

THE WAGON WHEEL

Vol. 1 Issue 1

The official publication of the 15th Sustainment Brigade

Fall 2012



Keeping your personal
information safe

Perspective is
Reality

Holiday safety
tips

Farewell 47th Trans.
“Dark Knights” deploy with short notice

The Wagon Wheel

Brigade Commander
COL Curtis A. Johnson

Command Sergeant Major
CSM Larry A. Parks

Managing Editor
SSG Casey J. McGeorge

Staff Writer/Photographer
SGT Erik Thurman

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The Wagon Wheel reserves the right to edit submissions selected for publication. For further information on deadlines, questions or comments, email 15th SB PAO or call 915-741-2750.

On the cover:

Soldiers from the 47th Transportation Company, "Dark Knights," prepare to board the plane for their deployment to Kuwait. For more information on the "Dark Knights," see pg. 12

Hello to the Soldiers and families of the 15th Sustainment Brigade. I am Colonel Curtis Johnson, and I am very proud and honored to be here as the commander of the "Wagonmasters."

We are currently in the midst of a very exciting time within the brigade. 47th TC trained very hard for their deployment to Kuwait. We were given very short notice for this deployment, but "The Dark Knights" have fully embraced this mission. I have full faith and confidence these outstanding Soldiers will excel in what they do!

The newly re-designated "Titans" of 377th TC recently returned from The National Training Center, located at Fort Irwin, Ca. While there, they provided the same excellent support they have shown Team Bliss since returning last August.

The "Bandit" detachment of 4th FMSU recently completed certification for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. With a team of dedicated and outstanding Officers, NCOs and Soldiers, our Defense Military Pay Office has gone from worst-to-first, providing great customer support and service to the Soldiers and families of Team Bliss. This is the same great customer service standard set during the detachments previous deployment.

The Soldiers of the 43rd PAD were recently recognized by the commander and command sergeant major of Special Operations Command Europe for their hard work in Croatia during Jackal Stone 2012. These fine public affairs professionals just departed to Afghanistan and have a great history and their reputation precedes them wherever they go.

Our Soldiers are also becoming heavily involved with the community, taking part in the Fort Bliss Partnerships in Education, or PIE program. PIE links units with partner schools in the El Paso community and allows our Soldiers to provide mentorship to school-aged children. These children gain positive role models, and learn about the military during this experience. This is a win-win experience for all involved.



Everyone involved has a great time and I am looking forward to future events.

The brigade Support Operations (SPO) section recently opened the SOC, or Support Operations Center. The SOC is a vital part of operation for Fort Bliss. Not only does this give some of our junior Officers and NCOs vital leadership and training opportunities, our operations allow units throughout Team Bliss to move to their designated training areas as quickly and efficiently as possible.

As we begin to approach the holiday season, be on the lookout for many special events. The brigade will take part in things such as Operation Santa Claus, the annual Fort Bliss Food Drive, and many other events. One of my main goals is to do everything we can within the brigade to ensure that ALL of our Soldiers and their families have a safe and happy upcoming holiday season.

I feel both honored and privileged to be your brigade commander, and I do not take my duties as YOUR commander lightly.

In closing, I want to leave you with this promise: Each and every Soldier and family member in this brigade can expect to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. If this is not the case, please use your chain of command to address the issue. If all else fails, I always have an open-door policy.

WAGONMASTERS!SUPPORTTHEACTION!



Hello to the Soldiers and families of the Wagonmaster brigade. I am Command Sergeant Major Larry A. Parks, the senior enlisted adviser to the brigade commander, Colonel Curtis Johnson. It is my job to train and lead the best Soldiers in the United States Army, and to instill discipline in those Soldiers. That is what I would like to speak to you about today.

Discipline can be defined as "orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern behavior." Discipline is what separates our Army from others around the world. Our Soldiers are expected to always do the right thing, regardless of whether someone is looking or not.

Discipline manifests itself in many different ways. Do you ensure that your uniform and appearance are within regulation, or are you always cutting it close to the bare minimum standard? Do you ensure that you report to where you are supposed to early, or are you the kind of Soldier that consistently shows up with a few minutes to spare? Will you reach down to pick up the pieces of paper you see on your way to your vehicle, or will you continue to walk by them day after day? These are the marks of a disciplined Soldier.

As Wagonmasters, it is imperative that we all should embody the collective condition of leadership when it comes to being a disciplined Soldier.

Discipline continues during our off-duty

time as well. Spousal abuse, drug use, improper relationships, sexual assault, and driving under the influence are all marks of an undisciplined Soldier. Undisciplined Soldiers have no place in our Army.

As an Army, we train as we fight. We fight as a TEAM. Each and every single one of us relies on our brothers and sisters to our left and right. That is a sacred trust, a bond shared between members of an Army family: That we are all working toward the same goal. When you have to pick up the slack for someone who can't show up on time, or someone you can't depend on, it weakens the team. That could ultimately cost a life.

I am proud to be your command sergeant major and to work with each and every one of you. Your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed by the chain of command or by the leadership of Fort Bliss. Every one of you has a very important part to play in our mission, whether that mission is here supporting Team Bliss, or supporting our Warriors at war. Thank you and your families for all that you do.

WAGONMASTERS!SUPPORTTHEACTION!

"THE MAN SAID, IF YOU NEED IRON SUPPORT, YOU CALL THE WAGONMASTERS!"



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Training for Anything

The 606th Movement Control Team is currently executing Command and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Element (C2CRE), which began October 1. The unit is on call for any stateside disasters may happen throughout the year. Given the mission, the 606th must be prepared for anything

The unit started the month off with CBRN training. Classes were held, showing Soldiers how to properly wear the gear and how to act in a contaminated environment. The class contained a lot of information to take in: how to properly clean and fit the masks, how to decontaminate objects, and how to react to nerve agents. It was nothing the mighty 606th couldn't handle. When it was all said and done, it was time for the unit to head to the gas chamber.

In small groups the Soldiers of 606th entered the chamber September 28. According to Fort Bliss Policy, the mask does not have to completely come off; but the seal must be broken. If daring enough, Soldiers could take the mask off and embrace the CS gas. Of course, the unit has such high morale, many Soldiers in the unit took mask off and embraced the minutes of suffering from the gas within the chamber.

606th will continue training for their mission, while maintaining high morale. Talk to anyone from the unit and one will quickly learn the Soldiers within the unit are very excited about the C2CRE mission.

"It is an honor 606th was assigned the mission, said SSG Jason Wright, 606th's PAC NCO. "Even though we are a small unit, we are taking on a very big role. We have taken drastic steps to ensure training, personnel and equipment are at 100% level, so when and if the time comes, the unit is prepared to help transport personnel and equipment out of hazardous areas and into safe zones. Our Soldiers are fully motivated, bags prepped, and ready to take on their roll in this very important mission."



Photo by 606th MCT

Above: SPC Cho demonstrates the proper wear of Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) level 4 for the Soldiers of 606th MCT. MOPP has five corresponding levels, starting at MOPP level 0, with all gear readily accessible, to all protection fully worn.



SPC Terry Johnson, a cashier with B. Detachment, 4th Financial Management Support Unit, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, counts back "money" to SPC Darius Stafford during their certification exercise, or CERTEX.

All transactions certified

4th FMSU ready for future deployment

Soldiers from B. Detachment, 4th Financial Management Support Unit, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, recently completed their certification exercise, or CERTEX.

"This exercise validates everything to the commander," said SGM Alberto A. Quan, the senior enlisted financial management adviser for the 4th FMSU. "It says these soldiers are competent in their core functions."

Those functions include military pay, customer service and commercial vendor services.

In order to prepare themselves, leadership from the 4th spent time at other finance exercises around the country, to include the Federal Reserve in Boston and Diamond Saber in Indianapolis.

Diamond Saber is a joint training exercise hosted by the Army Reserve that brings together finance units from the Active Army, National Guard and Army reserve to train on both individual and collective finance skills. These skills help units successfully perform finance missions in the real world.

"Those real world scenarios are taken from units who are currently in theater," said Quan.

Through telephonic communications and video-conferences once a week, leadership in the different units can pass on current trends and lessons learned to help better prepare for what they will see before they

deploy.

Having current information from deployed units is critical, said Capt. Raul Velasquez, the detachment commander.

"We are currently using standard operating procedures used downrange," said Velasquez. "Once we get downrange, these Soldiers, in essence, are the bank for everyone."

Because there are jobs that finance Soldiers have to do once deployed they are not able to do at home station, that means there are systems they need to learn how to use as well. One of those systems is called DDS, or Deployed Disbursing System. Deployed Disbursing System.

"Our Soldiers have been trained on are using DDS during the CERTEX," said Velasquez. "When you are the middle of Kandahar, with 100 customers lined up, is not the time to become familiar with the system."

The leadership of the detachment are not the only ones are enjoying the training. The Soldiers do, said Cpl. Scott Delano, a certifier with the detachment.

"This is huge for our Soldiers," said Delano. "The training we are receiving is realistic. our deployment, we have a lot of new Soldiers the detachment."

See TRANSACTIONS, Page 17



SFC Raymond Jennings, a disbursing agent with B. Detachment, 4th Financial Management Support Unit, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, uses a money counting machine during their certification exercise, or CERTEX.



The “Mighty Braves” of the 261st Signal Support Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, do pushups with children from Kohlberg Elementary School in El Paso. 261st is participating in the Fort Bliss Partners in Education Program.

261st “braves” some time with “coyotes” for fun

Soldiers from the 261st Signal Support Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, adopted the “Coyotes” of Kohlberg Elementary School in conjunction with the Fort Bliss Partners in Education, or PIE program.

PIE is a venture between El Paso area schools and Fort Bliss that has been ongoing since 1986. That year, President Ronald Reagan designated the 1983-1984 school year as the year of partnerships in education.

“We are really excited to be part of this and have the Soldiers here,” said Yvette Melendez, a school counselor at Kohlberg. “Our kids need the mentors and heroes in their lives.”

The partnership started during the schools “Red Ribbon Week,” and will remain through the school year, and hopefully into the future, said Melendez.

Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in the United States.

“The presence of Soldiers here strengthens the meaning of Red Ribbon Week,” said Melendez. “This is an all-inclusive week. We have one goal: to be a totally bully- and drug-free school.”

“Their presence can also help these kids with self-esteem,” continued Melendez. “It’s a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

Capt. David Maddaford, commander of the 261st “Mighty

Braves,” echoes that sentiment.

“As a native of El Paso since the 70’s, I find great honor and a sense of pride giving back to the city that helped raise me,” said Maddaford. “To be able to have my Soldiers share in this great program is important because it’s instilling in them the gift of giving.”

“As Soldiers, I feel it is our duty to help those that need it,” continued Maddaford. “Being a strong role model to children is at the top of my list of priorities in the community. Volunteering is teaching my Soldiers that we can make a difference just by caring enough to care about someone besides our self.”

One such role model is Spc. Tyson Trinidad, a signal support systems specialist with the 261st. This was Trinidad’s first time being involved in PIE, but it won’t be his last.

“I love coming out here and being with the kids,” said Trinidad. “I’m really looking forward to what the rest of the school year holds.”

If those involved have their way, it won’t just be this school year. There are plans for this to be an ongoing relationship between the two.

“I expect 261st to build strong ties with the faculty and staff and watch the kids grow and graduate to the next grade over the year,” said Maddaford. “I hope to build relationships with the families of Kohlberg Elementary School and become an extended family member who can be counted on when times get rough or when help is needed.”

SPC Michael Jones, a signal support systems specialist with the 261st Signal Support Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, dances with children from Kohlberg Elementary School in El Paso during the schools Red Ribbon Week.



CPT David Maddaford, commander of the 261st Signal Support Company, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, plays with a group of children from Kohlberg Elementary School in El Paso during the schools Red Ribbon Week.

*Safety Tips from Michael J. Metzger,
15th Sustainment Brigade Safety
Manager*

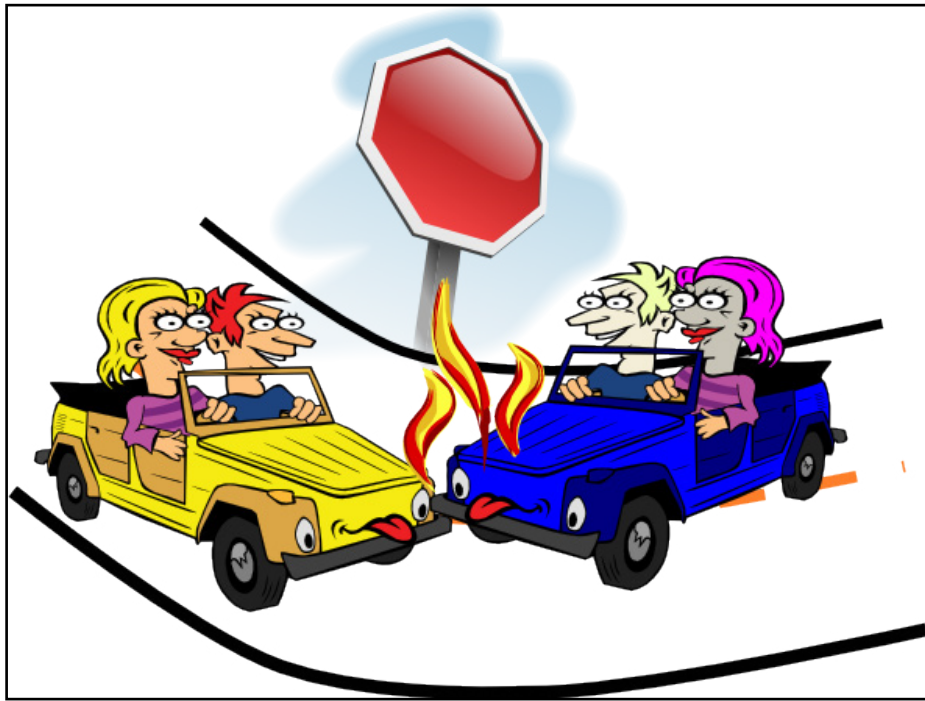
As winter approaches, we have to reevaluate our safety concerns. During this time of year, we have shorter hours of daylight, possible winter road conditions (especially if you drive north), holiday travels and other activities.

With shorter days, we need to be a little more alert, paying special attention areas where pedestrians and children are. Our younger folks do not think about it being harder to see them as their focus is on their activities, so slow down and be attentive to prevent possible mishaps.

The percent of accidents is on the increase due to distracted driving. During winter months there are numerous driving hazards that require your full attention while behind the wheel of your vehicle. There are longer hours of darkness, heavy cloud cover making it even less luminous, wet glaring roads and ice patches on the roadway and bridges. If distracted while driving and any of these situations can cause a disruption in your driving pattern and there is a tendency to over correct or over react as a reflex to the situation causing loss of control. While driving ensure you have complete attention on your driving, the road ahead, the other drivers around you, therefore arriving at your destination safely. Also pass this on to drivers you are riding with so your trip is not ended abruptly.

Our upcoming Holidays all bring special concerns. Along with Christmas come new bikes, scooters and other items putting adults and children in traffic lanes with their minds on their new toy not their surroundings, so once again we need to extra cautious while out and about.

Lastly, we have New Years which traditionally a lot of people drink more than they should. Have a plan, designate a driver, and watch your limit along with your friends, buddies and family.



Some other winter safety tips:

Don't forget our furry, four-legged friends. Even though they have fur, if they are not used to being outside in the cold weather, they could need time to build up a tolerance.

Be cautious driving when the temperature drops. Bridges tend to freeze faster than normal roads do.

Be aware that "black ice" is almost invisible. If you hit a patch, do not slam on your brakes. Lift off the accelerator, and try to turn the steering wheel in the direction the rear end of the vehicle is moving.



Army Safety Gram

ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

13-05

05 December 2012

Tips to Help You Safely Deck Your Halls

The Holiday Season means road trips, package wraps and ribbons, a fully trimmed tree, and more challenges. Consider these few tips for planning and safety this Holiday Season.

Safety Checklist before the Holidays

- ♦ Put any fuel that can catch on fire in a safe container outside the home.
- ♦ Test your home's multipurpose fire extinguisher.
- ♦ Test the batteries in your fire alarm.
- ♦ Clear any clutter out of escape routes from your home.
- ♦ If toddlers will be visiting, install safety gates at tops and bottoms of stairs.
- ♦ Check your throw rugs for non-slip backings.
- ♦ Put nightlights in hallways.
- ♦ Test the ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), both indoors and outdoors.



Holiday Decorations and Tree Trimming

- ♦ Before you buy a live tree, bend some needles in half. If they break easily or don't spring back, the tree is too dry.
- ♦ At home, put your tree in a non-tip stand kept filled with water.
- ♦ Place it at least three feet (one meter) away from a heat source, and near an electrical outlet.
- ♦ Before you string on the lights, inspect the bulbs, sockets, and cords for damage. Never put candles on a tree.
- ♦ String no more than three strands of lights together.
- ♦ If you buy a decorative plant for the holidays, ask the florist if it's poisonous to kids or pets. Keep questionable plants out of children's reach.

Reach For The Star - But Don't Reach Far!

- ♦ Face a ladder while climbing, and wear non-slip soles.
- ♦ When reaching to crown your tree with an ornament, keep your body centered on the ladder.
- ♦ On a stepladder, stand no higher than the second rung from the top.
- ♦ When nailing Santa onto the roof, remember that the highest safe standing level of an extension ladder is third rung from the top.
- ♦ Place your outdoor ladder well away from power lines, on level ground.

Great Safety Gifts to Give and Get

- ♦ Smoke alarm
- ♦ Cooking thermometer
- ♦ Car emergency kit
- ♦ Reaching aids
 - ♦ Safety glasses / goggles
 - ♦ Escape ladder
 - ♦ Fire extinguisher
 - ♦ Carbon monoxide detector



**Make sure you keep these safety tips in mind keep your
Holidays a joyous occasion for everyone!.**

Notified, certified, deployed:

47th Trans ready to go in 45 days

September 11 will always have meaning to everyone around the country. This year, as the country remembered the 11th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, Soldiers from the 47th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, were finding out they were deploying.

While this may be a normal occurrence in the U.S. Army, there was one catch. They would be deploying in November.

With such short notice, it would be considered a normal reaction to have disbelief. That wasn't the case, however.

"When I first told everyone, the Soldiers and their families did ask, 'Is this for real?'" said CPT Sophia A. Reclosado, commander of the 47th.

Reclosado had just taken command of the "Dark Knights" in late August, so the first opportunity she had to meet with many of the families she was giving them some unfortunate news.

"I was really surprised," said Reclosado. "Everyone really adapted and came together with such short notice. I really thank the families for their patience and support."

"Having that from the families is really a tremendous help, not only to the Soldiers, but to the chain of command as well," continued Reclosado.

Once notified, the Soldiers had to be properly trained. Individual tasks, such as weapons qualification, drivers training and Tactical Combat Casualty Care, or TC3, as well as squad and platoon collective tasks were immediately scheduled and executed. There was also personnel and medical screening that had to be done.

Part of that training was scheduled and implemented by SFC Dominique Bobiles, the Truckmaster for the "Dark Knights."

Bobiles arrived to the company the day they were notified of the deployment and immediately wanted to be part of the team. Using his experience, he set about helping to orchestrate what would happen over the next 45 days.

"If you come up with a solid plan, Soldiers will respond well to whatever training you give them," said Bobiles. "Overall, everything went extremely well. We can only get better as a team from here."

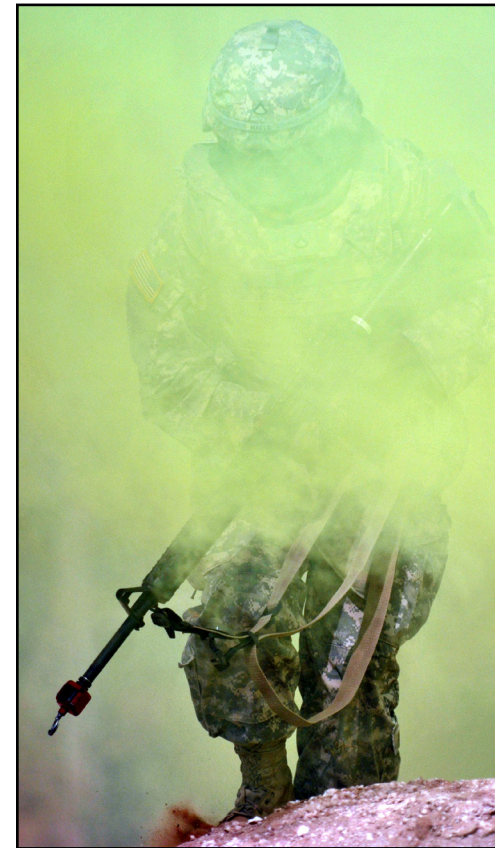
One of those who benefited the most from the training was SPC



A Soldier from the 47th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, moves during the individual movement techniques portion of individual readiness training, or IRT, of the "Dark Knights" train up for their deployment.



Two Soldiers from 47th TC move during the buddy-team portion of the Individual Movement Techniques (IMT) portion of Individual Readiness Training (IRT), East Fort Bliss.



A Soldier from the 47th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, moves during the individual movement techniques portion of individual readiness training, or IRT, of the "Dark Knights" train up for their deployment.



Soldiers from the 47th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, at the Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group (A/DACG), Biggs Army Airfield, Fort Bliss.

Ryan Glassman, a human resources specialist with the 47th. However, Glassman was not originally with the unit.

"I volunteered for this deployment," said Glassman, who was working at the battalion level with the 142nd at the time. "This is my first deployment and I am looking forward to the experience this brings."

"During the training, there were plenty of long days and nights," continued Glassman. "It was very exhausting, but it was well worth it."

One of the training highlights for Glassman included the Humvee Egress Assistance
See Deployment, Page 17

Right: Soldiers from the 47th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, practice moving a simulated casualty to a casualty collection point during training for the unit's deployment.



Spc. Brenton Baker of 47th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, kisses his son goodbye during the "Dark Knights" deployment ceremony.

Soldier of the Quarter:

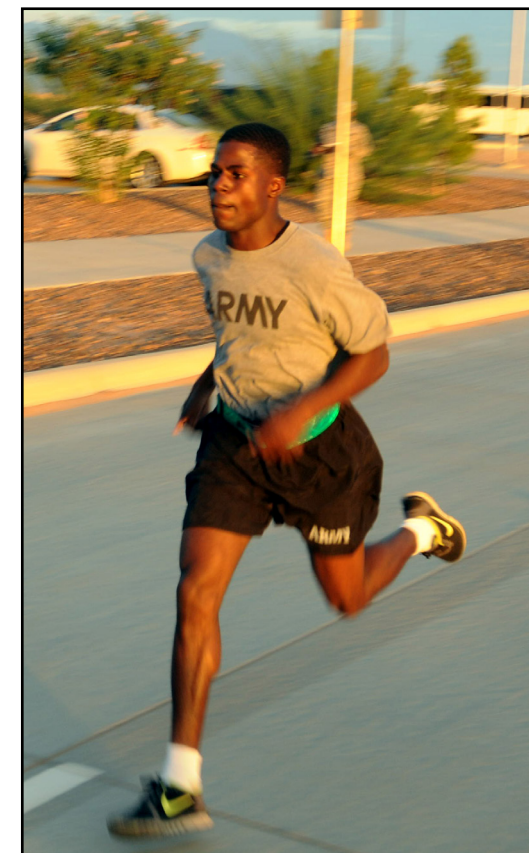


Congratulations to SPC Stephanie Moningka, the 15th Sustainment Brigade Soldier of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of the year. SPC Moningka, from HHC 142nd CSSB, is originally from Los Angeles, California. She joined the Army in 2010, and has served in Iraq with 377th Transportation Company. SPC Moningka plans to earn a bachelors degree in Nursing, moving on to a Masters Degree in Nursing, before finally achieving a Doctorate in Nursing Anesthetics.



NCO of the Quarter:

Congratulations to SGT Randy Swinton, the 15th Sustainment Brigade NCO of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of the year. SGT Swinton, a Motor Transport Operator with 47th Transportatino Company, is a native of Florence, South Caroline. He joined the Army in 2005, and has previosly served at Fort Drum, New York, and Fort Story Virginia. SGT Swinton has deployed to Iraq twice. He plans to retire from the Army as a Command Sergeant Major and obtain a Masters Degree in History.



Preventing West Nile Virus

CPT Michael L. Cooper

15th Sustainment Brigade medical Logistics Officer

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that was first seen in the United States in 1999. Since then, more than 30,000 people in the U.S. have been reported as getting sick from the virus, which includes more than 1,200 deaths. WNV infected mosquitoes have been found in every state except Alaska and Hawaii.

People contract WNV primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes acquire this virus by feeding on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes then transmit the virus to more birds, as well as to humans and other animals, when biting them. In a very small number of cases WNV can be transmitted through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and even during pregnancy from mother to baby. WNV is NOT transmitted from person-to-person. For example you cannot get the virus from touching or kissing a person who has the disease or from a health care worker who has treated someone with WNV.

There is no evidence that a person can get WNV from handling either live or dead Infected animals. However as a general precaution, always wear gloves when handling dead animals, including dead birds, and use double plastic bags when disposing of them. Remember to report any dead birds to the local preventive medicine personnel. WBAMC Entomology/Mosquito Surveillance Program Manager (915) 742-3124.

Most people who are infected with WNV, about 80% will not show any symptoms at all. Less than 20% of people experience mid flu-like Symons between 3 and 14 days after they are bitten by an Infected mosquito. In a small number of cases, less than 1%, the disease is much more serious and can cause encephalitis, particularly among the elderly and those with weakened immune system. Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain. It is marked by rapid onset of severe headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, paralysis, coma, and even death.

There is no specific vaccine, treatment, medication or cure for WNV; however, the symptoms and complications of the disease can be treated. Most people who get this illness recover from it. In more severe cases, individuals should seek professional medical help where treatment may include intravenous fluids, help with breathing and nursing care.

Although milder WNV illness improves on its own, pregnant women and nursing mothers should talk to their doctor if they develop symptoms that could be WNV. Most people with mild WNV symptoms do not necessarily need to seek medical attention. However, if you develop symptoms of

severe WNV illness, such as unusually severe headaches or confusion, seek medical attention Immediately. Severe WNV illness usually requires hospitalization

The best method of protection from biting insects such as mosquitoes is the use of the DOD insect Repellent System. It incorporates permethrin repellent on the uniform, DEET repellent on exposed skin, a properly worn uniform and sleeping under a permethrin-treated bed net. Uniforms factory-treated with permethrin will have a garment label similar to the one shown.

Another important preventive measure is to eliminate mosquito breeding sites. Empty water from birdbaths, old tires, and other outdoor containers that collect water. Make sure that door and window screens are in place and do not have holes. Avoid being outdoors from dusk to dawn, which is the peak biting time for many species of mosquitoes that transmit WNV.

Other standard military insect repellent products are available for use on exposed skin. These are:

Ultrathon-33% controlled-release DEET lotion, one application protects for 12 hours.

Ultra 30 insect repellent lotion, contains 30% Lipo Deet; the formulation is not as greasy and one application protects for up to 12 hours.

Cutter pump spray, contains 23% DEET, one application protects for up to 8 hours.

Cutter Outdoorsman insect repellent stick, contains 30% DEET, is a solid formulation, one application protects for up to 8 hours.

Sunsect lotion, combines 20% DEET, and 15SPF sunscreen.



DOD INSECT REPELLENT SYSTEM



Perspective Is Reality

By: CH (CPT) Shane L. Suiter

15th Special Chaplain

Maybe you’ve heard the phrase, “perception is reality,” which means the way each individual perceives life, that is that person’s reality. It affects and often clouds one’s ability to relate to others.

“Perspective is reality” is my little tweak to this idea. Yesterday, I was having a conversation with a friend. I told them of an idea Becky (my wife) and I were considering for our family. When I was done, he was looking at me as if I had just grown a second head. He then proceeded to insult me and tell me why my idea was a dumb one. I was a tad bit offended and wondered why he thought he knew what was best for me and my family, and wondered what gave him the right to tell me so. Then it hit me: “perspective is reality!” From his perspective, I’m crazy but from my perspective, everything about my idea makes perfect sense.

As I walked away from this conversation, I realized something about perspective, reality and grace. Most people do not have the same perspective as me and therefore have different ideas about how to live life. We all have different personalities, backgrounds, motivations, likes and dislikes, etc.,

and we all think we know what is best. The problem comes when we try to impose our perspective on others and give no grace for people to have their own ideas and perspective. This could be anything from how we keep our house, to our opinion on adoption, to where someone wants to live. It could be anything! We have thoughts and opinions on everything which is fine until we think our way is the only way. The world would be a much nicer place to live if we enjoyed our perspective and opinions but kept them to ourselves. It would be even better if in our attitudes and, especially our words, we gave others the same freedom that we desire - the freedom to live according to our own perspective.

If we didn’t live as if our perspective was the only one that mattered, all of our relationships around us would drastically improve. If we didn’t think certain people were weird or stupid because of their way of doing things was different from our own, we would notice many more friendly people in our lives. I think our marriage and parenting skills would improve as well.

So the next time you are tempted to jump to conclusions about somebody because you disagree with them, try to remember that your opinion and perspective are not the only ones on planet earth. Then strive to be a dispenser of grace in all of your relationships. You and all those around you will be much happier and content.

Spend a lunch with the BN CH: New weekly event in the Wrangler Battalion!

Every Wednesday at noon, the 15th STB Chaplain, Chaplain (CPT) Shane Suiter hosts a question and answer time in the Battalion classroom. It is an open forum where any question pertaining to the Bible, religion, spirituality, family situations, and/or other relationships are considered and discussed. Donation paid for pizza is supplied every week even though some choose to bring a lunch with them and participate in the Q & A. This weekly function gives Soldiers a break from the work day in order to learn more about the Bible and to gain some spiritual guidance for their lives. Turnout has been good with an average attendance of 17.

Every Chaplain Q & A lunch starts out with prayer and pizza. Then someone usually gets the proverbial ball rolling with an initial question. Topics from past Q & A include things like parenting issues; marriage issues; angels, demons, and physics; differences between religions; suicide as sin; theology of forgiveness and other topics as well. Each session lasts about an hour although some deeper and more difficult discussions have lasted much longer. Sometimes, some Soldiers

stay after 1300 for more specific and more personal questions for the Chaplain.

Some specific feedback from attendees is the Q & A provides a good break in the middle of our Army week. They have also said the Q & A is a great time to be lifted up, inspired, and educated. Most Soldiers leave every week with parting comments for the Chaplain and discussions continuing down the hall. Another specific comment about the Chaplain Q & A was it provided a great opportunity to regain some strength and composure to finish out the rest of the week.

Chaplain (CPT) Suiter continues to extend an invitation for all in the 15th STB to come join in the fun. Bring your genuine questions and a few dollars for pizza and join us next Wednesday at noon.

Protecting your personal information

Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is defined as any information about an individual maintained by an agency, including, but not limited to name, Social Security number, birth information, biometric information, or medical information. Beginning with the Privacy Act of 1974, federal government agencies were required to protect PII, but in actuality, the protection of PII is everyone’s responsibility. Failure to protect PII could result in identity theft of you, or any your family. According to The Federal Trade Commission, Florida has the highest rate of reported identity theft, followed by Arizona and Texas.

Protect Yourself

Label It. Put “**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**” labels on all personal information. Place labels on the top and bottom of each page in the document, in a slightly larger font than the rest of the text. When transporting PII the document should have a coversheet, be properly marked and if possible put in a non-descript folder.

Hey, Lock It Up. Store Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in secure containers, such as file cabinets or locked desks, limiting the access to only people who need to know. PII can lead to serious physical, social, or financial harm if it falls into the wrong hands.

Shred It Out. PII needs to be shredded in order to ensure proper protection. Just merely throwing it in the trash is not enough. Identity thieves are more than willing to go “dumpster diving” for your information. junk mail, discarded boxes, and envelopes with a name and address need to be disposed of by ripping off personal information or “blacking out” using a black permanent marker.

Check Yourself. A free yearly credit report is available; service members and their families are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Keep a close eye on all credit information and bank statements, even during deployments. Maintain accountability of credit cards, bankcards, Social Security cards and other PII. When these procedures are not followed, identity theft may occur.

Not For Facebook. Social networks are not secure. Posting information such as current whereabouts, birth information, and even a full name can make you a victim of “phishing” or target for identity theft. “Checking in” to Facebook, Twitter, or Foursquare while you are at the movies on Tampa Street is public information for anyone at any time, making you a possible victim to not just identity theft but also home invasion. Check your

privacy settings on social media sites, ensuring only “friends” see your posts or timeline.

If you feel that any of your PII has fallen into the wrong hands, here are some simple steps to follow:

Report all incidents involving the actual or suspected breach of PII to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team within one hour of discovery at [HTTP://WWW.US-CERT.GOV](http://WWW.US-CERT.GOV). In most occasions you should contact US-CERT.

After contacting US-CERT, send an email to PIIREPORTING@US.ARMY.MIL, which notifies Army leadership that an initial report has been submitted. This email should include the reporting number, brief synopsis and contact info for the incident. If computer access is not available, report the incident to a 24/7, toll free number 1-866-606-9580 from the office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army or to US-CERT at 1-703-235-5110.

From Transactions, Page 5

“This is the first time some of them are doing some of these finance operations,” continued Delano. “Having experienced NCOs helps us out a lot. If one of our experienced NCOs doesn’t have the answer to a question, the next one will.”

The ultimate purpose of the detachment is to provide top-notch customer service and support to the civilians and servicemembers located in Afghanistan. That service includes not only major locations such as Kandahar, but also the many forward operating bases and combat outposts located throughout the region.

“We are more than happy to help and go to those locations,” said Delano. “Our job is to make the customer happy, and we have the best customers in the world.”

From Deployment, Page 11

Trainer, or HEAT. The HEAT simulates a rolled-over vehicle, during which the trainer is capable of rotating and stopping at many positions. This device allows Soldiers to practice different egress techniques at various angles.

“During this training, you learn how to work as a team and take care of your battle buddies in case of a rollover,” said Glassman.

Glassman comes from a military family and did get some advice about the deployment from his father, who is still currently serving in the Army.

“Do your job, stay motivated and truck on,” said Glassman.

Importance of a good Family Readiness Program

Angela Gutierrez-Macias

15th Sustainment Brigade Family Readiness Support Assistant

A Family Readiness Program in 15th Sustainment Brigade is just as important as Soldier readiness for service members around the U.S. Army. Currently each unit in 15th Sustainment Brigade is in the process to establish a Family Readiness Program or strengthening the Family Readiness Program that is in place. The push for each unit to have a Family Readiness Program will result in community resources being available to Soldiers and family members, information flowing better, help during family emergencies and to have Family members prepared for any event so that Soldiers can maintain focus on the mission.

15th Sustainment Brigade SHARP Transition

SFC Roy Laronde

15th Sustainment Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor

The 15th Sustainment Brigade, along with all Fort Bliss units, completed the transition to the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program (SHARP) October 1, 2012. The SHARP program will ensure preventive measures, education, and timely responsiveness to Sexual Harassment and/or Sexual Assault incidents within the unit. COL Curtis A. Johnson, commander of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, believes all Soldiers, family members and civilians under his command are entitled to work in an environment free of all forms of discrimination and prejudice, and are treated with dignity and respect. He also has zero tolerance for sexual harassment and sexual assault. The SHARP program will assist him in implementing his policies.

Prior to the transition to the SHARP program, all Sexual Harassment complaints were addressed to the brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA). The commanders handled disciplinary actions for offenders under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Sexual assault complaints, which are criminal offenses, were handled by the Installation Family Advocacy Program Manager/Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (FARP/SARC), working closely with the Provost Marshall's Office and William Beaumont Army Medical Center. The intent of the SHARP program is to consolidate sexual harassment and sexual assault complaints under one umbrella.

Under SHARP, commanders appointed two fully trained SHARP specialists at the Brigade level and two each at the Battalion and Company levels, ensuring every unit, down to the company level has at least two SHARP specialists. The Brigade SHARPs are full time duty positions and the appointed individuals will

Unit commanders are emphasizing that Soldiers, family members, and the community resources need to work together to improve family support. A Family Readiness Program can assist in enhancing the flow of communication between commands and families during deployments, training, and peacetime to advance family support. Members of the Family Readiness Program include leaders, Soldiers, family members, and civilians. They will act as an information and referral service, coordinate trainings to provide military and family education life skills, link family members with the right resources around the community to meet specific needs, promote resiliency, and strengthen spouses with tools to build Army Strong Families. Please express your interest to assist in a unit's Family Readiness Program to the 15th Sustainment Brigade Family Readiness Support Assistant, 915-741-2722.

manage their respective Brigade programs. These specialists will supervise unit SHARP training and manage all Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault complaints. They will work closely with the Provost Marshall's Office and William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Only the most qualified officers, noncommissioned officers and civilians are considered to perform the duties of a SHARP specialist. Due to the sensitive nature of working with Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault victims, these individuals must be carefully selected, screened and trained. Among other selection criteria, potential SHARP specialists must:

- Not be currently enrolled, nor have been previously enrolled, in drug or alcohol dependency intervention program of any type in the past 12 months.
- Have favorable civilian and military disciplinary records.
- Be screened against the National Sex Offender Registry database.
- Not have been convicted by civilian court (other than minor traffic offenses) or court-martial.
- Have no history of domestic violence or assault.
- Have favorable local background check.

Soldiers, family members and Civilians may contact the following individuals with any questions on the SHARP program or with any complaints:

SFC Cooley, Bde SHARP Specialist (915) 744-2590

SFC LaRonde, Bde EOA (915) 781-3232

Mrs. McDaniel-Cook 1AD SARC (915) 245-8991



Top Left: MG Dana J.H. Pittard, commanding general of 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, with LTC Jose Solis, 142nd CSSB Commander, after the Fort Bliss Tri-Athlon. LTC Solis was part of the winning team in the Tri-Athlon.

Top Right: Members of the 15th Sustainment Brigade S-6 shop participating in career day at John Drugan Elementary School in El Paso. The Soldiers brought a military vehicle, as well as equipment, and answered questions for the children.

Center: The 15th Sustainment Brigade stands tall, ready for the Fort Bliss Turkey Day trot.

Left: MSG Donald Elmore, HHC, 15th Special Troops Battalion, inhales as he catches a whiff of gas while testing his mask during the CS chamber.

THE WAGON WHEEL



CPT Kristen Usnick, left, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, re-enlists SGT Ryan Craig, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) specialist with HHC 15th STB inside the gas chamber, East Fort Bliss. Craig, who plans on making the Army a career, re-enlisted for three years with current duty stabilization.

If you are interested in re-enlisting or seeing what options you may have, contact your Career Counselor Today!