members attended the July 30 event. The moderators for the event, The Camellia Girls from

Greenville, Ala., began the program with the posting of the colors by members of the Alexander City, Ala., Veterans Honor Guard, which included Cecil Bryant, a 95-year old WWII veteran who took his basic training at Camp Jackson (now Fort Jackson).

After the posting of the colors, each Soldier was invited on stage to introduce himself or herself. After the introductions, Alabama Republican Congressmen Robert Aderholt and Spencer Bachus talked to the troops via video teleconference from Washington, D.C., and expressed their gratitude to the Soldiers for their service commitment and to the Family members for their selfless sacrifices.

Upon completion of the VTC, the Soldiers and their Family members were treated to several patriotic vocal selections performed by Sheila Jackson, from Troy, Ala., and Randy Jinks who works for the Alabama Department of Parks and Recreation.

The event culminated when the Soldiers and their Family members were invited upstairs to the Capitol Building archives hall, where they had the opportunity to be individually and collectively photographed with Governor Riley.

Riley greeted each Soldier and Family member with a warm, genuine smile and gave each Soldier a Governor’s challenge coin.

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Colvin, Hamilton, Ala., said he and his Family thoroughly enjoyed the program, getting a coin and having the chance to meet his state’s chief executive. “It’s great that Governor Riley has done this for my Family and me. It makes me appreciate and honor him even more now, and it makes me proud to be an Alabamian.” 🇺🇸

TOP REGIONAL RECRUITING ASSISTANTS OCT-DEC 2010

REGION 1

Sgt. Jared Miller
Oneonta, N.Y.

REGION 2

Spc. Roy Ott
Greensburg, Pa.

REGION 3

Staff Sgt. Adrian Gaines
Suffolk, Va.

REGION 4

Spc. Andrea Mathis
Memphis, Tenn.

REGION 5

Staff Sgt. James Ring
Lakeland, Fla.

REGION 6

Pfc. Bobby Gleaton
Decatur, Ga.

REGION 7

CW2 Michael Walker
Spanaway, Wash.

REGION 8

1st Lt. Jeremiah Brady
Oak Creek, Wis.

REGION 9

Sgt. Tina Schultz
Rolling Meadows, Ill.

REGION 10

Sgt. Robert Tackett
Columbus, Ohio

REGION 11

Spc. Juan Velasquez
Bakersfield, Calif.

REGION 12

Ltc. Steven Cox
Houston, Texas

REGION 13

1st Sgt. Robert Zamora
Kaysville, Utah

BY 1ST. SGT. BOBBY J. WHITE,
7TH CIVIL SUPPORT COMMAND,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

europe's first civil affairs brigade

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany —

A sunny fall day provided the perfect backdrop for an historic event as Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Miller addressed the formation of Soldiers on the parade field.

“Stand tall and proud. This is a day that you will remember for the rest of your lives,” said Miller, a native of Carlisle, Penn. “I am honored to activate this historical unit here in Europe and to serve as the brigade’s first command sergeant major.”

The 361st Civil Affairs Brigade and its subordinate 457th Civil Affairs Battalion were formally added to the rolls as Europe’s first civil affairs brigade on Daenner Kaserne’s parade

field on Sept. 17, 2010. Both units are part of the 7th Civil Support Command, the only U.S. Army Reserve command completely stationed abroad.

“Many of the Soldiers on the field today have been fully engaged in the monumental task of forming this new civil affairs brigade ... which is the first of its kind stationed on foreign soil,” said Col. Friedbert Humphrey, commander of the 361st.

Soldiers in the brigade can be called upon to conduct various missions across Germany and Italy in support of the 7th CSC, the 21st Theater

Members of the 457th Civil Affairs Battalion stand in formation at the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade activation ceremony Sept. 17 on Daenner Kaserne’s parade field. The 457th Civil Affairs Battalion has four reserve companies throughout Europe, including Italy, Bamberg, Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden, Germany.



Sustainment Command, the Joint Multinational Readiness Command, U.S. Army Europe and U.S. European Command.

In their civilian jobs, Soldiers assigned to the brigade and battalion are employed throughout Europe in jobs such as public health professionals, lawyers, water management specialists, sewage plant directors, college professors, unit administrators and engineers. In addition to these broad career fields, they also bring foreign language abilities, such as Arabic, Czech, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Swahili.

“My cultural and religious background, which originate from India, and my military specialty, which is animal care specialist and food inspector specialist, will be great assets during deployments and will help support the President’s National Security Strategy,” said Staff Sgt. Yasmin Khan, Company B, 457th CA Bn., and a native of Tampa, Fla.

The 361st CA Bde. will assist commanders in developing effective working relationships with civil authorities and local populations during peace time, contingency operations and in support of disaster relief efforts.

“Living in a wide variety of European cultures, our civil affairs Soldiers are refining their cultural, language and interpersonal relationship skills on a daily basis,” said Humphrey, a native of Augsburg, Germany. “This remarkable unit is well on its way to becoming the premier civil affairs brigade in the Army inventory.”

Brigade Soldiers will also provide civil affairs training to NATO members in conjunction with EUCOM’s military-to-military program, as well as support missions like Joint Task Force-East in Romania and Bulgaria in 2009 and other missions in areas like Azerbaijan, Uganda and Germany. ✕



The 361st Civil Affairs Brigade’s color guard marches across Daenner Kaserne’s parade field Sept. 17 to participate in the activation ceremony of the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade and the 457th Civil Affairs Battalion.

“Many of the Soldiers on the field today have been fully engaged in the monumental task of forming this new civil affairs brigade... which is the first of its kind stationed on foreign soil.”

— COL. FRIEDBERT HUMPHREY, COMMANDER, 361ST CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION





DOWN THE BRAC ROADS



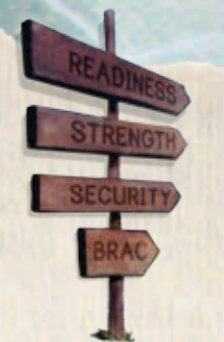
By Melissa Russell
ARMY RESERVE COMMUNICATIONS

WASHINGTON — Leaders from across the Army Reserve met in Phoenix, Ariz., as part of the Chief, Army Reserve's semi-annual Senior Leaders Conference to plan and discuss how to execute the most complex move Army Reserve headquarters has ever faced in its 102 years of existence.

In order to comply with the BRAC Act of 2005, the Army Reserve will move the U.S. Army Reserve Command from Fort McPherson, Ga., to Fort Bragg, N.C.; and its Office of the Chief, Army Reserve from Arlington, Va., to Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Transformation never stops," said Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief, Army Reserve and commander of the U.S. Army Reserve Command. "And the Army Reserve will use the opportunity that BRAC provides to better position our forces to support current operations and to power down to our major commands, during the move, some of the functions that are typically managed at the Army Reserve Headquarters."

"We're implementing the Army's enterprise approach within our staff, which includes managing things like personnel issues and logistics issues at the lowest possible level of organization," Stultz said. "When we power down some of these management issues to our regional and operational/functional commands during our BRAC move, it may make sense for those commands to retain management of some of those issues."



DOWN THE BRAC ROADS

BRAC FACTS and FIGURES

BRAC 2005 resulted in the establishment of new commands and units, the realignment of command and control structure and has played a key role in the Army Reserve's transition from a strategic reserve to an operational force.

"Because of BRAC, we are constructing 125 new joint and multi-component reserve centers and closing 176 older Army Reserve facilities," said David Gilbert, Chief of the BRAC Division at the U.S. Army Reserve Command. "In the years since the law was enacted, we've gone from 12 Regional Readiness Commands to four Regional Support Commands; we've stood up operational and functional commands and completely realigned Army Reserve command and control."

The Army Reserve has activated eight Sustainment Brigades and five Sustainment Commands and acquired 26 of 30 commercial properties, as part of BRAC compliance.

"Even with all that we've accomplished to transform the Army Reserve and realign our command and control structure to support an enduring operational Army Reserve," Stultz said, "the fact is that the bulk of our moves to comply with BRAC will be happening during the next year and must be completed by Sept. 15, 2011. So it's important that we highlight support available to our Soldiers and Families as we execute this complex move."

"We can connect AR Soldiers and Family members impacted by BRAC moves with employment opportunities, wherever they choose to live."

— LT. COL. MATT LEONARD, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, EPO



Taking Care of Soldiers, civilians and Family members impacted by BRAC

Now that the BRAC-directed relocation of the Army Reserve Headquarters is underway in earnest, there is going to be some turbulence in the civilian work force until the process is complete.

"We have been executing strategies to mitigate civilian work force turbulence for some time," said Kim Meyer, USARC's deputy human capital officer. "In fact, USARC anticipated the need for personnel at Fort Bragg and started a training program to bring on 60 new employees about two years ago. We had a highly successful planning session with Fort Bragg civilian personnel office and feel we are prepared to address all personnel issues related to BRAC."

No matter where civilian personnel impacted by BRAC are located, and whether they choose to move with a command or not, they can always use the resources of the local or regional installation civilian personnel office, Meyer said. Also, for information about employment opportunities worldwide, they can visit www.usajobs.gov or www.cpol.army.mil.

"For employees who do relocate, they may receive Permanent Change of Station benefits along with relocation services under the Department of Defense National Relocation Program," Meyer said. "The Army Reserve has authorized a relocation incentive for those employees who relocate which is 25 percent of their salary for a one-year service agreement.

Employees must otherwise meet the specific requirements of each program/benefit to be eligible."

For more information, visit the DNRP website at: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/dnrp.htm>

"Employees who don't relocate may receive job placement assistance from the Department of Defense Priority Placement Program and the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan," Meyer said.

Another resource available to Soldiers and Family members is the Employer Partnership website (<http://www.employerpartnership.org>) managed by the Employer Partnership Office.

"EPO supports Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families and it supplies employers with valuable and talented employees," said Lt. Col. Matt Leonard, public affairs officer for EPO. "We can connect AR Soldiers and Family members impacted by BRAC moves with employment opportunities, wherever they choose to live."

The EPO website launched a powerful new job search portal online in November 2010 that offers an increased capability to those seeking employment opportunities, and vastly improves the Employer Partners' access to talent as well.

"The EPO program was launched to connect employers to the talent resident in the Army Reserve," Leonard said. "The website and its new job search tool also help those impacted by BRAC."

Leonard added that Army Reserve civilians impacted by BRAC could also use the website's job search function.

Installation support and support to Soldiers/Families at remote locations

Some Soldiers may be members of units that are moving from remote Army Reserve facilities to existing installations or new joint bases, which will make all sorts of installation support services available to them and their Family members.

"Unit leaders and administrative support personnel can coordinate to relocation support from the Army Community Service office at the gaining installation, said Ms. Sonia Wriglesworth, Director of Army Reserve Family Programs. "This will help to facilitate their in-processing, housing, school and access to community resources during the BRAC move."

"Another great resource for Soldiers, civilians and Family members impacted by BRAC moves, whether you are on an installation or at a remote location is Army OneSource," said Col. Jon Dahms, Chief, Public Affairs Division at OCAR. "This site will not only allow you to gain access to installation support services, it can also help you find help in local communities on a whole host of issues, including dealing with the psychological and emotional stress of the move."

Access Military OneSource at this link:
<http://www.myarmyonesource.com/default.aspx>

"We are also standing up Army Strong Community Centers whose sole purpose is to connect Soldiers and Families in remote locations with access to support services, including health and medical; child, youth and school services; Family assistance; legal assistance and employment assistance," said Wriglesworth. "We currently have four centers around the country and plan to stand up more in key remote locations across the United States."

For more information and for locations of Army Strong Community Centers, visit the Army Reserve Family Programs website and click on the ASCC link on the left:

<http://www.arfp.org/skins/ARFP/home.aspx?mode=user>

"We've been talking about BRAC for a long time now, and over the next year BRAC moves will challenge my headquarters and a good portion of the force," Stultz said. "We've done the hard work to plan for every eventuality.

We cannot miss a beat in providing ongoing support to our Soldiers and their Families, and ready troops for the war-fight. We are prepared." ✱



75th DIVISION GROWS WITH ELLINGTON FIELD

STORY AND PHOTO BY MAJ. MARK WILLIFORD, 75TH BATTLE COMMAND TRAINING DIVISION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS



HOUSTON — The screeching of jets is not the only sound now heard on Ellington Field. As construction booms, the sounds of earth-moving equipment fill the air at the historic NASA training airfield located in South Houston.

Dump trucks, graders and hard hat wearing Army Corps of Engineer construction supervisors are busy at work completing the largest construction project Ellington has seen in more than 30 years.

"More than \$100 million in construction projects are scheduled for completion in late December 2010," said Susan Brewer, real property development agent for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

According to Brewer, the hustle and bustle of activity is the execution of the East Houston BRAC Phase II Armed Forces Reserve Center, Houston Ellington Air Force Base project.

Ellington has emerged as a true Joint Reserve Base. Army, Navy and Marine Reserve units, that include a Coast Guard Air Station and Army and Air National Guard units, have resurrected the former Cold War Air Force Base into a state-of-the-art installation.

One current project includes the construction of a 66,000 square-foot training building for additional Army Reserve and National Guard units, with an approximately 12,000 square-foot vehicle maintenance shop and a 4,000 square-foot storage building.

In November 2008, the 75th Battle Command Training Division became the first Army Reserve unit to occupy facilities at the 93 year-old former World War I and World War II installation.

"The construction of a 28,000 square-foot Battle Command Training Center will allow our division to benefit Army Reserve commanders and their staffs," said Maj. Gen. Eldon Regua, 75th division commander. Regua said the center will allow unit commanders and their staffs to undergo Battle Command Training at their home stations, which means they will be able to access the latest battle simulation training packages.

"This will be a tremendous cost benefit to the Army Reserve as travel and logistical costs will be streamlined," said Regua.

"This new technology will literally save millions in training expenses. Commanders and their staffs will be able to participate in worldwide Battle Command and Staff Training through Distributed Simulation Software," said Regua. ✱

By Master Sgt. Steve Opet

THE O.P.





FORT BRAGG, N.C. — With just ten days remaining before more than 300 members of the advanced echelons of Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command and Headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Command began reporting to Fort Bragg, N.C., for duty, Oct. 1, 2010, the liaison teams and "Torch Party" representing each command made final preparations as the 2005 BRAC-directed relocation of the two commands' headquarters began in earnest.



PLUG AND

Ronna Garrett, officer in charge, FORSCOM Forward, said the entire team has worked tirelessly to be ready for the ADVON's arrival. "Our goal is to achieve a 'plug and play' standard," she said. "After a FORSCOM or USARC member reports in to our Welcome and In-processing Center here at the Old Bowley School, we want them to take care of administrative requirements, pick up their laptop computer, plug it in and go right to work."

"Achieving the 'plug and play' goal from the start will set the standard for main body arrival in 2011 and facilitates the need to maintain operational continuity throughout the relocation," said Garrett. "Both of our commands (FORSCOM and USARC) have critical missions in support of our national military strategy," she said. "We have to ensure those missions, which are centered on providing trained and ready forces to combatant commanders—at home and overseas—are accomplished even as our headquarters transition from Fort McPherson, Ga. to Fort Bragg, N.C."

Story and Photo By Jim Hinnant

U.S. Army Forces Command,
Public Affairs



TOP: Laura Reed, USARC G1 webmaster, places name labels on building diagrams, reserving individual workspaces at the FORSCOM/USARC Reception and Welcome Center.

WELCOME AND IN-PROCESSING CENTER

A combined Welcome and In-processing Center has been established in the J Building of the former elementary school, and for each inbound member of the FORSCOM or USARC staff, this will be their first exposure to what will be their work location until mid-June of 2011.

"We have worked very hard preparing for the ADVON," said Sherrie Glass, USARC's chief BRAC liaison officer at Fort Bragg, since 2009. "We want to make their arrival as smooth as possible, so we have information-packed welcome packets for everyone and staff representatives from various agencies who will be available to assist them with every aspect of settling in."

"Fort Bragg is a very large, very busy place," she said. "It's key that we make our team members feel at home right away, because for many of them the BRAC move has already been difficult enough."

Soldiers, Army civilians and contractors will check in, be issued welcome packets, and attend orientation sessions designed to help them and

their Families integrate with their new work and living environment.

"USARC Soldiers should, during normal duty hours, report as their orders state, to the FORSCOM/USARC Welcome Center in the J Building of Old Bowley School," said Glass. Once they have been accounted for, they will be directed to report to the Fort Bragg Reception Company.

RECEPTION CENTER

Active component Soldiers will typically report directly to the Reception Company, but some may first stop in at the J Wing. Not to worry, they'll also be welcomed aboard and then sent to the Reception Company. According to 1st Sgt. Blaine Huston, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Reserve Command, the Fort Bragg Reception Company, located adjacent to the Soldier Support Center, which is housed in the former Womack Army Hospital building on Bastogne Road, is ready to welcome and process FORSCOM and USARC Soldiers.

SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION

"All Soldiers, active or reserve component, from either command, should report as their orders direct," said Huston. "Once they are with the Reception Company, they'll accomplish their Fort Bragg installation processing and orientation, and then report back here (to the FORSCOM/USARC Special Troops Battalion) at Old Bowley School, do any additional processing necessary with the good folks in our Welcome Center in the J Building, and join their respective company."

The STB will make sure the Soldier and Family is properly situated in the community and that the Soldier is ready to devote full attention to his or her job within their respective headquarters staff section.

PLAY

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ADVISORY CENTER

For Army civilians, the Fort Bragg Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will be on hand to help with administrative needs, such as completing tax withholding forms changing their residence for tax purposes to North Carolina.

CPAC reps will also answer individual personnel-related questions and make sure the new arrivals know where to go for follow-on assistance.

"With renovations at areas of the former elementary school still underway, and as furniture and information technology installation continue, new arrivals need to be aware the atmosphere is one of constant change," said Garrett.

"Every day something new has been installed, or some other feature of our temporary home here at Old Bowley School—like the parking area—moves closer to completion," Garrett said. "With more than 400 people here, it (the Old Bowley School complex) will initially be a hectic environment requiring everyone to work together to minimize disruption and maintain mission focus."

WILL EVERYONE HAVE A "PLUG AND PLAY" ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE?

"We were able to use members of the Torch Party, who arrived in August, as a sort of 'test group' to work out some kinks," said Garrett. "We feel prepared for the rush. With everyone from U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command working together, I believe we'll meet our goal." ❖

BRAC to Bragg!

STORY AND PHOTO BY TIMOTHY L. HALE
ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Moving day finally arrived on Monday, Oct. 25, 2010, for 22 U.S. Army Reserve Command civilians from Fort McPherson, Ga., as they in-processed at the renovated Old Bowley School building to start their new lives on the sprawling Army post in the Sand Hills of North Carolina. This group comprises the largest number of employees from the Army Reserve to arrive so far.

And to almost each man and woman, the transition thus far has been relatively painless.

"This was easy," said Sis Akins, a USARC G8 employee. "Just the fact that the boxes were here when I arrived this morning. After our briefing next door all of our boxes were delivered in our cubicles. All I had to do was open them and put things away and I'm just about ready to go to work."

The day started with a short briefing by Fort Bragg civilian personnel specialists followed by a brief introduction by Jim Ferguson, a member of the USARC BRAC liaison team.

Prior to Monday's in-processing, Ferguson said there were already 58 USARC military and civilian employees that had made the move north from Atlanta to set the stage for the main advance team. Coupling those numbers with those who arrived in October set the wheels in motion for the main body movements which start in early 2011.

He added there would be 12 to 15 people arriving each week until Dec. 31, when most of the main advanced echelon team move will be complete.

"The way we do it for the Army Reserve is pretty unique," Ferguson said. "This is a civilian week, next week is all military. We're alternating weeks between civilian and military."

By the time the ADVON move is complete, Ferguson said there will be approximately 200 military and civilian Army Reserve employees in place at Fort Bragg.

Ferguson said the in-processing is relatively simple and doesn't take that much time.

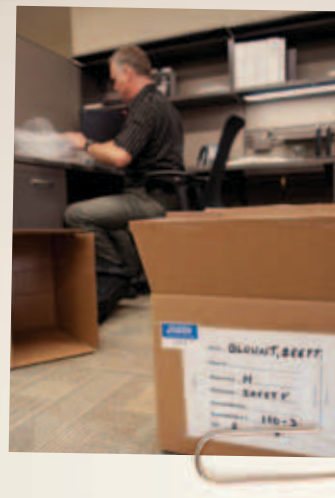
"We will have them fill out a few forms, answer some basic questions, give them some guidance like going on to MyPay and adjusting their W4s to North Carolina (for tax purposes)," he said. Afterwards each employee is taken to their new work-station to set-up and get ready for work.

"The good news is the phone number you get in the temporary building will be the same phone number you'll have once you migrate into the new building next summer," said Ferguson.

Once the main body starts arriving in March and April of next year, those employees will be moving into the renovated warehouse complex off of Gruber Road. Ferguson said the work there is nearing completion and should be finished by the first of March, if not sooner.

For Kathy Clark, this move is just one in a long line. She spent 20 years with the 89th Regional Support Command, in addition to other assignments as a government employee.

"Everything is on schedule; we're doing what we're supposed to do, getting in here on time. Now it's just a matter of organizing and getting to work," Clark said. ❖



FAST IN THE

**Story and Photos
By Timothy L. Hale**
Army Reserve Public Affairs

HAMPTON, Ga.
The Army Reserve was featured front and center before a crowd of thousands and a television audience of millions on the hood of a 700-horsepower Chevrolet Impala during the Emory Healthcare 500 on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

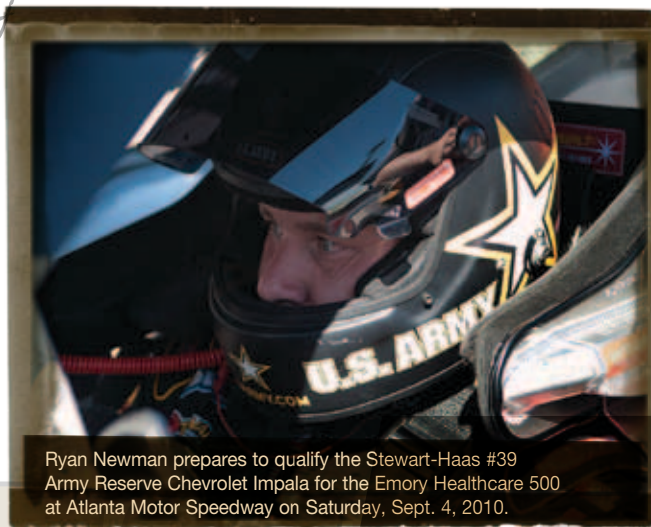


LANE



Ryan Newman leads in the early laps of the Emory Healthcare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.

Ryan Newman



Ryan Newman prepares to qualify the Stewart-Haas #39 Army Reserve Chevrolet Impala for the Emory Healthcare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010.

In true Warrior fashion, NASCAR driver

Ryan Newman and the No. 39 U.S. Army Reserve team overcame a mid-race tangle on the track to finish eighth in the Labor Day showcase event, giving testament to the never accept defeat spirit of the Warrior Ethos.



To see more images from the entire race weekend,

“It appeared we were doomed a couple of times out there, but we never gave up in our U.S. Army Reserve Chevrolet,” said Newman, who notched his second straight top-10 finish.

“We kept our poise and fought back just as our Soldiers do every day. The last 50 laps were some of the best racing I’ve ever seen here at Atlanta.”

After qualifying on the outside of row one the day before, Newman took the lead early in the race and appeared to be on pace for a win.

He encountered his first problem on lap 152 of 325 when his right-front fender got crunched during a three-car incident in turn three of the 1.54-mile oval. The damage resulted in Newman making three unscheduled pit stops to allow the Army Reserve crew to make the necessary repairs.

As the race was winding down, Newman’s slick driving powered the No. 39 Army Reserve machine into the top five and it appeared he was going to finish fourth. But with a couple of laps remaining, Newman did all he could to save his car from crashing into the wall after being hit from behind.

“That was one great driving job by Ryan,” said No. 39 crew chief Tony Gibson. “If the car goes into the wall, we don’t finish in the top 10; we finish at the rear of the field.”

The one-race sponsorship was just one of the weekend highlights at the track for the Army Reserve.

Outside the track, the Army Reserve was showcased at the Strength in Action Zone where race fans were able to talk with Soldiers about the Army. (See sidebar story on the right.)



The Stewart-Haas Racing crew service the #39 Army Reserve Chevrolet Impala during a pitstop at the Emory Healthcare 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.



Strength in Action



Army Reserve Sgt. Anthony Mitchell, 3rd Medical Deployment Support Command, Fort Gillem, Ga., talks with Atlanta-area high school students at the Army Strength in Action Zone.

HAMPTON, Ga. — More than 500 Atlanta-area high school students arrived at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sept. 3, 2010, to visit the Army Strength in Action Zone for the weekend's Labor Day race festivities.

Among the Army Soldiers showing the students the many job opportunities available to them after graduation was Sgt. Anthony Mitchell, an Army Reserve public affairs specialist assigned to the 3rd Medical Deployment Support Command.

"I am running a booth to give young people more information because they are interested in joining the Army or Army Reserve by showing them some of the things we do medically to keep their interest," Mitchell said.

Some of the combat lifesaver skills that he demonstrated included evaluating a casualty, treating open chest wounds and temporarily setting a broken leg.

For Spalding High School ninth-grader Ryan Ragsdale, the Strength in Action Zone provided an opportunity to examine the medical career field since he would like to become an Army medic.

"You get to learn how to treat a wound properly and reassure them (the patients)," he said.

For Amate Diop, a student at Banneker High School, the medical display is helping him make a decision for his future after high school.

"I think the Army Reserve is a great thing for me to do after college," he said.

Mitchell said the students he spoke with were very receptive to see what Army Reserve Soldiers do.

"Everybody I spoke with was really great," Mitchell said. "They are wide-eyed and very open to information. They just want to learn as much as they can and find their niche. They're looking to do something and we're trying to give them a few options. I hope to see some of these young people in my unit one day."

As students moved among the displays in the interactive zone outside the speedway, the Army Race team was busily preparing for the weekend's action on the track.

The Army Reserve is the primary sponsor on the No. 39 Chevrolet driven by Ryan Newman.

Newman spent the first part of his day in a question and answer session with the students.

"This (Army Reserve sponsorship) is an opportunity to have another form of the Army on the race car in Atlanta and I look forward to representing them," he said.

For Newman, Army Reserve sponsorship provides a unique personal opportunity for him and the Soldiers.

"I'm sponsored by a group of people who have defended our country and fought for our freedom. It's neat to hear stories of what Soldiers go through, but they usually want to talk about racing." ✖

Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, U.S. Army Reserve commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, the Army Reserve command sergeant major, were also on hand to see the team in action on the track. They also had the opportunity to speak with and meet race fans, the race team and spend time with Newman before the race.

This was the third time the Army Reserve has been featured in a NASCAR-sanctioned event. In 2007, the AR-RAP program was featured at the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series event in Homestead-Miami Speedway. In 2008, the Army Reserve 100th Anniversary logo was displayed on a car driven by Mark Martin during a NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Phoenix International Raceway. ✖

EDITOR'S NOTE: DAVID FERRONI WITH U.S. ARMY RACING CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.



The best humanity can offer is when numerous groups of people band together to help others who are desperately in need. Aboard the U.S. Naval Ship Mercy (T-AH 19), 150 Soldiers of the 807th MDSC, along with other U.S. armed forces, four governmental agencies, six host nations, eight partner nations and 17 non-governmental organizations, banded together in three rotations for three months in the western Pacific Ocean to do just that.

f l o a t i n HOPE

Story and Photos By
Sgt. Craig Anderson

807th Medical Deployment Support
Command, Public Affairs



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The USNS Mercy floats off the coast of Ambon, Indonesia. The USNS Mercy was on a three-month joint and interagency humanitarian mission to six countries in the South Pacific.



Capt. Sandra K. Gardner, 228th Combat Support Hospital RN, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, secures an intravenous line in a Vietnamese patient while docked at Quy Nhon, Vietnam.

The Pacific Partnership 2010 mission, with its 1,000 bed capacity Mercy, traveled to Vietnam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Palau and Papua New Guinea to offer extensive medical services that are not available to most citizens of those countries. It was the fifth in a series of annual humanitarian and civic assistance endeavors by the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The Mercy is a fully-functioning floating hospital that contains every type of equipment and department on board that one would find in the best hospitals in the U.S. It is staffed with military and civilian volunteer surgeons, nurses,

“Inside this ship is everything you could want”

— LT. COL. FRANCIS CANNIZZO, SURGEON, 405TH COMBAT SUPPORT HOSPITAL

dentists, optometrists, pharmacists, pediatricians, veterinarians and more. Many of the countries the mission visited have good medical systems, but they are still young.

“It’s not that they [Vietnam] do not have the services,” said Lt. Col. Francis Cannizzo,



a surgeon from the 405th Combat Support Hospital in Worcester, Mass. “Their capacity is not yet great enough to serve all of their population, and they will need missions like this for years to come.”

Since the Mercy only stayed in port for several days in each country, the focus of the medical professionals was to offer one-time services that did not require the patient to return for follow-up visits.

“Inside this ship is everything you could want,” said Cannizzo. “But it stops at the hull of this ship. Anything beyond that, we have to assume that our patients will not be able to get any follow-up care.”

The lack of continuing care presented some challenges to the medical professionals and at times caused them to change the service they provided. Dentists will often extract teeth rather than fill or crown them, and doctors are more likely to opt for surgery instead of a medicinal or care solution that may solve the patient’s problem, but only after several weeks of treatment. At times, the sanitary conditions



ABOARD THE USNS MERCY

INSET RIGHT: Capt. Jeffrey W. Hinze, 1872nd Medical Detachment operating room nurse, Garden Grove, Calif., checks the IV drip for his patients during his rounds.



Sgt. Jacob Roberts, veterinarian technician with the 993rd Medical Detachment, loads a syringe with antibiotics to inoculate animals at a farm in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, as part of a veterinarian civic actions program.

in the host country also reduced the chances of success of non-permanent measures.

Several factors made follow-up care highly unlikely, including the capacity of the indigenous medical system, non-availability of local doctors, inability of the patients to take off work and cultural tenets that encourage people to endure pain instead of seeking help.

Economic reasons, as well as the severity of his injury, prompted Ngyuen Van Thanh to seek medical help from the Mercy. Thanh, a fisherman from Quy Nhon, Vietnam, had cut three tendons, severed a nerve and fractured a bone in his arm.

"I was cutting trees with a large knife,"

Thanh said. "I swung the knife hard and cut into my wrist."

He continued, "I went to a hospital in Vietnam first, but they told me to go and find the American boat. I went down to the docks and looked for a boat with a red cross on it."

Thanh and his wife, Dang Ni Tien, were relieved to get help from the Mercy. They said the people and doctors on the Mercy were very nice, a change from things in Vietnam. Thanh said he

enjoys his work as a fisherman, but he earns only 90,000 to 100,000 Dong per week (about US\$5) and cannot afford to be out of work. The doctors who repaired his wrist believe he will be fine with physical therapy.

The surgeons aboard the Mercy were able to complete nearly 100 operations at each of their stops.

THE PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Pacific Partnership, which was developed out of the tsunami relief efforts in 2006, is about building relationships at the personal, organizational and international levels. The planning, coordination and cooperation that went into this mission will serve everyone well in the event of a medical or humanitarian crisis.

"We are working alongside our NGO colleagues and our partner nations' colleagues to be able to respond in times of crisis quickly and efficiently," said Cannizzo.

The 807th MDSC not only sent medical professionals to the Mercy, but also assisted in supporting the daily lives of more than 900 people aboard the ship. A total of 45 Soldiers joined the galley crew over the three rotations in preparing food every day on the vessel. Most of the Soldiers who volunteered to work in the galley were not cooks by Army training, but were happy to assist for the experience of being on a ship and a humanitarian mission.

While the Soldiers were all familiar with how to "rough it" in the field, life on the Mercy was different, and mostly for the better.

"Living on a ship is both foreign and fascinating," said Cpt. Sandra Gardner, a nurse from the 228th CSH, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "It's nice to have a bed with a mattress, air conditioning and other hotel-type amenities."

"It feels like living on a floating house," said Alvarado. "When the ship rocks at night, it will rock you to sleep." ■



1st Lt. Uma Ravishankar, 349th Combat Support Hospital RN, Bell, Calif., cares for her patient before surgery. Ravishankar was in charge of the inpatient adult care unit aboard the Mercy.

Photojournalist Timothy Hale spent a week at Fort Lee, Va., chronicling the journeys of two Soldiers representing the U.S. Army Reserve Command in their quest to become the best Soldiers in the Department of the Army. Although they came up short in winning their respective categories in the Best Warrior competition, they left an indelible mark during the competition that won't be forgotten. On the following pages are some of Hale's dispatches and images posted on the Army Reserve Best Warrior blog. To read entire dispatches go to: www.bestwarrior.wordpress.com. To see more images, visit: www.flickr.com/photos/myarmyreserve.

— Paul R. Adams, Editor-in-Chief

Best Warrior

Flares and artillery simulators light up the sky as Spc. Joshua McDowell, right, scans his sector for a target during the M4 Rifle Night Qualification event.





Sgt. David Rider walks through the rain during the daytime Urban War fighter Orienteering Course event.



Dispatches

McDowell, Rider represent Army Reserve at DA Best Warrior

FORTLEE, Va. - Sgt. David Rider and Spc. Joseph McDowell put their Army knowledge and skills to the test at the Department of the Army Best Warrior competition held here Oct. 18-22. The pair represented the command along with 22 other Soldiers and NCOs representing the other 11 major Army commands.

While they did not take the top title of Soldier or NCO of the Year, it was not uncommon to hear organizers and event cadre speak highly of their skills during the week...

Story and Photos By Timothy L. Hale
Army Reserve Public Affairs

Day 1 — Rider, McDowell tackle day one of the Army's Best Warrior Competition

Army Reserve Sgt. David Rider and Spc. Joshua McDowell had a good night sleep last night in preparation for this week's Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee, Va.

Today's phase of the competition is an appearance board before a panel of Command Sgts. Maj. chaired by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

Rider appeared before the board at 11:18 a.m. After approximately 20 minutes, he exited the room feeling somewhat relieved.

"Overall the performance was good as far as questions answered," Rider said. "I hit my normal 70-80 percent questions correct which I feel like I do on just about every board."

While somewhat nervous before entering the board room, McDowell said afterwards that he felt

confident during his time in the room.

"It's nice to get through the first event and start preparing for the rest which I'm sure will be more physical and demanding," McDowell said.



Sgt. David Rider answers a question from Army Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz.

Day 2 — Rider, McDowell complete APFT at Army's Best Warrior Competition

As the fog hovered over Williams Stadium, bringing with it cooler temperatures, the action on the track heated up as Rider, McDowell and the other 22 NCOs and junior enlisted Soldiers were greeted with cheers and the 'Wave' around the stadium.

While both competitors said they felt they did well on the each phase of the test, they said the cheering crowds really helped to raise their enthusiasm.

"It was the most motivating PT test I've ever taken," McDowell said afterwards.

This morning was spent preparing their tactical gear with a PCC/PCI at the Post Field House.



Day 3 — Rider, McDowell slosh through Day Urban Orienteering

Almost on cue, the skies opened up just as Rider and McDowell arrived along with the other 22 Army Best Warriors at the physical fitness track on the Ordnance Center and School side of Fort Lee for the start of the Daytime Urban Orienteering Course.

But as the old saying in the Army goes, 'If it ain't raining, we ain't training;' both Rider and McDowell donned their battle rattle, grabbed their clipboards, maps, plotters and DAGRS and set off on the roads around the post.

Their goal: find four strategically placed points and return to the start point before their three-hour time limit was up.

McDowell 'skunks' competition, Rider has Top 4 finish

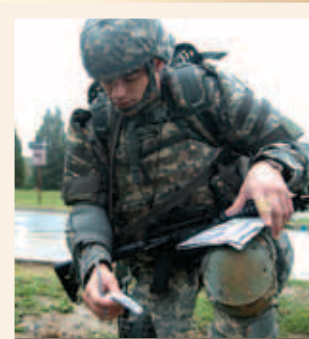
Don't let the headline fool you—McDowell and Rider had fantastic finish times during the Night Urban Orienteering Course.

The reference to the black and singularly wide white-striped mammal is because McDowell encountered what could be considered an early Mystery Task—negotiating around a skunk on the last of his four check points.

But have no fear, McDowell took care of the business at hand while his lane safety walker shared glances with the furry critter keeping it a safe distance away.

McDowell was the first of the 24 Warriors to cross the finish line, finding all four points in just over 40 minutes. The next closest junior enlisted Soldier came in around the 1:24 mark on the clock.

His Army Reserve battle buddy, Rider, came in fourth overall with 1:09 showing on the clock and he was the third NCO to cross the line.



Spc. Joshua McDowell plots a point during the daytime Urban War fighter Orienteering Course event.

Dispatches

LEFT: Spc. Joshua McDowell, front, and Sgt. David Rider step off their pace count during the daytime Urban War fighter Orienteering Course event.

Day 5 — It's a Mystery

Today started like the last two days, in the dark as they were faced with a Mystery Event—a series of mini-scenarios designed to keep them moving and thinking without much time in between.

First an artillery barrage resulting in mass casualties, then it was on to protecting a polling center before coming under attack which led to a cordon and search operation, then on to a session in a marksmanship simulator followed by a series of male and female uniform inspections and finally ending up with a stress fire lane.

McDowell, Rider face double-elimination combatives

A new twist to this year's tourney was to pair off the first round by weight class regardless of NCO or Soldier category.

Rider, unfortunately, did not survive the first round and was knocked into the consolation bracket (more to come on that later).

Meanwhile, McDowell reeled off win after win until his sixth match which resulted in a loss in the semi-finals, knocking him to the consolation bracket.

In the meantime, Rider fought his way through his bracket and, yes, you saw this coming—Rider and McDowell faced off against each other for fourth and fifth place overall. The match ended with Rider coming out on top. Rider finished with a 5-2 record and McDowell a 3-2 record in the tournament.

Spc. Joshua McDowell takes aim during the Military Operations in Urban Terrain event.



Day 4 — McDowell, Rider press on through Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills

An early morning wake-up greeted McDowell and Rider as they set out for a series of events comprised of Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills.

There were a number of lanes, to include: Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), convoy simulators, IED lane, 9mm lane and a medical trauma lane.

McDowell, Rider send hot lead downrange

After a day that saw the competition start and end in darkness for Rider and McDowell, they only have one day left to get through before the 2010 Army Best Warrior competition is over.

Tonight, the pair engaged a number of targets during the M4 Rifle Night Qualification range.

A cool breeze blew towards the Warriors as parachute flares streaked into the dark skies. Artillery simulators flashed at various distances across the landscape, often turning night into day with their bright white flash.

An incredible experience

At the end of the day, both young men said the Army Best Warrior experience was an incredible experience for them.

"I just tried to make it through each event and see how I stacked up at the end," McDowell said. "I learned so much here and feel like I have developed a bond with the other Warriors this week."

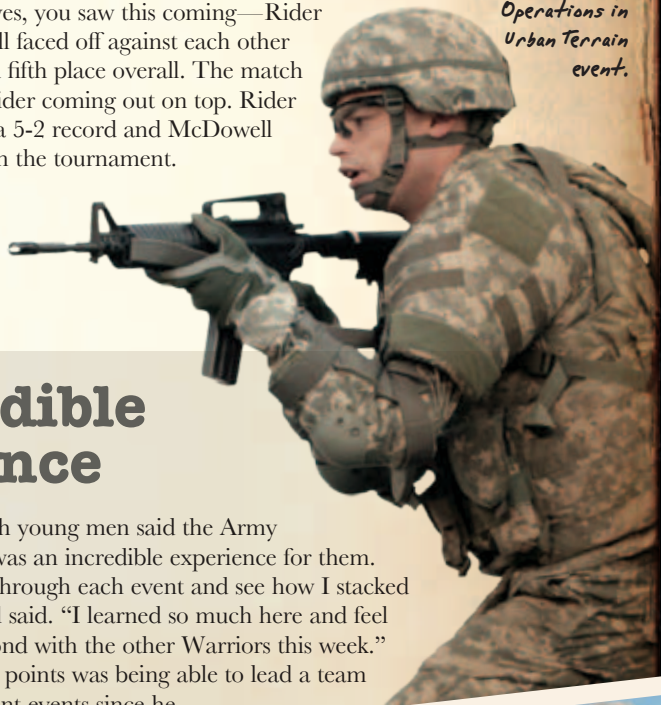
He said one of the high points was being able to lead a team of Soldiers through different events since he doesn't get many opportunities to do so.

"I learned to lead with confidence and to lead my Soldiers through each event. It was actually great to forget about the points and just go through each event with them."

For Rider, the biggest accomplishment he said he felt was the "pride in the way I conducted myself this week, whether I win or lose."

Some of his takeaways from this week was learning to motivate his squad of Soldiers and to train hard to prepare for not just competitions but any mission.

"If you train well ahead of time, you will reap the rewards later," he concluded. ■



*Congratulations on a GREAT JOB!
Spc. Joshua McDowell
and Sgt. David Rider*

Jet Training Soars

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TIMOTHY L. HALE
Army Reserve Public Affairs



WHAT MAY BE ONE OF THE BEST-KEPT SECRETS ABOUT THE ARMY RESERVE IS LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER IN ATLANTA AT THE U.S. ARMY JET TRAINING DETACHMENT.





Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer 4 John C. Schmidt, left, works through a check ride with Chief Warrant Officer 4 Julia Ward, a UC-35 instructor pilot.



Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer 4 John C. Schmidt, seated left, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Burke go over their pre-flight checklist with Chief Warrant Officer 4 Julia Ward, a UC-35 instructor pilot.



MARIETTA, GA. – TUCKED AWAY AT DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE THE ARMY “JET DET,” AS IT’S KNOWN LOCALLY, PROVIDES JET PILOT TRAINING FOR ACTIVE, RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD ARMY PILOTS, BUT THEY ALSO PROVIDE REAL-WORLD MISSIONS BOTH IN THE U.S. AND OVERSEAS.

“It is the best kept secret in the Army Reserve,” said Lt. Col. Mickey Stewart, detachment commander.

Since 1997, the Jet Det has been training pilots to fly the , a straight-from-the-factory aircraft. In 2007, U.S. Army Forces Command turned over the training program to the U.S. Army Reserve.

While most Army aviators are usually thought of as helicopter pilots, the jet training program allows them to become qualified on a completely different airframe.

“All Army aviators are checked out in a helicopter of some type,” Stewart said. “Depending on your track, pilots will get picked up for fixed-wing training with the multi-engine qualification course at Fort Rucker, Ala.”



An Army Jet Training Detachment ground crew position a Cessna Citation Encore on the tarmac at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga. in preparation for a training flight.



JET DET

LOCATION:

Dobbins Air Reserve Base,
Marietta, Ga.

**AVG. # OF STUDENTS
TRAINED ANNUALLY:**

25 to 30

COURSES TAUGHT:

UC-35 Aircraft Qualification Course

UC-35 Instructor Pilot Course

COURSES OPEN TO:

Active Army, Army Reserve,
Army National Guard

ADDITIONAL MISSIONS:

Coordinate JOSAC mission with
Co. B, 2nd Bn., 228th Avn. Regt.

Stewart said graduates from that course are normally qualified for the Beechcraft C-12 turbo prop.

While there is a 500-hour minimum fixed-wing requirement to get into the jet program, Stewart said there have been a few exceptions.

"It is waiverable and we've had a couple of test cases where we've had pilots come of the multi-engine qualification course right into the jet. But right now, we'd like to have somebody with some fixed-wing experience."

After student pilots complete the 15-day first

"Essentially it flies the same (as a commercial jet) just a lot lower and slower."

Upon graduation from ACQ, the pilots move on to their first jet assignment.

There are nearly 30 UC-35s in the Army inventory, with the Army Reserve and active Army owning the bulk of the inventory. Additionally, there are UC-35s currently serving in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most UC-35 missions take place in the United States under the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center operated by U.S. Transportation Command.

"YOU'RE NOT THE WAR-FIGHTER BUT YOU'RE PROVIDING AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE"

-LT. COL. MICKEY STEWART, COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY JET TRAINING DET.

phase simulator and ground school in Kansas, they proceed to the 10-day Phase II UC-35 Aircraft Qualification Course, which takes place at Dobbins.

One class of recent students didn't classify the jet course as hard, but they did say it was challenging.

"With all my time being in turbo-props, some of those habits don't transfer over," said Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer 4 John C. Schmidt. "So it's muscle memory and breaking old habits to learn new ones because the jet flies a little bit differently than the turbo-prop."

For Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Burke, who also flies regularly as a commercial airline pilot, the UC-35 also presented some challenges.

"This jet is a lot smaller, so I feel like I'm landing with the gear up," he said with a laugh.

JOSAC missions provide airlift missions for all the U.S. armed services to meet Department of Defense wartime readiness and cost-savings guidelines. The UC-35 is just one of the seven airframes in the JOSAC inventory.

Stewart said Army Reserve jet pilots may fly an Air Force mission one day, an Army mission the next and a Navy mission another day.

"It's a rewarding experience," Stewart said. "You're not the war-fighter but you're providing an essential service, especially when you have senior leadership onboard. You want to have pilots that have an experienced aviation background. It's an enjoyable lifestyle with a vital mission for the Army," Stewart concluded. ✪



In addition to the Cessna Citation Encore jet, the Army Reserve also operates the Beechcraft B-12 turboprop on Joint Operational Support Airlift Center flights across the United States. JOSAC flights provide airlift missions for all the U.S. armed services to meet Department of Defense requirements.

securing the border

Things heat up for the 458th Engineer Battalion in the Arizona desert

PHOTO BY 1ST LT. MICHAEL DAVIS, 665TH ENGINEER COMPANY

Soldiers from the 458th Engineer Battalion retrofitted four miles of vehicle barriers previously installed along the border near Sonoita, Ariz., in order to prevent drug traffickers from driving across the US-Mexico border. The Normandy style barriers were constructed from used railroad tracks.

BY ARMANDO CARRASCO
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE,
JTF NORTH

Army Reserve engineers from the 458th Engineer Battalion, Johnstown, Pa., completed a month-long summer deployment to Arizona in response to a request for military assistance submitted by two U.S. Border Patrol sector headquarters.

In an historic deployment of multiple elements from the same unit on a Department of Defense homeland security support mission, the 458th Engineer Battalion executed two simultaneous missions in support of the U.S. Border Patrol—Tucson Sector and U.S. Border Patrol—Yuma Sector.

The concurrent support missions were coordinated by Joint Task Force North, an element of U.S. Northern Command, under the operational control of U.S. Army North.

“This is the first time that a single unit has deployed separate elements on two Joint Task Force

North support missions, while employing one common battalion-level tactical operational center,” said Lt. Col. Larry Stephney, JTF North staff engineer.

The 458th Engineer Battalion provided logistical support and command and control to its deployed engineer assets, which included the 417th, 766th, 758th and the 665th Engineer Companies. In addition, the battalion also deployed engineer support elements from the 428th and 481st Engineer Detachments.

Over the course of the 30-day deployment conducted in June 2010, the U.S. Army Reserve battalion rotated 153 Soldiers every two weeks as part of their annual two-week training requirement in support of both homeland security support missions.

“This was an excellent opportunity for the staff and our Soldiers to work in a joint environment



and provide a valuable resource for the long-range benefit of the U.S. Border Patrol," said Lt. Col. Scott Stape, 458th Engineer Battalion commander.

"My staff had the opportunity to conduct a detailed military decision making process, execute deployable command posts and coordinate with contractors. My Soldiers received valuable 'stick time' on the equipment, practiced troop leading procedures and developed professionalism throughout the noncommissioned officer corps. This benefited the unit by doing what we would do in theater without overt hostile aggression," Stape said.

in developing our cohesion on an actual job site," said Maj. Robert H. Yauger, battalion executive officer, 458th Engineer Battalion and Yuma mission commander.

"This experience will assist the unit to develop its planning and operational work tempo in a multi-component environment, similar to a contingency operation such as Iraq or Afghanistan."

The U.S. Border-Tucson Sector engineer project consisted of retrofitting four miles of vehicle barriers previously installed along the border near Sonoita, Ariz. The Normandy style barriers, located along a well known alien and drug trafficking area, were

"This was an excellent opportunity...to provide a valuable resource for the long-range benefit of the U.S. Border Patrol." —LT. COL. SCOTT STAPE, 458TH ENGINEER BATTALION COMMANDER

At the Yuma, Ariz., mission site, the engineers constructed 2.3 miles of all-weather border road to be used by the U.S. Border Patrol—Yuma Sector agents that patrol the US-Mexico border. The Yuma border road runs parallel to the recently constructed border fence. They used 19,500 tons of stone to construct the road. Due to extremely hot weather conditions, the Soldiers worked in shifts during the day and at night.

"This was an outstanding opportunity to watch Soldiers perform their duties in an environment similar to combat.

This also assisted the unit

constructed from used railroad tracks that were cemented in place and tied together with welded supporting cross members. The engineers used approximately 150 yards of concrete and 2,850 feet of railroad track to complete the 1,100 sections of retrofit legacy vehicle barrier.

Capt. Eric J. Bowser, 665th Engineer company commander and Sonoita mission commander, said "This training was pivotal to us being fully combat ready. It showed the leadership how well we perform when a real mission is hanging in the balance." ❏



A U.S. Border Patrol agent explains the tire dragging system used to smooth the road surface along the border fence to 1st Lt. Bruce Jordan, 458th Engineer Battalion's supervisory staff administrator.

LEFT: Soldiers use an auger to drill a hole to place vehicle barrier supports along the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona. The supports were cemented in place and tied together with welded supporting cross members.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF
SGT. RYAN C. MATSON
210TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DETACHMENT

combatives school

**Fort Dix RTC East Instructors Say
They Can Field It Now**

FORT DIX, N.J. — Sang Truong pointed to a mural-covered wall lined with rubber weapons, boxing gloves and helmets.

“When we came here, this building was empty,” he said. “We didn’t have any of this stuff—just an old, over-used wrestling mat and no gear.”

Drill Sgt. Truong, a combatives instructor and staff sergeant with Co. B, Regional Training Center-East, was referring to the Modern Army Combatives Building which now houses a new mat, striking bags and equipment.

The school was the vision of a small group of instructors intent on teaching potentially lifesaving fighting techniques to deploying troops. “Everything here was created by us and driven by the Soldiers,” said Truong.

In this building, Soldiers learn tactical flexibility using offensive and defensive tactics to combat

Drill Sgt. (Staff Sgt.) Sang Truong, foreground, a combatives instructor with Regional Training Center East, Fort Dix, N.J., provides instruction to a formation of Army Reserve Soldiers.



the enemy in close quarters. Here, a group of 21 Soldiers were preparing for their level one certification exam, vigorously attacking one another using the Army combatives moves and techniques they learned over the week-long course.



“See this?” Truong asked as a rare smile crossed his face. “This is what I love about being an instructor. They are teaching themselves. Four days ago, when they got on this mat, there was mass confusion. No one knew what to do.”

Soldiers demonstrated their proficiency in side mounts, rear mounts and arm bars. “The first day, there is no way they would have had the confidence to fight one another. Now I have 21 trainers in this building who can take this back to their units,” he said.

In addition to providing the forty hours of instruction required for a skill level one certification, instructors conduct an eight-hour combatives familiarization class for mobilizing units. In the past two years, more than 10,000 Soldiers have received familiarization training and more than 900 have earned their level one certification.

Truong said interest and emphasis has skyrocketed, more than tripling since the program began.

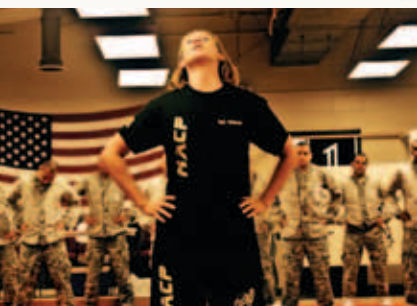
Drill Sgt. Scott Taylor, a level two certified combatives instructor and sergeant assigned to Co. B, RTC-East, said he became involved when he attained his mandatory level one certification in Drill Sergeant School. From that point on, he said he was instantly hooked.



“It’s about reacting [when] your weapon malfunctions, or the fight becomes too close... You have the tools through combatives to react to those situations.”

— DRILL SGT. SCOTT TAYLOR

Spc. Melissa Mariano, top, and Spc. Judith Sherwood, both of Company A, 533rd Battalion Support Battalion, fight for position during level one combatives certification training.



“I love the fact that we’re not training Soldiers to go into a battlefield and drop their weapons systems and try to fight like ninjas; that’s not what it’s about” he said.

“It’s about reacting to going into a building and something happens—your weapon malfunctions, or the fight becomes too close and you can’t use your primary or secondary weapons system. You have the tools through combatives to react to those situations.”

Taylor, who hails from Chatsworth, Ga., said the battle-focused training is important for Soldiers headed overseas. “All these Soldiers interact with foreign nationals on a day-to-day basis. You never know when the situation may escalate.”



TOP: Drill Sgt. (Sgt.) Rachel Wilson, foreground, a combatives instructor with Regional Training Center East, Fort Dix, N.J., leads a group of Army Reserve Soldiers in stretching.

Sgt. John Aventuna, left, Company A, 533rd Battalion Support Battalion, fights for inside control with Pvt. David Pena, Company A, 533rd Battalion Support Battalion, during level one combatives certification training.

LEFT: Spc. Melissa Mariano, an automated logistics supply specialist with Company A, 533rd Battalion Support Battalion, assumes a fighter’s stance in preparation of final drills and testing to earn her level one combatives certification.



According to Taylor, the course also builds character. “I became more confident as an instructor and as a Soldier through this training. I wanted to go out and deploy and to train other Soldiers in my unit immediately, because I was so motivated from the training.”

The curriculum has evolved based on lessons learned. “Now, based on downrange feedback from Soldiers overseas, we’ve restructured the program,” said Taylor. “There is more stand-up fighting and some situational based training as well that has been implemented.”

Pvt. David Pena, a truck driver from Co. A, 533rd Battalion Support Battalion, was class leader for his unit while they trained for level one certification.

“Not everyone had hand-to-hand experience with taking punches to the face,” Pena said. “Troops rely on their weapons. The enemy may be right there, and if your weapon were to jam on you, what would you do?” Pena said.

The instructors said the possibility of implementing an official, full-scale combatives academy for Reserve Soldiers has been discussed by higher headquarters.

But for now, it appears the instructors have accomplished their mission—to make Reserve Soldiers a better fighting force through combatives training. ■

PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS PHILLIP EUGENE

Staff Sgt. Marcus Acklin, 689th Engineer Company, mans the mock .50 caliber machine gun on a Medium Mine Protected Vehicle "JERRV" virtual route clearance simulator.

BY SPC. DEVIN M. WOOD,
412TH THEATER ENGINEER
COMMAND, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

VIRTUAL

Daytona Beach, Fla. — Rolling out on mounted patrols, engaging enemy insurgents and interrogating roadside bombs from a semi-trailer are not events you would normally engage in at Daytona Beach.

However, 15 Soldiers from the 689th Engineer Company did just that in validating upgrades to the Army's route clearance simulator during training Aug. 16-20, 2010. Program administrators selected the 689th because the Reserve Soldiers conducted route clearance operations in Iraq from 2007-2008.

"Most of these guys have more than 200 route clearance missions under their belts," said Capt. Shawn McKinney, commander of the 689th Engineer Company.

Simulator upgrades include a "seat shaker" and a vibrating steering column on the Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle "Buffalo," the Vehicular Mounted Mine Detector "Husky" and the Medium Mine Protected Vehicles "JERRV" and "RG31."

BY MAJ. COREY SCHULTZ,
ARMY RESERVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

the "prime mover"

WALKER, Mich. — The 180th and 182nd Transportation Companies of the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Reserve, were recognized in a September 2010 ceremony as the first Army units to be equipped with the new M915A5 line-haul tractor truck. The event marked a significant paradigm shift in the distribution and allocation of equipment to Army Reserve Soldiers, according to the Army's Program Executive Office for Combat Support and Combat Service Support.

The M915A5 line-haul tractor truck supports the Army's need for line-haul transportation operations and is more commonly known as the "prime-mover" for the Army's fleet of semi-trailers and fuel tankers. Each company received 60 trucks, each featuring increased survivability, added situational awareness and improved Soldier comfort through various

structural and performance enhancements. A total of 710 vehicles will be equipped to the Army Reserve.

During the ceremony, U.S. Army Col. David Bassett, project manager for tactical vehicles, addressed how the new line-haul truck is the first to be designed with a fully scalable and integrated armor protection package, meaning the vehicle comes off the production line equipped with "A-Kit" armor components and built-in mounting provisions for the "B-Kit."

"These trucks are special," said Bassett. "They feature the ability to accept additional armor as missions dictate. The trucks are manufactured with the 'A-Kit' for peacetime and humanitarian operations, and the 'B-Kit' armor can be easily added to provide Soldiers with 360-degree protection during combat operations."

"These trucks are special. They feature the ability to accept additional armor as missions dictate."

—COL. DAVID BASSETT, PROJECT
MANAGER FOR TACTICAL VEHICLES

SWEEP

"With the vibrations in the steering column and seat, depending on speed, you actually feel like you are driving off-road and your controls reflect that," said Maj. Timothy McGrew, assistant product manager, Ground Tactical Combat Trainers.

"It's like I'm driving my Buffalo back in country again," said Staff Sgt. Reginald Livingston. "There are instances where I forget and have to remind myself I'm in a simulator."

The Man Transportable Robotic Systems "Talon" has a detonation cord, and the entire system now has an Afghanistan database.

The Soldiers provided feedback to the programmers and they got an opportunity to sharpen their skills on the equipment.

"The opportunities to get on real equipment and train are minimal when you're stateside," said McKinney. "To keep their abilities and muscle memory, it's good to go out and exercise it from time to time."



"This program has trained more than 22,000 Soldiers, and the feedback we get is 'Hey, this is just like the equipment I sat in when I deployed last year,'" said McGrew.

Route clearance simulator training was not available when the 689th deployed. Livingston says he's certain that Soldiers who train on the simulator will be better prepared than he was.

"Simply knowing how to turn a corner and knowing that the Buffalo does not turn like a car. Knowing that I need to turn this corner without hitting the dirt because that's where they put the bombs," Livingston said. "I have no doubt in my mind that this is going to save someone's life." ❏

Sgt. Anthony Anastasia, 689th Engineer Company, drives through a virtual Iraqi town in a Vehicular Mounted Mine Detector "Husky" route clearance simulator.

"There are instances where I forget and have to remind myself I'm in a simulator."

— STAFF SGT. REGINALD LIVINGSTON

Brig. Gen. Frank Cipolla, the deputy commanding general of the 88th Regional Support Command, explained that the technical and tactical proficiency of the two Army Reserve companies made them ideal units to be the first equipped with this new truck. The M915A5 will replace older trucks, modernize the Reserve's line-haul fleet, provide an even greater and more reliable capability to the force and bring Soldiers better armor, increased survivability and more comfort, according to Cipolla.

Designed and made in America by Daimler Truck North America, the new M915A5 incorporates a 500 horsepower engine, an enhanced axle and suspension system, two fuel tanks which increase mission range and additional interior cab space to provide comfort and space for Soldiers and their equipment.

"We are very proud to accept these trucks," Cipolla said. "Our Soldiers deserve them. We are an operational Reserve, trained, equipped and employed at levels equal to the active Army."

Chief Warrant Officer Two Jonathan Ten Brink, commander of the 180th Transportation Company, described the importance as a commander to leave a unit better than when you received it.

"I can't think of a better gift than these trucks as I deploy to Afghanistan," said Ten Brink. "The advanced creature comfort is wonderful ... from heated mirrors to improved suspension and space, the Soldiers are ecstatic to be receiving new equipment. It is a great booster to morale." ❏

The new M915A5 line-haul tractor truck stands ready to be driven by Army Reserve Soldiers.



PHOTO BY MAJ. JENNY GRIFFEN

on the front line *of a crisis*



BY SPC. GLENN M. ANDERSON,
7TH CIVIL SUPPORT COMMAND,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A chemical plant in a foreign country accidentally releases a plume of toxic fumes causing panic, sickness and numerous deaths within the city where the plant is located. Adding to all the chaos, the weather makes the situation worse for the citizens who live in the area of direct impact. A call comes from the foreign country for U.S. assistance. Who will go?

Guardian Shield 10, an annual exercise designed to train the 7th Civil Support Command in conducting consequence management operations in response to a crisis, was conducted Aug. 17-20, 2010, at Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

The 7th CSC was alerted and marshaled to Plock, Poland, in the scenario. Guardian Shield 10 is one in a series of exercises to help the 7th CSC train for its mission in consequence management and civil affairs.

Activated in September 2009, the 7th CSC is unique because it is the only consequence management and civil affairs Reserve unit in Europe. Its sole purpose is to respond to incidents and provide immediate assistance so the effected people or country can return to normality.

The 7th CSC provides trained and ready, forward-stationed consequence management command and control, civil support teams and civil affairs capabilities. They also provide immediate response capability as directed by U.S. Army Europe.

"The focus of this one was to conduct command and control," said Capt. Major Robinson, a 7th CSC training officer and the night shift battle captain for this exercise.

"It is almost like night and day in how much better we were this time around."

"What I see is the 7th CSC moving into a real-world direction, and it won't be long before we are ready to handle it. We are headed in the right direction," Robinson added.

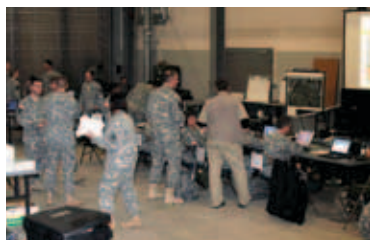
Mark Terry, a consequence management defense contractor supporting the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and a GS10 exercise planner/observer controller and After Action Review facilitator, said "The 7th has its own challenges, because of personnel rotations. The beauty of the 7th CSC is that there is a strong desire to do well and to learn, and if you have that, you are golden."

These exercises are conducted so that strengths and weaknesses can be pinpointed and built upon. "As long as there are dedicated people conducting the exercise, the unit will have a really good grasp on how things are done," said Terry.

He then added that from top to bottom, the 7th CSC has a great team that wants to work toward an attainable goal. And of course the DTRA is here to help with the foreign consequence management training.

"GS10 provided some of the most realistic training for the 7th CSC with members of the Polish fire services, the Polish police force, U.S. Air Force and Navy, to give the exercise the feel of a real-world event," said James Otto, 7th CSC director of emergency services.

Mother Nature brings fires, tsunamis and earthquakes to different parts of the world. Disaster strikes through accidental chemical releases or explosions. The 7th CSC continuously trains and prepares to respond if called upon. ❏



7th CSC's Incident Management Team members participating in Guardian Shield '10 discuss an inject placed within the exercise. An inject is a sudden problem that is placed within the exercise and requires solving while keeping the exercise on track.

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