

August 2013

Take the lead

In-depth coverage of the Combat Support Training Exercise.

Brought to you by the 103rd ESC, 366th MPAD, 368th PAD, and 220th PAD

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puts Soldiers into the fight

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Thank you to the Volk Field Air National Guard for supporting the 103rd ESC during production of this magazine.

Word on the Street

1. If you could have lunch with anyone, alive or dead, who would it be?
2. Which movie makes you cry?
3. When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?



Sgt. Selina Dibella

419th CSSB
Hometown: Menifee, CA

1. "I would like to have lunch with Orlando Bloom. I was in love with him in Lord of the Rings."
2. The Green Mile
3. Wanted to work at Disneyland or be a veterinarian



Pfc. Jack Quinby

909th HR Co.
Hometown: Newberg, OR

1. "I want to meet Chuck Yeager. He would have a lot of great advice."
2. Requiem of a Dream
3. Wanted to be an airline pilot



Spc. Craig Wheeler

728th QM Co.
Hometown: Ledyard, IA

1. "General Patton because of his tactics in WWII, and because he was open with his words."
2. Band of Brothers
3. Wanted to be a diesel mechanic and serve in the Army



Sgt. 1st Class Robin Budde

361st Med. Logistics Co.
Hometown: Cedar Rapids, IA

1. "Abe Lincoln. His interpersonal relations are interesting. We would have a lot in common."
2. Fox and the Hound
3. Just wanted to be comfortable



Pfc. Connie Sanders

620th CSSB
Hometown: Cahokia, IL

1. "I would have lunch with Jack Black because he is very funny and we have a similar personality."
2. The Pursuit of Happyness
3. Wanted to be Veterinar-ian



Capt. Thomas Robinson

620th CSSB
Hometown: St. Louis, MO

1. "John Calvin because much of my theology matches his writings."
2. "I can't think of any that have made me cry but Pride and Prejudice from 1995 is my favorite movie."
3. Wanted to be an electrical engineer

commentary

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's job is to serve you



646th REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP
Chaplain Section

Chaplains play a unique role in the US military. They are an integral part of the greatest fighting force the world has ever known.

While yes, they do represent a particular faith group, they are also professional Soldiers.

Chaplains offer counseling. We are available 24/7/365, not just on battle-assembly weekends. We are here to serve you around the clock. No matter where you are on your faith journey, we want to meet you where you are and walk with you. We will not leave you where you are; we care about you and accept you and want to walk with you on your journey.

No matter the topic (fantasy sports, movies, etc.), no matter the situation (ad-

dictions, PTSD, relationship issues), what you say to us stays with us. We are a lock box, and we will keep what you say confidential.

You may not know us personally or have a deep relationship with us, but when you call for the police or fire department, you are not concerned with which public servant appears. You want help. And in the same fashion, that is who we are and what we do.

Use us. Call us. Our job, our ministry, is to serve you.

The three components to a Soldier's health are physical, mental, and spiritual. Our lane is spiritual, and we are there to assist in mental health as well.

- Maj. Samuel Thomas
646th RSG
(first row, center)

Unit keeps Army moving with logistics

BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 620th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), provided multifunctional logistics support to a variety of Army Reserve units during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 on Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The 620th CSSB's mission was to provide mission command support of assigned and attached units.

"We essentially gather information on each unit, analyze intelligence reports, and issue orders to subordinate units," said Master Sgt. Richard Montgomery, an automated logistical specialist and noncommissioned officer in charge with the 620th CSSB. "We make sure to keep a good picture of our battle space."

The 620th CSSB plays an important part in the CSTX, ensuring respective units receive their missions according to training requirements.

"Part of my job is to decipher an operation order and disseminate the information to our down-trace units," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Turley, intelligence analyst and battle captain with the 620th CSSB. "I make sure to get the information to where it needs to go."

The information flow goes both ways, however; the 620th CSSB also gathers reports from their attached units, and condenses the intelligence before briefing higher command staff.

"It's like an artist painting a picture," said Montgomery, a St. Louis native. "We paint a picture to the command staff so they can make informed decisions."

In addition to helping other units fulfill their training tasks, the 620th CSSB is also gaining real-world experience as a sustainment support element.

Pfc. Kurt Otto, an intelligence analyst with the 620th CSSB, recently joined the unit after graduating from Advanced Individual Training.

"I'm really learning a lot as I go," said Otto, also a St. Louis native. "It's been busy, but that helps simulate possible deployment environments, which has helped me get better at my job."

In the end, both the 620th CSSB and their attached units benefit from the mutual support and teamwork required to conduct the CSTX.

"We try to create an environment where people want to follow you and your directions, and help make life easier for the Soldiers we serve and our command staff above us by building camaraderie, faith, and trust," Montgomery said.

GUEST COLUMN

10 of our favorite private phrases

BY SPC. JOHN WALLACE, 103rd ESC

If you've been in the Army for more than a day, then you were probably a private at some point, made a mistake or two, spent too much money and laughed about it later (unless you're an officer, in which case you made all of your mistakes in college, which would be a different article entirely). Some of you may still be privates, and don't be offended by the list; I've had my fair share of sensitivity training and I'm just poking fun at the stereotypes that do exist.

1. "Nobody told me."

This is a classic way to try and avoid trouble. The funny part is that it never works because it's mostly used when a Sergeant shouldn't need to tell you. "Nobody told me I couldn't leave my weapon in the Humvee!"



"But nobody told me I couldn't throw classified information on the internet!"

2. "I think I'm going to buy a motorcycle!"

If there's one thing privates love shooting besides assault rifles, it's their paychecks at anyone who will take them, and a brand new crotch rocket is obviously a must-have. Why invest/save \$5,000 when you could get a Kawasaki Ninja that can triple the speed limit!?



"For what I lack in money, I make up with speed!"

3. "I met a girl at the bar last week, and we're getting married before we deploy."

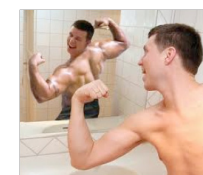
All right, if this happened to you, and it worked out, then we're all very happy for you. Statistically, this sort of thing does not work out. I'm not a life planner or relationship advisor, but maybe you should think hard before making a lifelong commitment instead of declaring it love at first Jäger bomb.

4. "My car won't start."

This excuse always kills me, but you hear it at every battle assembly when someone is late. "It's weird, my car starts all of the other 28 days out of the month just fine, but it just won't start this morning, sergeant. The starter must have gone out."

5. "This one time...in basic training..."

Get a group of privates together for five minutes and you might get stuck in an hour-long conversation of basic training stories getting swapped back and forth while each one tries to top the others to show how much harder their summer of push-ups was.



"Yeah bro, at Fort Sill we had to do like 1,000 pushups every day."

8. "I think I'm going to go Special Forces."

The Special Forces are some of the most elite military members in the world, and if you're up to the challenge, then go for it! However, in my five-year Army Reserve career, I've heard this too many times to count with a 0% follow-through rate.

7. "This \$50 Affliction T-shirt will look awesome!"

Once you've joined the Army and shown how cool you look in uniform and bought your expensive crotch rocket, the next step is obviously to purchase an overpriced shirt for when you're not in uniform. "Bro, sick shirt."



"I want YOU to notice my sequin jeweled T-shirt."

8. "I think I need another knife"

We've all seen the guy that carries three or four knives on him at any given time. You know, just in case insurgents come to fight without weapons and attack the drill hall. Good thing Pvt. Ranger can fight them all off with his four knives and level-one combatives skills from basic training.

9. "I think I'm going to get a tattoo of my dog tags."

You're proud to serve, and that's great! For a dog tag tattoo I will award you 10 points for pride and 0 points for originality or creativity.

10. "Why?"

This is a classic knee-jerk reaction, and it takes years for Soldiers to figure out that there is in fact a reason for a lot of the things they do. Regardless if there's a reason or not, you signed a contract to take orders from Uncle Sam, so just go do it. If you really need to ask why, ask yourself why you joined and use that for your reason. Mop that floor for freedom!

WAR TECH

Virtual Reality

Troops hone warfighting skills in simulator

BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 443rd Transportation Company, under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), participated in a Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The CSTX is designed to train and prepare Army Reserve units for future deployments.

“Our mission is to relocate heavy equipment for the CSTX, and also react to [operation orders] as needed by higher [headquarters],” said Adrian Ortiz, commander of the 443rd Trans. Co. “We have Soldiers that are training in all aspects of warrior tasks and drills.”

Soldiers of the 443rd Trans. Co. performed a variety of missions, including convoy operations, heavy equipment transportation, and virtual battle simulations.

“The convoy operation was an awesome experience,” said Spc. Haley Cumpton, a motor transport operator with the 443rd Trans. Co.

“It helps you get familiarized with situations to know what to do and how to react.”

In addition to simulated battlefield situations, Soldiers of the 443rd Trans. Co. transported heavy equipment.

Soldiers of the 443rd Trans. Co. also had the opportunity to train in a virtual battle space simulator.

“The VBS2 system offers realistic battlefield simulations and can be used to teach doctrine, tactics, and procedures during squad patrolling,” said 1st Lt. Christina Williams, a nurse with the 452nd Combat Support Hospital.

‘We’ve been practicing lots of cool things. Everyone knows their jobs and everyone works together to get the mission done.’

- Spc. Haley Cumpton

“It’s really awesome training, I love it,” Cumpton said. “It really tests your ability to communicate effectively.”

The variety of missions tested leadership capabilities, requiring close cooperation between noncommissioned officers and enlisted Soldiers to accomplish their tasks to standard.

“The leadership is very engaged with their Soldiers,” Ortiz said. “Our [noncommissioned officers] are able to sharpen their leadership skills and work as a team.”

The CSTX is designed to validate the 443rd Trans. Co. for deployment-ready status.

“We’re hoping to get a positive validation,” Ortiz said. “We’d like to tell the Army the 443rd is ready to deploy.”

Regardless of the outcome of their evaluation, 443rd Soldiers are taking advantage of the opportunity to train their skill proficiencies in an engaging environment.

“We’ve been practicing lots of cool things,” Cumpton said. “Everyone knows their jobs and everyone works together to get the mission done.”



Virtual training: An Army Reserve Soldier assigned to the 443rd Trans. Co. operates a Dismounted Soldier Training System during a Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Hector Corea, 366th MPAD)



A trainer waits for the 459th Firefighter Detachment and the 826th Ordnance Company, both under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), in August. In addition to putting out a fire, the firefighters had to locate and evacuate a casualty dummy. (Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)

Fighting fire with training

Army firefighters practice their craft in a real-world setting — with gear, heat, pressure, and all.

BY SGT DEBRAH SANDERS
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— Boots, pants, oxygen tanks, gloves, helmets, and protective masks lie scattered on the ground near a seemingly useless and abandoned building. All of these items have a purpose. They are tools used to train U.S. Army firefighters.

Soldiers of the 459th Firefighter Detachment, and the 826th Ordnance Company participated in a “burn house” exercise Aug 9. The exercise included reacting to a live fire, and finding and evacuating casualties.

“The purpose of this training is to save lives,” said Spc. Ashley Will, 459th Engineering Detachment.

Will said she chose to become a firefighter because it seemed like a very interesting field within the Army Reserve. For her, the most enjoyable aspects of the training come from learning new things, and from being in the presence of other units who perform a similar function.

“Having everyone here from different units, and being able to communicate and learn from them has been the best part,” Will said.

The units also had the benefit of some knowledgeable instructors.

“The trainers are nice, intelligent, and professional,” said Pfc. Brenden Mertz, a firefighter with the 826th Ordnance Company, under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

“We’ve learned new strategies about what we do,” Mertz said.

Mertz said that the training was important in the event that should the people in his unit ever be called upon. “It ensures we know how to respond and keeps our skills sharp,” Mertz said.

The real fire garnered a real reaction from the Soldiers. They were to go into a building filled with smoke, and haul out a casualty dummy weighing between 180 to 220 pounds. For many, this situation might not be appealing. However, Mertz felt differently.

“Getting to be in there, the heat, the intensity of the situation,” is what Mertz said was his favorite part of the exercise.

Firefighters from other detachments observed and instructed the Soldiers throughout the training. Among them was Spc. Edward Kutz of the 336th Firefighter Detachment.

“Communications were a challenge for them at first,” Kutz said. “There are two units here that haven’t had a chance to work together.”

He said that the units improved the more they did the exercise. In the process, the Soldiers weren’t the only ones that learned a few new things.

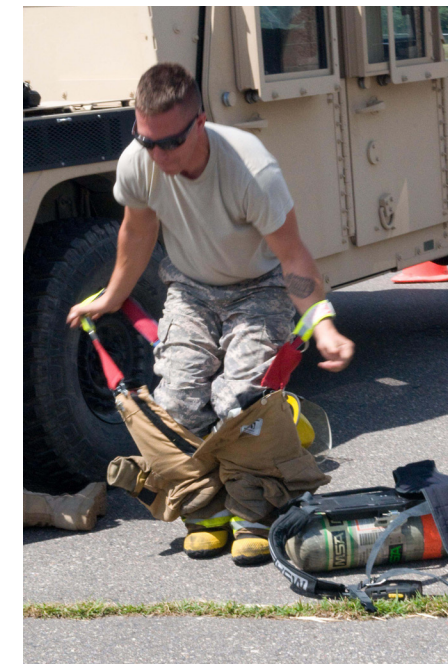
“What I enjoy most about this training is observing what we normally do,” Kutz said. “While mistakes have been made, it has been a learning experience for the trainers too.”

“Normally, when mistakes are made, we’re on the outside of it,” Kutz said. He said that seeing what was done, right or wrong, improves future training.

“I learned a lot from giving my knowledge and experience and watching people use it.”

‘[My favorite part is] getting to be in there, the heat, the intensity of the situation.’

- Pfc. Brenden Mertz



Spc. Jordan Davids, a firefighter with the 826th Ordnance Company, under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), puts on his gear prior to responding to a fire during a “burn house” exercise as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise at Volk Field, Wis., in August. Prior to reacting, the Soldiers had to check and prepare their gear, including their oxygen tanks. (Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)



Soldiers with the 826th Ordnance Company, under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), respond to a fire and save a casualty dummy during a “burn house” exercise as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise at Volk Field, Wis., in August. Prior to reacting, the Soldiers had to check and prepare their gear, including their oxygen tanks. (Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)

Where there's smoke

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF HANSEN
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— Dozens of units are at Fort McCoy, Wis., this year to take part in the 86th Training Division's Combat Support Training Exercise. Soldiers from around the country are participating in special training exercises to improve on their basic combat skills, as well as their units' collective training tasks.

One of these lanes focuses on reacting to a possible chemical, biological, radioactive, or nuclear (CBRN) attack — specifically on the local populace. Members of the 344th Engineer Battalion acted as villagers who had requested U.S. assistance with a possible chemical attack from enemy forces.

On Aug. 7, members of the 204th Army Band and the 601st Transportation Company were asked to respond to the request and react to possible enemy contact.

"Some of these situations are new to Soldiers," said Spc. Justin Altavilla, from the 344th Eng. Bn. and who served as an Opposing Forces actor during the exercise.

The units came under a simulated mortar attack upon reaching the village, and were expected to react accordingly. Altavilla explained how this situation becomes confusing at first, and that the units must work as a team to meet several objectives at a time.

"You can see how Soldiers can lose sight," he said, adding that he was happy overall with the way units were handling themselves in this difficult situation.

Working with multiple Army Reserve units from varying backgrounds can compound the confusion of any training environment, added Sgt. Dean Delara, a movement noncommissioned officer from the 601st.

"It's not something we do every day," he said. "But we're here to learn the capabilities of our lower enlisted as well as leadership."

Staff Sgt. Jacob Probst, a senior weapons instructor with the 329th Observer/Controller team out of Milwaukee, Wis., said that the training had been going well so far. He said he feels the tasks are important to all units, regardless of their mission. Things like evaluating a casualty, basic se-



Soldiers from the 204th Army Band and 601st Trailer Transfer Point evaluate a casualty and provide perimeter security during a simulated chemical attack at the Combat Support Training Exercise 86 on Fort McCoy, Wis., Aug. 7. The units were being evaluated on their ability to react to an attack on a local village by an unknown enemy force. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen, 366th MPAD)

curity, and requesting medical assistance are things that might go by the wayside for Army Reserve units.

"The diversity of these units makes it difficult to practice all tasks," he said. "And these tasks are important to all units, regardless of unit type."

But whether a regular infantry Soldier, a truck driver, or member of a band, all Soldiers must stay trained on the basic skills. This is the overall purpose of the CSTX, and the CBRN lane is only one of many things Soldiers will be trained on during the month.

Three Soldiers volunteer for 99-day mission

BY CADET WILLIAM CYNECKI
220th PAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— Army Reserve Soldiers usually go on orders for only two to three weeks per year, but that's not the case for three Soldiers from the 401st Transportation Company. Sgt. Raymond Brand, Pfc. Zach Strang and Pfc. Vern Ostrander are serving on a 99-day mission at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Since June 12, the three have been working as a yard crew, performing preventative maintenance checks and services on Fort McCoy's military vehicles before they are issued to visiting units.

"It's been great having the opportunity to train on multiple vehicles for the first time," said Brand, who drove a bulldozer during his first day on the assignment.

At home, Brand works for a furniture factory, but loves the freedom of working outdoors in a motor pool.

"I love it so much I actually called my wife with the idea of moving here to work full time," he said.

Brand said his wife jokes that, during this assignment, he's adopted a 19-year-old (Ostrander) and a 24-year-old (Strang). The two share the same enthusiasm as

'When i heard about this opportunity, I jumped on it.'

- Pfc. Vern Ostrander

their sergeant toward the mission.

"I was really bummed that our unit wasn't going on AT [annual training] this year, so when I heard about this opportunity, I jumped on it," said Ostrander, who attends Kalamazoo County College located in the western part of Michigan.

Strang, an ROTC cadet from Western Michigan University, was quick to volunteer for the mission, too.

"This experience reassures me that I want to go active duty," Strang said.

When the three are not at work, they enjoy the on-post activities such as shooting on the range and playing in a kickball league. They have also attended an on-post concert when the band Styx performed.

So far the three have performed hundreds of preventative maintenance checks and services on a wide range of vehicles. Brand predicts that that number will be in the thousands by the mission's end.

Troops venture into woods



Spc. Victor Alvaraz (right), and Spc. Juan Camacho (left), work to buddy-carry Spc. Jonathan Ochoa (middle) during a react-to-fire training event on Aug. 6. Alvaraz, Camacho, and Ochoa, are all with the 307th Chemical Company. (photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)

A chemical unit practices real-world tactical skills.

BY SGT. DEBRAH SANDERS
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— It's a warm day in Wisconsin, a convoy rolls out of Forward Operating Base Liberty, consisting of a group that isn't often found running convoys. This convoy is made up of the members of the 307th Chemical Company, 453rd Chemical Battalion.

Normally, the 307th works with several biological integrated protection systems (BIDS), which is used to detect chemical, biological, radioactive, or nuclear hazards. Today, they are going through lanes that will test how they react to combat.

"It's fun to get out in the woods," said Spc. Joseph Reilly, a chemical specialist with the 307th Chemical Co.

The lanes consisted of several scenarios. Including, reacting to fire while in a village, improvised explosive devices, and how to interact with the local population.

"It's good to do training that Soldiers don't get to normally do," said Sgt. Daniel Geiss, chemical sergeant and squad leader with the 307th Chemical Co.

To Geiss, the training was very real-world applicable, as he shared stories throughout the training of his experiences during previous deployments.

"It's definitely beneficial training," Geiss said.

He said that the training also gives members of the unit another opportunity.

"It allows leadership to get to know their Soldiers," Geiss said.

Members of the 307th are from all over southern California, explains Geiss. Training events such as this are one of the few times they all see each other outside of drill.

Moving on up

► Soldiers of the 443rd Transportation Company, under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), work to secure a vehicle on Aug. 13. The heavy equipment transporter (HET) training was part of the Combat Support Training Exercise and included training on how to back up a HET, isolating bogies, and changing a tire. (Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)



BY SGT. DEBRAH SANDERS
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— This is Forward Operating Base Independence, but from the number of vehicles here, it looks more like a giant motorpool. One of the units here is the 443rd Transportation Company. Members can be found near a few vehicles going through refresher courses on heavy equipment transporters that are an essential part of overseas operations.

“We’re learning how to back up, use winches, and how to operate machines and be safe,” said Spc. Nicholas Rasmussen, a truck driver with the 443rd Transportation Co., under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Rasmussen said he is an Army Reserve Sol-

dier with nine years of experience, and prior experience working on semi-trucks. In 2008, he began to work on heavy equipment transporters

“This is all stuff we do overseas,” Rasmussen said. “It’s great to get out and do something new every day.”

The overall training of the unit didn’t stop at just knowing how to operate or maneuver vehicles.

“We have been rotating junior Soldiers into leadership roles,” said Staff Sgt. Jerrid Timmerman. It allows the younger Soldiers to see the administrative side of things, he explained. “It helps them see what paperwork needs to be completed to get things done. A lot haven’t deployed, and this is much better than being in a classroom.”

He was quite pleased with the performance of junior Soldiers who had been put in such po-

sitions. “Our team has really been doing well,” Timmerman said. “I can’t believe how well our [specialists] and young [sergeants] have done. We’ve pretty much thrown them to the wolves, and they have done great.”

Timmerman still found the vehicle training useful. “The night driving is very useful,” he said. “Last time I was overseas, we only rolled out at night.”

Being in a classroom is notional,” Timmerman said when explaining the benefits of being able to be out in the field. “Getting down, dirty, under trucks, changing tires— really gives this training real-world value.”

Timmerman mentioned that it was also a good team-building experience. “We’re living and working together for 20 days,” Timmerman said. “It’s not an experience you can get during a drill weekend.”

HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRANSPORT SYSTEM

WHAT IT IS

A military logistics vehicle used to transport, deploy, and evacuate tanks, armored personnel carriers, self-propelled artillery, armored bulldozers and other heavy vehicles.

SERVICE HISTORY

1993 — present

WARS

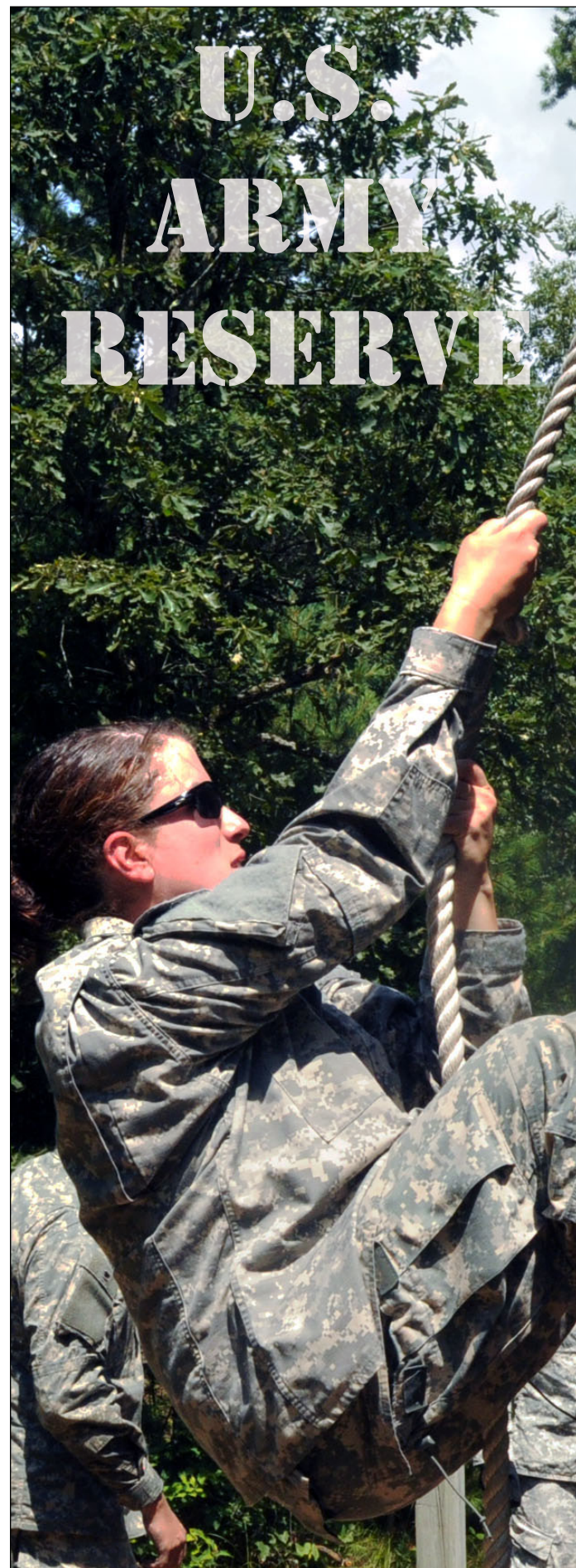
Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn



PRIMARY PURPOSE

Primarily for delivery of the M1 Abrams, recovery of non-mission-capable armored vehicles, and cost efficiency.

41,000 lbs.
Weight of each HET system



ESGR hosts boss lift for IA Reserve

BY SGT EMILY WALTER
103rd ESC

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in Iowa and Illinois hosted a “boss lift” on Aug. 17 to allow employers to observe and take part in troops’ operations during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis. Facilitated by the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), it was the first-ever boss lift to occur for Army Reserve units from Iowa.

“I think [the boss lift] is a fantastic experience for the employers,” said Becky Coady, program manager for the ESGR Iowa committee. “Just being able to have a little bit of that hands-on experience.”

Events that allow civilian leadership to witness firsthand the capabilities of the Reserve are particularly relevant since the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. The 2012 NDAA dictates that state legislatures may now send federal Reserve Component forces to respond to domestic needs such as stateside natural disasters or emergencies. Before, that role was reserved for the National Guard.

Because of this broadened role, the Army Reserve is making strides in showcasing its capabilities with events such as the ESGR boss lift. During this particular lift, the employers observed Reserve units participating in their annual training.

The boss lift included a tour of Army Reserve units and capabilities including water purification, field laundry operations, fuel storage



A Soldier watches as a civilian employer learns how to shoot an assault rifle during the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. The boss lift gave Soldiers’ employers an opportunity to see Reserve capabilities. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, Combat Camera, 86th Training Division)

and distribution, food service operations and more. They even had an opportunity to shoot assault rifles, ride in the humvee roll-over simulator and witness Soldiers react to a notional ambush as part of the exercise.

The employers, who came from a range of various companies, appreciated the effort put forth by the units involved.

“I would encourage everybody to do this,” said Brent Behrens, a Nationwide Insurance recruiter. “Hopefully I’ll be able to do it again in the future. I’ll definitely be signing up again if I get the opportunity.”

Cluing civilian leaders in about the Reserve’s capabilities is vital to maintaining a strong partnership, especially if Reserve units must respond to future stateside disasters. If the trend continues, Behrens should have plenty more opportunities to see what these units can do.



Spc. Cassaundra Ellis, a water purification specialist with the 14th Quartermaster Company, explains how the water purification system operates. (Photo by Cadet William Cynecki, 220th PAD)

BY CADET WILLIAM CYNECKI
220th PAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 14th Quartermaster Company, a water purification unit from Greensburg, Pa., didn’t just kill contaminants in the water during their annual training, but they also killed the “bad guys” in the field. The unit sustained six attacks from various opposing forces, which act as “the enemy” for Army training purposes.

This was all part of the Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. The exercise provided Soldiers from various units with a realistic environment in which to train for future deployments.

“Our Soldiers have to perform their duties while combining all of the factors that make warfare,” said 1st Lt. Katie DeBrason, platoon leader with the 14th QM Co. “If we don’t perform our job, nobody in the Army will be able to perform his or her own.”

The unit purifies up to 30,000 gallons of water per day, using a water purification system. Many Soldiers depend on their support.

During the process, the Soldiers add three different chemicals to the water, making it safe for use and consumption. They also test it hourly to determine a safe pH

balance and temperature. It requires three people to set up the system and one person to run it.

“The job sounds easy, but during an attack, it’s far from it,” said Spc. Cassaundra Ellis.

Ellis, a subject matter expert on water purification, said she was frazzled during one of the opposing forces’ attacks and didn’t know whether to pick up her M16 or to do an emergency shutdown on the water purification.

“The more reaction drills I’m put through, the more likely I’ll make the right decision during a real battle,” Ellis said.

Master Sgt. Marvin Smith, from Fort Knox, Ky., was in charge of some of the opposing force attacks, and was impressed by many of the units’ reactions to their ambushes.

“Everyone, especially a water purification unit, needs to be able to react effectively to the enemy,” said Smith, who estimates that there were 225 Soldiers acting as opposing forces during the CSTX.

The opposing forces would attack by surprise with anything from blank ammunition and smoke bombs, to improvised explosive devices, making it as realistic as possible.

After a successful annual training, the 14th QM Co. is prepared to effectively supply troops with the most valuable asset, regardless of the operational environment.

Gas! Gas! Gas!

**Soldiers undergo realistic
training for a chemical
environment**

BY SGT. DEBRAH SANDERS

Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th PAD

Staff Sgt. Shaun Clarke, 445th Transportation Company, 649th Regional Support Group, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is dragged to cover by Spc. Jonathan Sieck during a chemical-attack training lane on Aug 8.



Pfc. Jeremy Iriate, 445th Transportation Company, 649th Regional Support Group, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), evaluates casualty Spc. Ronald Paulsen, also of the 445th, on Aug. 6. The exercise included casualty evaluation and first-aid of a casualty during a chemical attack. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— It's a sunny, clear day. Suddenly, someone yells, "Gas! Gas! Gas!" Vehicles sound their horns in intervals of three, alerting Soldiers of the 445th Transportation Company that they have exactly nine seconds to get their protective masks on.

Fortunately for the 445th, 469th Regional Support Group, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), this is just part of the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Sgt. Josh Cronk of the 445th says that the training is beneficial, and not just tactically.

"It makes you think; a lot of guys have never done lanes like these," Cronk said. "It's really good to see how they react."

Cronk, a Waterloo, Iowa, native, has deployed twice to Iraq— once in 2006, and again in 2009.

Cronk says that he feels the unit has benefited from the training, including

learning a very valuable lesson when it comes to casualties in a chemical environment.

"When you have a casualty, get out as soon as you can," Cronk said.

A fellow Soldier and Veteran, Spc. Jonathan Sieck, also of the 445th, also enjoyed the training.

"Instead of reading out of books, we get to get out and into it," Sieck said.

Sieck also said that it's a good realization on how things can happen out in the field.

"It has helped me see how I react in stressful situations," Sieck said.

Sieck feels that many other Soldiers could benefit from this sort of training, too.

"It's great training because it lets Soldiers know what to do, and helps them understand how to react," Sieck said.

Sieck, a native of Center Point, Iowa, mentioned that he would like to do more training like the chemical-attack lane.

WHAT TO DO IN A CBRN ENVIRONMENT

- 1 Identify the hazard
- 2 Don protective mask
- 3 Yell "Gas! Gas! Gas!"
- 4 Take cover to reduce exposure
- 5 Decontaminate exposed skin
- 6 Cover all exposed skin
- 7 Decontaminate personal equipment
- 8 Notify supervisor of hazard markers
- 9 Continue mission



Pfc. Jeremy Iriate, 445th Transportation Company, 649th Regional Support Group, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), attempts to secure the protective mask of Spc. Ronald Paulsen, also of the 445th, on Aug. 6. (Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders)

PHOTOS



▲ ABOVE: Col. Thomas Jones, operations officer with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), speaks with civilian media role-players during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, Combat Camera, 86th Training Division)

◀ LEFT: Spc. Kasaundra Ellis of the 14th Quartermaster Company, under the 304th Sustainment Brigade, monitors the water purification equipment at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, Combat Camera, 86th Training Division)

▲ TOP: The 204th Army Band performs at Forward Operating Base Freedom outside Fort McCoy, Wis., during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 in August. The band performed 14 shows for both civilian and military audiences during the unit's two-week annual training. On top of that, the Soldiers in the band also participated in tactical training and weapons qualification. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



A Soldier with the 376th Financial Mangement Support Unit participates in an obstacle course at Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 in August. The course is meant to build confidence and teamwork. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen, 366th MPAD)



Soldiers from the 459th Firefighters Detachment, under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), suppress an external aircraft fire as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Volk Field, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, Combat Camera, 86th Training Division)



Brig. Gen. Arlan DeBlieck, commanding general of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), speaks with Maj. Gen. Karen LeDoux, commander of the 88th Regional Support Command, meet at the 103rd ESC tactical operations center at Fort McCoy, Wis., during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



A Soldier with the 376th Financial Mangement Support Unit participates in an obstacle course at Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 in August. The course is meant to build confidence and teamwork. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen, 366th MPAD)



Spc. Phe Chanthanivong, a chemical specialist in the 307th Chemical Company, 453rd Chemical Battalion, pulls security during a react-to-fire training lane in August. (Photo by Sgt. Debrah Sanders, 366th MPAD)



A Soldier with the 376th Financial Mangement Support Unit participates in an obstacle course at Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 in August. The course is meant to build confidence and teamwork. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen, 366th MPAD)



Maj. Gen. Luis Visot, deputy commanding general of the Army Reserve, learns about water purification during his visit to Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise in August. Stops on his visit included a field sanitation unit, field hospital operations, water purification, fuel distribution, and a tactical operations center. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



Members of a congressional delegation learn about Army field sanitation during their visit to Fort McCoy, Wis., as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise in August. Stops on his visit included a field sanitation unit, field hospital operations, water purification, fuel distribution, and a tactical operations center. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



A Soldier with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) marches with the unit in the Iowa State Fair Veterans' Day Parade in August. The troops marching in the parade are part of the 103rd ESC's rear detachment while the rest of the unit was at Volk Field, Wis., participating in the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



Soldiers' employers observe Army Reserve operations as part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "Boss Lift" in August. They visited Fort McCoy, Wis., during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 to see firsthand the Reserve's capabilities, including field sanitation, tactical movements, and a tactical operations center. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, Combat Camera, 86th Training Division)

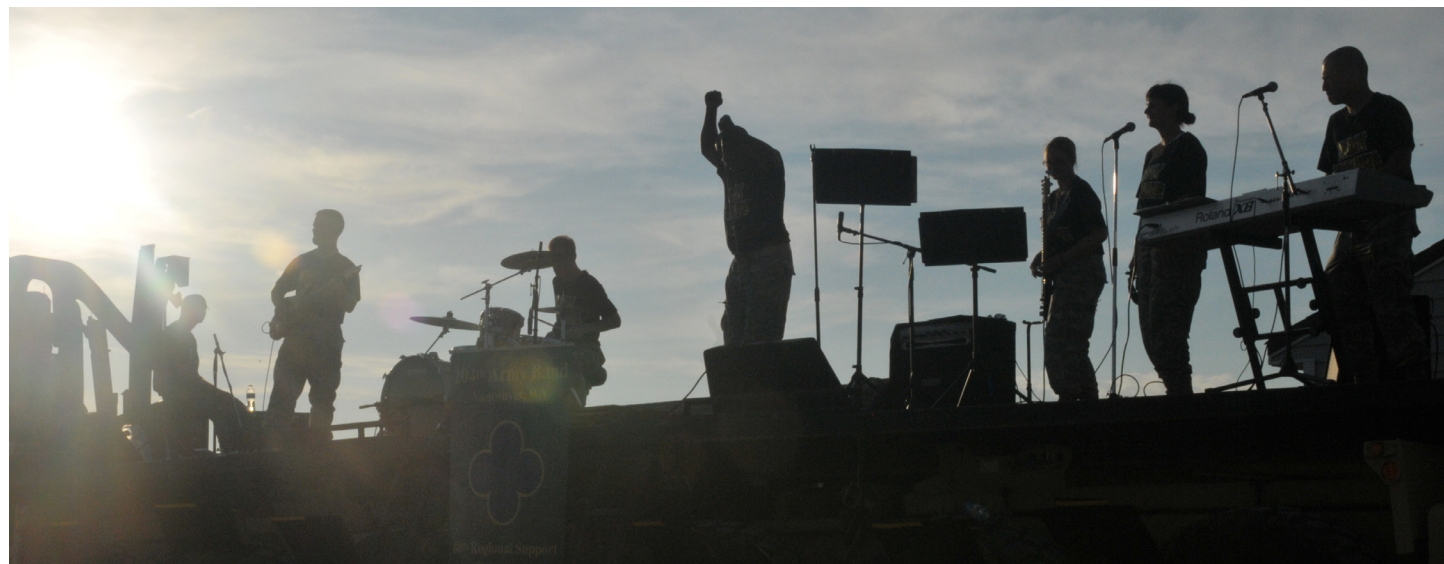
FEATURE

The MUSIC MISSION

The 204th Army Band brings
more than tactical knowledge
to the field

BY SGT. EMILY WALTER

The 204th Army Band performs on stage at Tomah High School in Tomah, Wis., during the Combat Support Training Exercise in August. This performance was one of several community and military shows that the band played during the unit's two-week annual training. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



The rock band group from the 204th Army Band performs at Forward Operating Base Freedom outside Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. The band traveled to every FOB taking part in the Combat Support Training Exercise here during the unit's two-week stay. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)

VOLK FIELD, Wis.— From trumpets to tactical operations, troops with the 204th Army Band coupled their primary musical mission with war-fighting procedures during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 in August at Fort McCoy, Wis.

As musicians, the Soldiers in the 204th joined the military to enhance their craft and maintain overall morale within the Army's ranks; as Soldiers, they must also maintain a high level of proficiency in tactical procedures. The CSTX allowed the unit an opportunity to practice both skill sets.

"We do our best to obtain and maintain proficiency at warrior tasks and battle drills," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Nicholas, commander of the 204th Army Band. "Until now, we haven't had an opportunity to practice those while doing our primary mission.... We can't recreate those experiences at home by ourselves."

During their two weeks in Wisconsin, the Soldiers (about 40 total) played 13 community and military performances, along with participating in field training that included reacting to direct contact, convoy operations, and weapon qualification.

They slept sometimes, too.

The band is composed of multiple ensembles: a full concert band, a brass ensemble, a quintet, and a rock band. The 204th showcased these groups during their performances, giving the audi-

ences – civilian and military – a little something that everyone could enjoy.

"My favorite part is playing for troops and giving them troop support, and playing for civilians and being the liaison between the Army and civilian world," said Spc. Michael Griffin, a tuba player, bassist, and singer with the 204th Army Band.

Perhaps the most upbeat audiences for which the band played were those composed of other troops partici-



A member of the 204th Army Band performs at Forward Operating Base Freedom outside Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. The band traveled to every FOB taking part in the Combat Support Training Exercise here during the unit's two-week stay. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)

pating in the CSTX, located mostly at secluded forward operating bases (FOBs) around Fort McCoy. After a long day away from home, music was just what the Soldiers at the FOBs needed to reboot.

"I think [the band] really takes the Soldiers' minds off of working all day," said Pfc. Jorge Gomez, a Soldier participating in the CSTX with the 304th Sustainment Brigade, located at FOB Freedom outside Fort McCoy proper. "I think it helps them stay motivated to continue the day."

The lighthearted atmosphere that the band emanates with its performances sometimes comes with a stigma that the band does not have to maintain the same tactical skills that other units do. Nicholas, who is also the band conductor, insists otherwise.

"I've heard it all, been through it all," Nicholas said, referring to that stereotype. "Army Band Soldiers receive and practice the same types of training that other units do. We have a specialized skill set, but we can cross-train to almost any other skill in the Army."

Soldiers in the 204th proved that they have both tactical and musical chops while in Wisconsin; a few times, they spent the morning and afternoon in the field, and transitioned straight to a performance in the evening. But the troops' challenging schedule finally fell into place with the applause after their last performance here – music to their ears.

A Soldier watches as the 204th Army Band performs at Forward Operating Base Freedom outside Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. The band traveled to every FOB taking part in the Combat Support Training Exercise here during the unit's two-week stay. (Photo by Sgt. Emily Walter, 103rd ESC)



With the OE-245 antenna, logistics units can more easily communicate with each other.

BY SGT. DEBRAH SANDERS
366th MPAD

VOLK FIELD, Wis.— On a hill near an airplane hangar looms an odd device. The stalk of this device is a 20-foot-tall, army-green pole. Toward the top, thinner poles stick out in several directions with circular nodes on the end. It looks similar to a dandelion that is missing most of its seeds. This device is a OE-245. It helps to guarantee communications between the administrative and logistical operations center and outlying forward operating bases.

“The OE-245 works with the SINCGARS [Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System] radio in order to work as a backup, should the Blue Force Tracker system not work,” said Spc. Devin Brown, supply specialist, 450th Movement Control Battalion, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Blue Force Tracking is a GPS-enabled system that provides forces with location information about friendly and hostile military forces.

Brown explained that the OE-245 (antenna) ensures that units have the ability to communicate with each other and keep accountability. Brown, who previously deployed with the 25th Infantry Division, said that the training he and other Soldiers were receiving on the radios, along with the battle drills, were very realistic.

While the training benefited the Soldiers of the administrative/logistics operations center (ALOC), their overall mission benefited many other Soldiers.

“Without our mission, they wouldn’t have a place to sleep, or morale, welfare, recreation [MWR] programs,” said Sgt. First Class Greg Maguire, detachment sergeant, 450th Movement Control Battalion, 451st ESC.

“The Soldiers go out of their way to pick up supplies,” said Sgt. Peter Dulniawka, a human resources specialist, 450th MCB, 451st ESC said.

Dulniawka explains that Soldiers that work in the ALOC often gather supplies, organize, and get some help to build up certain areas.

“They made the calls to get the camouflage netting and speakers for the MWR area,” he cited as an example.

To Maguire, MWR is an important aspect, as it allows Soldiers to “brain dump” from time to time.

In addition, the Soldiers working in the ALOC assisted with putting up the tents used by other Soldiers, Maguire said.

“We play a vital role because we allow them to focus on their mission,” Maguire said. “They don’t have to worry about any of those things.”


WAR TECH

Signal support



Soldiers with the 450th Movement Control Battalion, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), assemble an OE-245 antenna at Volk Field, Wis., on Aug. 10. The OE-245 provides radio transmission through the use of SINCGARS, which is used as a contingency in case the Blue Force Tracker GPS system is unusable. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, Combat Camera, 86th Training Division)

FEATURE



Spc. Jordan Davids of the 826th Ordnance Company, under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is lowered into a dark room inside of a confined-spaces training building in order to rescue a trapped victim at Volk Field, Wis., on Aug. 13. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, 86th Training Division)

CONFINED SPACES

BY SGT. DEBRAH SANDERS

ARMY FIREFIGHTERS

12 M

Occupation identifier

OVERVIEW

Army firefighters are responsible for protecting lives and property from fire. They control fires and help prevent them in buildings, aircraft, and ships

DUTIES

- Perform rescue operations during structural fires, aircraft crashes, vehicle emergencies
- Give first aid to the injured
 - Perform emergency response during incidents involving hazardous materials

How Army firefighters rescue victims from small entrapments

VOLK FIELD, Wis.— It's an odd sort of roof. There are six squares that are raised above the otherwise-level surface of the concrete that makes it up. These squares are covering holes. Army firefighters are outfitted in hard hats, and carrying equipment that might be more appropriate for cave spelunking than firefighting. However, they aren't fighting fires today. They are learning how to save casualties from confined spaces.

Prior to executing the training, Soldiers of the 459th Firefighting Detachment, from the 826th Ordnance Company, both under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), were given a refresher class on hazards, rescue procedures, casualty evacuation, and equipment set up by civilian instructors.

"The instructors are top level," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Nachtrieb, station chief with the 459th. "I've never seen anything like it since I became a firefighter."

The training offered a variety of tactical situations for the Soldiers to navigate.

"The environment is much more than we have time to go through," said Spc. Cody Forgery, a firefighter with the 459th.

Spc. Ashley Will, a firefighter also with the 459th, said the training was "amazing."

"I've learned different types of

rigs and how to assemble them," she said.

Forgery explained that the Soldiers were taught how to use a four-to-one mechanical advantage using a tripod, pulleys, and ropes. The previous day, the Soldiers learned a variety of knots that were used to hold the device together.

"It's basically for hauling and lowering weight in order to rescue someone," Forgery said.

The Soldiers learned when it was appropriate to use a full skid or half skid in confined situations, as well as when to use a life-support brace (LSB) prior to going through the course.

During the course, the Soldiers built a four-to-one mechanical advantage. Then they used it to lower team members down into a confined area and find a casualty dummy. After that, they had to put the casualty in an LSB and the right skid, and then had to lift the casualty.

"We've learned some skills here that can be very useful should we ever need to rescue someone who's fallen down a hole, or is trapped in a collapsed building," said Spc. William Stuerman, a firefighter with the 459th.

Forgery agreed the training was of value to his unit.

He added that the more training Soldiers have under their belts, the more valuable they are during operations.



Spc. Alyssa Motiff and Spc. Jordan Davids of the 826th Ordnance Company, under the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), with the help of Matt Trepczyk, a civilian firefighter and instructor at Volk Field, prepare a patient for extraction during confined-spaces training on Aug. 13. (Photo by Spc. Austin Stein, 86th Training Division)

Unit receives financial training

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF HANSEN
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— As an Army Reserve unit with multiple deployments and an important mission, Soldiers with the 368th Financial Management Support Unit find annual training a vital time to hone their skills as a unit.

The availability of finance-related training exercises is, unfortunately, very limited. That's where Diamond Saber comes in, a large-scale financial exercise designed to bring the Active and Reserve/Guard finance community together to practice real-life scenarios.

The 368th, currently under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), has been taking part in Diamond Saber since 2003, and they have seen improvements during the last ten years.

"It's gotten better every year," said Sgt. Johnathon Clark, a unit-disbursing agent from Wichita, Kan.

Clark is part of the team that handles the physical money during deployments, one of the many aspects of an FMSU. The disbursing team handles cash handouts for casual pay, vault security and accountability and sustaining distribution activities at the physical location in theater.

As Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Groth, internal controls non-commissioned officer-in-charge explains, Diamond Saber assists the 368th to simulate, to the best of their abilities, the unit's mission in any theater of operations.

Groth ensures the 368th's multiple detachments are following standard operating procedures, verifies money amounts, and ensures unit operations are running smoothly.



Soldiers from the 368th Financial Management Support Unit, 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based in Wichita, KS, conduct finance-related training during Diamond Saber, an exercise on Fort McCoy, Wis., Aug. 10. The 368th was training for future deployments by practicing cash disbursement, military pay services, trouble ticket research and commercial vendor services. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen, 366th MPAD)

He said he is happy with the unit's performance during the exercise, adding that they were "taking care of business" with the various tasks assigned.

Taking care of business may be more important than first expected. The 368th is taking the exercise seriously, as a portion of them is slated for a deployment in the near future. So validating the skills of the unit and individual Soldiers is more important than ever.

"This gives the commander an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of his unit," said Sgt. Maj. Frankie Murphy, senior financial management noncommissioned officer for the 368th. "It tells him what we need to work on when we get home."

Murphy added that 2013 was the first time three detachments of the 368th had been on the exercise at the same time, which has greatly improved the efficiency and effective-

ness of the training. With a total of five detachments serving nearly constant rotations for deployments, getting the entire unit together is a monumental task, she said.

On top of performing day-to-day financial operations in a simulated theater environment, the 368th also took the opportunity to improve on their individual job skills by taking classes.

Things like producing a DD Form 214 (certificate of release or discharge from active duty), Soldier education benefits, and how to distribute casual pay are all being taught within the unit. The Soldiers take pride in being able to teach themselves, as it then becomes a learning experience for all involved, including the instructors.

It also seems to improve overall job performance, according to Cpl. Alicia Crump, a financial management technician with the 368th.

"This [exercise] has been more productive than I expected," she said. "We've gotten a lot done so far, which is nice."

Spc. Maurissa Shaffer, a financial management technician who taught a class on Soldiers' education benefits, said it was a nice change for her to see everyone filling multiple roles during the training.

"Everyone has their role," she said. "And we've been able to get a lot done in a short period of time."

Murphy said she and her staff are proud of their Soldiers, and that they are performing as well as the command expected. After attending this exercise for several years, she knows that an annual training can be draining on Soldiers, but she is happy with how things have been going.

"They've done excellent here," Murphy said. "Morale is high, and the Soldiers are excited about their training."

Key leader engagements the finer details



Soldiers with the 619th Transportation Company provide supplies to simulated local-nationals during the Combat Support Training Exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., Aug. 11. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea, 366th MPAD)

BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 619th Transportation Company conducted warrior drills and tasks during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The CSTX is a month-long training event meant to prepare Army Reserve units for deployment. The exercise is designed to assist combat service and combat service support units in planning, preparing, supervising, and executing pre-mobilization collective training.

The 619th Trans. Co., based in Auburn, Maine, conducted convoy operations, squad-based movement techniques, and a key leader engagement situational exercise while participating in the exercise. The key leader engagement exercise simulated what Soldiers can expect in overseas environments.

"The mission was to provide humanitarian aid to a local village," said Sgt. Stephen Furbush, a motor transport operator and convoy leader with the 619th Trans. Co. "It was a great opportunity to execute."

A meeting with a simulated local-national tribal leader was required before supplies could be delivered to the simulated local-national populace.

"We had to negotiate with the Sheikh before we could pass out food and water," Furbush said. "All the while, we made sure to provide security for our forces."

Once the supplies were delivered, Soldiers of the 619th proceeded to exit the area in a typical convoy operation.

"Then we got hit on our way out," said Spc. Mike Redmann, a motor transport operator and Greenwood, Maine, native with the 619th Trans. Co. "We had to react to contact and evaluate a casualty."

The react-to-contact and individual movement exercises were designed to test the Soldiers' abilities to perform basic warrior tasks.

"We're used to just driving base to base, so it was a different experience being able to train in that kind of exercise," Furbush said. "But everybody reacted, covered each other, and provided 360 [degree] security."

At the end of the exercise, troops of the 619th gathered with observer-controllers of the 86th Training Division to evaluate their performance.

"I'll be honest with all of you, you guys did an absolutely fantastic job," said Sgt. 1st Class Doug Button, an infantryman and observer-controller attached to the 86th Training Division. "It put a smile on my face to see you guys provide cover-fire and communicate so effectively."

"The training was really exciting," said Pfc. Steven Gabriel, a motor transport operator with the 619th Trans. Co. "It gave us a chance to practice things we may have to perform if we are ever overseas."

Looking forward, Soldiers of the 619th Trans. Co. continued to participate in the CSTX before returning to their home station to take back their personnel, equipment, and training experience.

"[This training] is a good chance for us to better our warrior tasks," Redmann said. "Basic warrior tasks are important for any Soldier."

► As part of convoy operations training, a Soldier from the 728th Quartermaster Company, Fremont, Neb., provides security as members of his team confirm the presence of an improvised explosive device on Aug. 9. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen, 366th MPAD)

Drive on

Convoy operation incorporates humanitarian aid

BY STAFF SGT. JEFF HANSEN
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— As part of the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01, the 728th Quartermaster Company, under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), took part in a convoy operations training lane. The unit was put to the test in order to determine their unit readiness and combat skills.

The Fremont, Neb., unit was tasked to provide humanitarian aid to a local village by delivering food, water and other basic-need items to the local populace. The mission was two-fold: to assist the local population as well as gain their trust amongst

threats from insurgents..

Capt. Jesse Miller, the 728th commander, said his Soldiers did very well in a situation that was fairly new to them. The unit generally doesn't get this kind of opportunity as a team, and he was pleased with their performance.

"We take this [kind of] training seriously," he said, "It's a commodity that's in short supply for us."

Miller felt that the unit's prior preparation was key to the 728th's success in the mission. Though the convoy never actually entered the simulated village due to an enemy attack, the Soldiers appeared ready for any situation that arose from the exercise. Sgt. Michael Madsen, fuel supply special-

ist and 1st squad leader, agreed with this assessment.

"We were not able to recon as much as we'd wanted to, so we weren't quite sure what to expect," he said.

With a relatively unknown route ahead of them, the convoy leaders needed to go back to the basics to find their way out of a dangerous situation; as the trucks encountered everything from enemy fighters and improvised explosive devices during their mission.

"I just used basic map reading skills to navigate the remainder of the route," Madsen explained, adding that this was done a day prior to ensure the Soldiers were all aware of

what to expect the next day.

The prior planning was apparent when local extremist forces attacked the convoy. Not only were the truck drivers expected to react accordingly on the road, but also individual Soldiers used basic and advanced medical skills to assist Soldiers with injuries.

One of the company's certified combat lifesavers, Spc. Sara Phuntner, was able to employ her knowledge during the simulated attack. The Rochester, N.Y., native said she treated everything from a sprain, burns, and several wounds.

"This was definitely an eye-opener," she said of being new to the military. "It allowed us to see what

'This was definitely an eye-opener.'

- Spc. Sara Phuntner

we needed to work on, and how well worked as a unit."

Miller and Phuntner both said having the unit together for an extended period of time greatly improves on skills that are only shortly practiced during the weekend battle assembly.

"Being together for this long definitely helps," Phuntner said of the two-week exercise. "We got to work on vehicle and foot patrol formations, which we don't get to do much of at [battle assembly]."

Members of the 181st Infantry Brigade's observer/controller team gave members of the 728th high praise for their convoy training performance. According to Miller, the hours of preparation, development of solid standard operating procedures and contingency plans helped achieve his goal of successful training.

Madsen's praise of his Soldiers echoes this, stating that he expected his Soldiers to perform at the highest of standards. As a leader, he said he likes to see how much he can get out of the Soldiers of the 728th.

"I expect the best out of them, and like to push what I can get out of them," he said of his squad.

Soldiers with the 730th Transportation Company, coordinate movement during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea)



◀ RIGHT: 1st Lt. Arthur Gibford, commander of the second detachment in the 730th Transportation Company, gives orders during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea)

◀ LEFT: Spc. Bud Morries, a motor transport operator with the 730th Transportation Company, provides security during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea)

Troops brush up on tactics, techniques

BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 730th Transportation Company, under the 311th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), conducted warrior drills and tasks during a Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The CSTX is designed to assist combat service and combat service support units in planning, preparing, supervising, and executing pre-mobilization collective training.

The 730th Trans. Co., based in Bell, Calif., conducted convoy operations and 360-degree-security techniques while participating in the CSTX.

“We’re participating [in the CSTX] to prepare for our deployment,” said 1st Lt. Arthur Gibford, commander of the second detachment with the 730th Trans. Co. “Part of the training involves conducting individual movement techniques and security operations.”

The react-to-contact and individual movement exercises were designed to test the Soldiers’ ability to perform basic warrior tasks.

“This is a great opportunity to go beyond basic PowerPoint or lecture-based training,” said Staff Sgt. Rodney Hubbard, a motor transport operator and assistant platoon leader with the 730th Trans. Co. “Here, we can create a sense of cohesion and confidence in simulated operations.”

The situational training exercise involved a convoy ride to a tactical field site. Soldiers of the 730th then proceeded to create a “wagon wheel,” ensuring coverage of all sectors of fire in a circular formation. The training effectively sharpened the Soldiers’ warrior proficiencies, said Hubbard.

“This is important in case we ever find ourselves in a similar situation overseas,” said Gibford, a Los Angeles native. “We get to learn something here and consistently improve every day.”

The training also gave Soldiers of the 730th Trans. Co. a chance to enjoy a sense of camaraderie and teamwork.

“Annual training has been great so far,” said Spc. Otto Omoto, a signal support systems specialist with the 730th Trans. Co. “You really get to know your [fellow Soldiers].”

Soldiers of the 730th Trans. Co. continued to participate in the CSTX until they returned to their home station to prepare for future deployment.

“As long as we work as a team and stay cohesive, we can accomplish anything,” Gibford said. “I enjoy working with [my Soldiers], and am looking forward to deploying with these guys.”

Soldiers with the 739th Engineer Battalion prepare to unload a bridge-erection boat during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea, 366th MPAD)



Bridging the gap

**BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD**

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 739th Engineer Battalion conducted bridge operations as part of the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The CSTX is a three-week-long training event to prepare Army Reserve units for deployment. The exercise is designed to assist combat-service and combat-service-support units in planning, preparing, supervising, and executing pre-mobilization collective training.

As part of their collective training, Soldiers with the 739th Eng. Bn. participated in convoy operations, squad tactics, and their main military occupational specialty: bridge building.

“Our job is to help units maneuver from point A to point B,” said Staff Sgt. Scott Apking, a bridge crewmember and platoon sergeant with the 739th Eng. Bn. “We build bridges to transport personnel and equipment to where they need to go.”

The process of assembling a float bridge involves three steps. In the first step, Soldiers unload bridge-erection boats (BEBs) into a body of water.

“We make sure to deploy the



Spc. Alexic Cook, a bridge crewmember with the 739th Engineer Battalion, uses a T-rod to affix a floating bridge bay during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea, 366th MPAD)

boats safely and efficiently,” said Sgt. Ross Tennant, a bridge crewmember and squad leader with the 739th Eng. Bn. “The training is always a challenge, but my Soldiers know exactly what to do.”

Once all BEBs are fully functional and on the surface of the water, they then unload buoyant bridge bays into the water and attach BEBs to each individual bridge bay, allowing the bays

to be maneuvered across the water.

“It’s very task intensive,” said 1st Lt. Michael Barton, a bridge crewmember and platoon leader with the 739th Eng. Bn. “But it’s a good chance to practice their job proficiencies.”

The last part of the process involves affixing the bridge bays into one coherent piece, which requires close communication between each BEB. Once the bridge is fully assembled, the BEBs maneuver the bridge perpendicular to the river stream, connecting the two shores and allowing units and equipment to cross safely to their destination.

“Bridge building is just an awesome job,” said Spc. Ethan Allman, a bridge crewmember with the 739th Eng. Bn. “It’s really rewarding to see it all put together.”

Soldiers of the 739th Eng. Bn. stayed at Fort McCoy until the end of August as part of their annual training.

“I’m glad to be out here for some training,” said Spc. Alexis Cook, a bridge crewmember with the 739th Eng. Bn. “It’s a lot of fun; there’s always something to do.”

Tennant said that the Soldiers were all excited for the training exercise. “[The CSTX] is a good opportunity to practice warrior tasks,” he said.



Spc. Antionette Davis, right, and Spc. Latesia Harrington, left, both transportation management coordinators and with the 941st Movement Control Team, track an individual vehicle movement during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea, 366th MPAD)

BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— The 940th and 941st Movement Control Teams collectively participated in the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The CSTX is designed to assist combat-service and combat-service-support units in planning, preparing, supervising, and executing pre-mobilization collective training.

As part of their collective training, both the 940th and 941st MCT's supervised, coordinated, and scheduled tactical movements for various units participating in the CSTX.

"Our job is to record inbound and outbound traffic," said Sgt. 1st Class Isaiah Ray, a transportation management coordinator and detachment sergeant for the 940th MCT. "We interact with all kinds of Soldiers and every unit."

MCT operations are designed to streamline the movement of inbound and

outbound vehicles on a simulated forward operating base.

"First, we process a request for movement, ensure the route is clear, and transmit the information to the 450th Movement Control Battalion," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Carrick, a transportation management coordinator and squad leader with the 940th MCT. "Once we receive clearance from the 450th MCB, we conduct a pre-convoy brief and follow up with the units after their return, ensuring to inform the MCB of each unit's status."

These MCT operations are critical in the day-to-day operations of a forward operating base, said Staff Sgt. Maria Frutos, a transportation management coordinator with the 941st MCT.

"The logistic and movement aspects are vital; nothing can enter or exit the FOB without us tracking their movements," Frutos said. "That includes the movement of food, water, or fuel."

The CSTX effectively simulated overseas conditions, providing valuable train-

ing for the 940th and 941st MCTs, Ray said.

"It's good, exciting training," said Sgt. Vincent Watts, a transportation management coordinator and squad leader with the 940th MCT. "It's challenging to know how to react."

In addition to training opportunities, the cooperation between both MCTs built a strong sense of camaraderie and cohesion between the Chicago-based units.

"I consider my Soldiers my family," Watts said. "There will be fights and fall-outs, but we always come back together because we're joined by uniform."

Because a deployment is possible in the near future, Soldiers of the 940th and 941st MCTs seek to retain their training proficiencies and sense of camaraderie for future operations.

"Every single one of my Soldiers is trained and proficient at their job and knows what to do," Frutos said. "I love my job and my Soldiers; I want to make sure my Soldiers are ready and prepared for a future deployment."

Keeping it clean

Quartermaster troops manage field sanitation

BY SPC. HECTOR COREA
366th MPAD

FORT MCCOY, Wis.— Soldiers of the 1013th Quartermaster Company, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), provided logistical support for servicemembers participating in the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August.

The North Platte, Neb.-based Army Reserve unit was tasked with providing laundry and shower services to multiple units participating in the CSTX — a training exercise designed to test operational readiness and job proficiencies in simulated battlefield conditions.

Laundry and shower services help ensure proper sanitation for Soldiers out in the field, as well as boosting morale for participating units, said Sgt. Brandon Moss, training noncommissioned officer with the 1013th QM Co., and a Chillitoche, Ohio native.

The laundry service involves an initial inventory of clothing received from other units. Afterward, the 1013th QM Co. sorts the clothing before loading it into the Laundry Advanced System (LADS). The LADS is a specialized mobile platform that consists of two drums holding approximately 200 pounds of clothing each. The LADS also holds 2,000 gallons of water and is capable of recycling nearly 85 percent of the water used. This equipment allows the unit to fully clean and dry the laundry within 65 minutes.

Spc. William York, a shower/laundry and clothing repair specialist with the 1013th QM Co., said he is proud to provide these cleaning services, since cleanliness and hygiene is hard to find in a field environment and is heavily desired by Soldiers in the field.

"They always say there's two things Soldiers want when returning from the field: a hot meal and clean clothes," said York, a North Platte, Neb., native. "I'm more than happy to provide that."

The 1013th QM Co. also benefitted from the training by practicing their skill proficiencies and gaining friends along the way.

"The reason I like our mission of supporting units



Pfc. Drake Jimenez, a power generation equipment repairer with the 1013th Quartermaster Company, under the 451st Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), unloads laundry from a Laundry Advanced System during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 at Fort McCoy, Wis., in August. The 1013th QM Co. was tasked with conducting laundry and shower support services for multiple units participating in the CSTX. (Photo by Spc. Hector Corea, 366th MPAD)

is the sense of camaraderie between fellow Soldiers," Moss said. "The Soldiers and senior leadership are very appreciative of our efforts."

CSTX in motion

There’s more to see with the video stories from the 366th MPAD*



730th TC Reacts to Enemy Contact

Staff Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson

730th Transportation Company training at Fort McCoy, Wis., during the Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01. The unit is rehearsing a combat maneuver called the wagon wheel.

Firefighter Search and Rescue

Staff Sgt. Anaidy Claudio

The 86th Training Division host a Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 (CSTX) offering life-like training to Army Reserve units during their annual training. Army Reserve firefighters train using a burn house simulating search and rescue operations.



The 86th Division goes Virtual

Staff Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson

The 86th Training Division Oversees the training of the units of Combat Support Training Exercise 86 at Fort McCoy WI.



*Click on the photo, then press play to view video

443rd Transportation Company trains for AT

Staff Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson

The 443rd Transportation Company (Combat Heavy) conducts their annual training for CSTX-86 at Fort Mccoy WI.



Staff Sgt. Daniela Oleze commands a convoy

Staff Sgt. Jerimiah Richardson

The 991st Transportation Company conducts their annual training and Staff Sergeant Daniela Oleze leads it.

86th Division hosts CSTX 86-13-01w

Staff Sgt. Anaidy Claudio

The 86th Training Division host a Combat Support Training Exercise 86-13-01 offering life-like scenario lanes training to Army Reserves Units during their Annual Training.

