

# The Castle



News and Information for the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command

**Lt. Gen. Talley Outlines U.S. Army  
Reserve Private-Public Partnership**

see story page 6

**Army Must Defeat Sexual Assault  
to Maintain Public Trust**

see story page 7

# The Castle

Fall 2013



## Commander

Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, Jr.

## Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher

## 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs

Capt. Maryjane Falefa Porter

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lyndon M. Miller

Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley

## Public Affairs Officer/Editor-in-Chief

Capt. Maryjane Falefa Porter

## Contributors

Col. Adam Roth

Master Sgt. Lanyard Armstrong

Spc. Richard Fullam

## Design/Layout

Betty Watson, ACE-IT

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Letters and comments are welcomed by the staff and should be sent to:

## The 412<sup>th</sup> TEC

Public Affairs Office

ATTN: The Castle Magazine

1265 Porters Chapel Rd.

Vicksburg, MS 39180-5790

or e-mail

[Maryjane.porter.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Maryjane.porter.mil@mail.mil)

or phone

601-631-6176/6103.

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## 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command 'Build To Serve'

About the Cover: A CH-47 Chinook flies low above the water's surface of the Arkansas River to drop off a team of divers as part of Operation River Assault on Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24. During the operation, a multitude of units worked together to assemble and provide support for a floating bridge that stretched across the Arkansas River. The three main bridge-building units were the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Clackamas, Ore., the 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Bridgeport, W.Va., and the 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Fort Hood, Texas.  
(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret/Released)

About the Back Cover:  
Pfc. Bernardo Roque, carpentry masonry specialist, 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, knocks out the drywall from an old closet during the 758<sup>th</sup>'s Innovative Readiness Training with Rebuilding Miami Together, June 10, 2013, in Perrine, Fla.  
(Photo by Spc. William J. Taylor, 314<sup>th</sup> Press Camp Headquarters)



## A Word from the Commander

Once again I am honored to be able to write an article for The Castle Magazine. I am not a prolific writer, so coming up with topics that I hope will be of interest is not always easy for me. In this case, however, one might say it was divinely inspired. While at the Pentagon recently, I was reunited (by COL Adam Roth, a 412<sup>th</sup> alumnus) with Chaplain (Colonel) Dallas Speight. Chaplain Speight was having his retirement ceremony that day and I was honored to be able to be present. He and his wife Sheila were a significant contributor to the 412<sup>th</sup> Family and many of us remember them. On behalf of the Soldiers, Civilians, and Families of the 412<sup>th</sup>, I wished them the best. They sent their best regards to all of you. Sitting there, though, I reflected on the value of the Army Family and how important we are to each other – whether we realize it all the time or not.

Welcome back to many Soldiers who have returned from their deployments in Afghanistan, Kuwait, or other places. Not the least of which are the detachments from the Headquarters that have just served as critical pieces of the IJC Engineer staff. With all the returns we have had, there are still over 600 412<sup>th</sup> Soldiers deployed at any one time. In addition to them we still have a full roster of units getting ready for deployment to Afghanistan. While some may get “off-ramped”, they will all be ready to go and serve our nation.

In that vein, I want to welcome back our Command Sergeant Major, CSM Flubacher. He was deployed to Afghanistan serving as the CSM for the USACE District in Afghanistan. He is back and now in full stride working for every Soldier in the 412<sup>th</sup>. My personal and professional thanks go out to CSM Hatchell, CSM Krom, and CSM Green for the support they gave me in covering CSM Flubacher’s duties and/or representing the 412<sup>th</sup> in multiple high level engagements with the USARC CSM and the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Many of you have had an opportunity to meet our second Deputy Commanding General (DCG) for the 412<sup>th</sup>, Colonel (Promotable) Miyako Schanely. COL(P) Schanely joins us from the 416<sup>th</sup> TEC where she was the chief of staff before coming out on the promotion list. Her position



MG William M. Buckler, Jr.  
Commanding General

is new as the TEC structure continues to evolve. The future will have two DCGs with a split of responsibilities to be announced soon. Not one to let grass grow under her feet, COL(P) Schanely has already been to numerous training events, greeted returning Soldiers, and represented the command at Yellow Ribbon events.

Our team is getting stronger. I could sense it at many locations over the past couple of months. Seeing our Soldiers working their hearts out at many training events I have visited instills a great sense of pride in me. The many different types of units we have in the 412<sup>th</sup> are meeting every call. I ask all of you to frequently visit our web page to see the great accomplishments of our teammates in the 412<sup>th</sup> Family.

Unfortunately we all have a problem in the Family that we have to deal with. While I see so much good being done by all our Soldiers and Civilians, we also, all too often, have to confront the terrible occurrences of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Every time I address a group of Soldiers I talk about this problem. It is intolerable to me that we would have someone who harasses and/or attacks one of their brothers or sisters in arms. Just as bad is if we knowingly let someone commit these acts on our brother or sister and do nothing about it. All of you please make sure you know who your Victim Advocate (VA) and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) are. I would never condone an unsafe environment for my biological family. **I WILL NOT ALLOW ONE FOR MY ARMY FAMILY!** I expect no less of each of you.

It is a dynamic time in the history of our Army and the Army Reserve. We all need to keep our focus on doing the best we can. Our leadership in Washington and Fort Bragg are doing their best to lead us out of the fiscal issues before us. Let’s all do our part.

Thank you all for what you are doing.  
**ESSAYONS!**  
**BUILD TO SERVE!**  
MG William Buckler, Jr.

# The Command Sergeant Major's Corner

I have just returned from Afghanistan where I served as the Command Sergeant Major for the Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic North District in Kabul. It was a great deployment serving with such a dedicated and professional organization. It was difficult learning all of their acronyms and the ways that they do business, but in the end it was a very positive experience and has helped me grow as a Non-Commissioned Officer.

It's good to be back in the 412<sup>th</sup> and I have jumped right back into the fight. I want to thank MG Buckler for the opportunity to deploy and accept the risks associated that goes along with it. Those risks were mitigated by the Brigade command sergeants major, who collectively supported MG Buckler and the 412<sup>th</sup> as a whole, specifically CSM Hatchell.

MG Buckler mentions in his article about Suicide Prevention and Sexual Harassment/Assault. I want to discuss these in more detail. The Army Reserve has published an information paper on Suicide Prevention. The individual stressor most frequently cited in the suicide investigation is relationship stress. Other stressors identified are behavioral health, financial and substance abuse. Leaders need to know their Soldiers.

In the Army Reserve, it is more difficult to do with the geographical dispersion of our units. So I ask that our leaders ask these pointed questions of your Soldiers. How is your relationship? Are you having financial issues? Do you have a job that meets your financial needs? Getting these answers may assist in determining at risk Soldiers.

Sexual Harassment/Assault degrades the unit by lack of trust and lowers morale and esprit de corps. In



CSM Ronald Flubacher  
Command Sergeant Major

Colorado Springs at the USARC Senior Leaders Forum, a 90 minute film was shown and it sent a very powerful message. There were several victims that spoke about how the event changed their life and the life of their family.

All during the film I kept thinking what if this was my daughter. I can't imagine how I would handle it, let alone being there for her while she attempts to get her life back together. That said there is no place in the Army for sexual

harassment/assault. We all need to stand together to put an end to this epidemic. It's an epidemic because if a predator gets away with it once, then that person will continue to do these horrific things to others. If you see it, report it.

Last thing I want to talk about is Safety. We have had several deaths in the Army related to motorcycle and other vehicle accidents to include ATVs, many involving NCOs. We all have battle buddies that are supposed to be there to prevent us from doing something that is a high risk behavior. Where were they prior to these accidents that caused these deaths? Think about that. What could have been done to prevent these from happening in the first place? How would you feel if your battle buddy died in an accident and you knew about the high risk behaviors that they were participating in? I know I would feel pretty bad.

I look forward to visiting your units and talking to you. Stay safe. Essayons.

**BUILD TO SERVE!!**  
CSM Ronald Flubacher

# Chaplain's Notes

## Suicide Prevention and Awareness

**“Encourage the hurting person to tell their story  
the way they need to tell it.”**

I still have a very vivid memory of a television commercial I watched as a kid in which a cartoon figure of a brown bear made the statement, “Only you can prevent forest fires.” It made a simple but profound point that the avoidance of tragedy needs everyone.

Most definitely, this applies to stopping suicides. You can make a difference! In fact, research shows that many suicidal people share their struggles with someone they trust before acting on their ideations. You can save a life!

In Genesis 4:9, Cain asks God in a fit of sarcasm, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” In a sense, this is a question we all need to ask and we all need to answer. Do I care enough to help someone who’s hurting? Am I willing to give up some time? To change my schedule? To miss an important meeting or appointment because a friend has a need that won’t wait until tomorrow? In Luke 10, Jesus makes the point that it was the despised Samaritan who proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers hands because when he came upon him, “he felt compassion... and bandaged his wounds and poured healing oil and wine on them.”

### Warning Signs

A common myth is that most suicides are impulsive acts with few if any warning signs. In reality, the opposite is true. Research shows that about 80% of successful suicides gave some type of warning signs first.

What are these warning signs? What should I listen for? Statements such as “I’m going to kill myself,” or “You won’t be seeing me around anymore” are obvious indications of serious trouble. At other times, the tipoff of a problem involves strange or unusual behavior. Examples include giving away prized possessions, the purchase of a gun or a sudden interest in organizing business or personal matters. Someone who’s severely depressed or has experienced a recent significant loss in their life is at particular risk. Additionally, those who abuse drugs or alcohol are of special concern.



CH (COL) Timothy M. Samorajski  
Command Chaplain

### Interventions

At this point you might wonder, “Just how exactly can I help?” Start off by asking an open ended question such as, “It really seems like you’ve got a lot on your mind, could we talk for awhile?” After that, practice the fine art of listening. Encourage the hurting person to tell their story the way they need to tell it. Encourage disclosure by statements such as, “I think I’m starting to understand, could you say some more about that? Hurting people want to talk and need someone to listen. The Army provides a useful tool at this point by using the ACE memory aide.

- Ask your buddy. After listening quietly to the story, it’s important to ask direct questions. For example, “Are you hurting enough to take your life?”
- Care for your buddy. Continue to listen and offer encouragement that things can get better. Ask permission to remove the lethal means if present. For example, removing a bottle of sleeping pills. Remain with your buddy if the threat of suicide is real.
- Escort your buddy. Encourage their cooperation and escort them to where they can get help and be safe.

### Conclusion

The loss of one individual to suicide is one too many. The individuals hurting people are close to are the first line of defense in combating this persistent problem. Are you your brother’s keeper? Are you ready to save a life?

### Resources

- Call 911 if immediate assistance is imperative
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK
- Military One Source: 1-800-342-9647 (offers confidential and free counseling services)
- Chain of Command
- Chaplain (CH (COL) Timothy M. Samorajski, [timothy.m.samorajski.mil@mail.mil](mailto:timothy.m.samorajski.mil@mail.mil))



# Lt. Gen. Talley Outlines U.S. Army Reserve Private-Public Partnership

*Story by Timothy Hale,  
U.S. Army Reserve Command*

**“The private-public partnership initiative will recognize that solutions that are global problems cannot be solved by the government it has to be solved by the private-public sector and we’re in a unique place to bring that partnership together because we’re Citizen-Soldiers.”**

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, chief of Army Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve Command commanding general, addresses the audience during the 2013 U.S. Army Reserve Senior Leader Forum at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Aug. 19. Talley outlined his vision to keep the U.S. Army Reserve a life-saving and life sustaining force for the nation, focusing on the way ahead for America’s Warrior-Citizens. (U.S. Army photo by Timothy L. Hale)

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Lt. Gen. Jeffery W. Talley, chief of Army Reserve, outlined his priorities and the way ahead during the Army Reserve Senior Leader Forum Aug. 19.

Talley said one of his top priorities is a new private-public partnership that is designed to help Army Reserve soldiers learn valuable skills that correlate to trade professions in the private sector.

“This is what I think will change the Army Reserve forever,” Talley said. “We’ll plan, prepare, and provide and keep us part of the operational force as we get utilized in a responsible way throughout the ARFORGEN cycle.

Talley envisions evolving the functionality and mission of the current Employer Partnership Office, which has over 4,000 agreements in place, to help soldiers build their civilian-acquired skills under a private sector model. He said on the unit side, the idea is to get private companies to pay for projects that reinforce Title 10 training.

Talley cited water projects in Africa as an example of how this would work.

“We’ll pay for the ODT which is Title 10 training but the building materials and all the other stuff that is going to enable you to do that training is all going to be paid by Water Partnership,” he said.

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**“This private-public partnership initiative allows us to recognize that perhaps our greatest strength is that we’re citizens and we’re soldiers,”**

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– Talley said.

He added the Army Reserve has been doing work like this for years in places like Africa, and Central and South America. Now he is including the private sector and the government agencies such as the U.S. State Department in these initiatives.

“It allows us, in the Army Reserve, to do a better job with Title 10 training for ourselves in delivering things, in this case the State Department or combatant commander ... would want,” Talley said. In addition to the public-private partnership initiative, Talley said every member of the Army Reserve must concentrate on improving the response to and prevention of sexual harassment, preventing suicide, and finding the best solutions for manning and training the force with reduced financial resources.

“Those are the ones I focus on every day,” Talley said. “Those are the four big rocks in our rucksack that are just always going to be constant.”

# Army Must Defeat Sexual Assault to Maintain Public Trust

By C. Todd Lopez, Army News Service

As the Army finishes up operations in Afghanistan, at home it continues a fight to stem the sexual assaults some in uniform perpetrate against their fellow Soldiers.

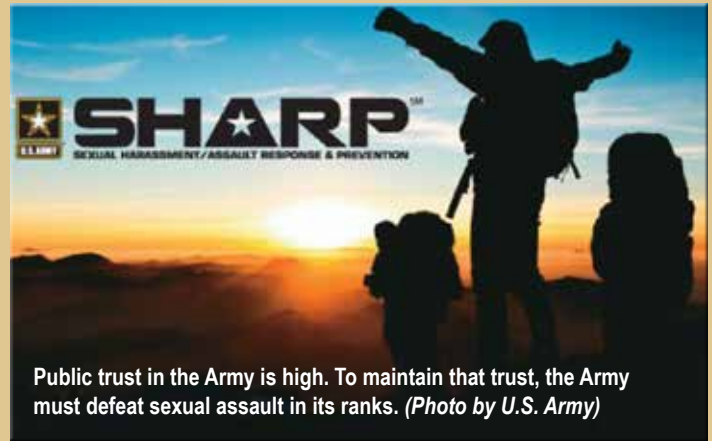
Now leading the charge against sexual assault in the Army is Christine T. Altendorf, Ph.D, the new director of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program office, or SHARP. She said the service is on track with meeting tough requirements laid out this year by the Secretary of Defense and Congress.

Altendorf also said that while the American public has a high opinion of the Army from its decade and a half of combat, that trust is at risk of slipping away because of the internal struggle to prevent sexual assault and harassment within the ranks.

“We need to make sure we have a place where a parent would have no problem seeing their child join the Army, that there would not be a trust factor, that we have not lost the trust of the public,” Altendorf said. And that loss of public trust hinges on the Army’s effort to “clean up our internal battles” with regard to sexual assault.

The SHARP program is the Army’s primary campaign against sexual assault. Altendorf said that while the program has been “beefed up” recently, it has been since its inception a “leader in prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment.”

The program’s new director said recent efforts to strengthen the SHARP program have expanded its reach beyond a program that was once isolated to ensure it is now matrixed, integrated and connected with the other parts of the Army that are needed to ensure it is embedded in the structure and culture of the Army to ensure mission success.



One of the changes included putting a Senior Executive Service member at the helm so the program is on par with other general officer-level led sexual assault prevention organizations. The change provides equity that is integral to the coordination required for the effective execution of the SHARP program.

“The challenges of having it at a couple of levels below that echelon is that it made it difficult to do a lot of that collaboration,” Altendorf said.

As part of her role as the new program director, Altendorf said she is keenly interested in building bridges with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, or OSD, and Congress.

“SHARP really became a much bigger thing than it was when it was originally stood up,” she said. Once a “stove-piped” program, SHARP now works closely with the Army’s Provost Marshal Office, the Office of the Judge Advocate General, the Surgeon General of the Army and other key elements on the Army staff.

SHARP is closely integrated with OSD and is focusing on new initiatives from the Secretary of Defense. She said there is a solid focus on prevention, investigation, accountability, advocacy and assessment.

“We’re working on figuring out how to implement these requirements,” she said. “What actions are going to make a difference in the field? All of our actions need to have an impact at the lowest levels of the Army.”

## Prevention

Altendorf said as part of preventive measures against sexual assaults, the Army provides sexual assault awareness training at all levels of the Army.

Personnel receive training prior to commissioning and enlistment, during initial military training, during every professional development course, before and after deployment, and before taking a command position. This event-based training is augmented by mandatory annual training while assigned to a unit. There is also comprehensive training for victim advocates and for sexual assault response coordinators.

Additionally, Altendorf said training is reaching the highest levels. Recently, the chief of staff of the Army conducted training through a two-day sexual assault prevention summit for two- and three-star generals.

## Investigation

Prevention is an effort to keep sexual assaults from occurring in the first place. When that fails, the Army is enhancing its ability to investigate and prosecute sexual assaults in the ranks.

Altendorf said that every sexual assault report now goes to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, who will in turn kick off an appropriate investigation.

She said the SHARP program is working with CID, the Office of the Judge Advocate General, and judge advocate generals in the field to improve pre-trial investigative capabilities, with the intent of increasing confidence in the military justice process and protect the privacy rights of victims.

In support of the Secretary of Defense's recently announced initiatives, the Army is also enhancing its special victims investigation training for agents within the Criminal Investigation Command, as well as for prosecutors.

The Army is also working to increase the number of Special Victims Unit capabilities at major installations, Altendorf said. To that end, the Army's OTJAG also now has 24 special victim prosecutors trained specifically to work sexual assault cases.

"They are some of the best trained and qualified prosecutors in the Army," she said.

## Accountability

To keep units accountable for maintaining an environment that encourages reporting, but that is also

inhospitable to sexual assault perpetrators, the Army has strengthened its use of command climate surveys, Altendorf said.

While such surveys have long been in use, until recently climate surveys were only at the company level and the results stopped at the desk of the commander they assessed, no longer. Now climate surveys will be conducted at every level of command, and the results will go one level of command higher in the command chain, Altendorf said. That will allow a commander's supervisor to see how they are evaluated, and to watch for trends, either positive or negative.

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**"This is going to push accountability,"**

**Altendorf said. "If that commander's boss is looking at the survey data and he is seeing something regularly occurring, or something not right, he can step in."**

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Additionally, she said the Army requires company-level surveys more frequently than other services. A command climate survey is required within 30 days of assumption of command, an additional survey six months later, and then additional surveys each year afterward.

Commanders are now required to meet face-to-face with the next higher echelon of command to review the results of the surveys.

"You can actually look and see if the climate is getting better or worse under that commander," Altendorf said.

## Advocacy

Taking care of victims of sexual assault is a key component of SHARP. As part of victim advocacy, the Army already has sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates. Now, those personnel and others will undergo enhanced screening to ensure that those most qualified for the position are filling the critical roles as the front-line support for a Soldier who has been violated.

"We're trying to create an environment where, if something does occur, that victim feels very comfortable in reporting it," Altendorf said. "We're making sure we have the right people as victim advocates,



choosing the right people who have the most positive influence on Soldiers. So we are expanding the screening process for victim advocates, sexual assault response coordinators, recruiters and drill sergeants.”

The intent is to ensure they don’t “have anything in their background that actually might prohibit them from being an appropriate person to deal with a victim,” Altendorf said.

Altendorf also said the SHARP program is looking at ways to raise the prestige of positions such as a victim advocate or sexual assault response coordinators, known as SARCs, to attract the right kinds of Soldiers to those positions.

## Assessment

Critical to success of the Army’s SHARP program, Altendorf said, is determining whether the programs and policies are having the desired effect.

To make that happen, she said, the Army must find a way to make sure the assessment of its own efforts is aligned with those of the Department of Defense.

“We’re working very closely with the Army Research Institute to make sure our survey questions mesh with the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s survey questions, so that when we are comparing the results we are compatible,” she said. “The data is important.”

## OSD Directives

On May 6, May 17, and Aug. 14, 2013, the Secretary of Defense released memorandums directing the services to meet certain dated benchmarks and requirements in their efforts to stop sexual assaults in the ranks. Altendorf said the Army is on-task with meeting those demands.

Already, the Army has looked at credentials and qualifications of current-serving drill sergeants, recruiters, SARCs and victim advocates to ensure they meet applicable selection criteria and standards of conduct, she said.

The service has also completed refresher training for drill sergeants, recruiters, SARCs and victim advocates on professional ethics, their critical responsibilities

and standards, and the impact on mission readiness for violations of standards.

Another directive mandated inspection of workplaces for professional appearance, and the removal of items deemed offensive. That requirement has also been met, she said.

The Army also met the requirement to ensure the Army’s own sexual assault prevention campaign is in alignment with DOD’s plan.

“We’ve actually done quite a bit,” Altendorf said. “Now we have to set up the proper metrics to make sure it is actually having an impact. You must go back and measure and make sure you’re improving.”

## A Culture Change

A primary factor in eliminating sexual assaults in the military is ensuring a change in culture. Soldiers must understand that sexually assaulting other Soldiers is simply not the Army way.

Education goes a long way toward changing that culture, Altendorf said, but the Army must also contend with the culture Soldiers bring with them from the civilian world.

“As we bring in new recruits, we have a requirement to train them to behave in a manner that upholds Army values,” she said. “From the moment they first step foot in the door, we have to talk about respect for others and the Army values.”

The Army’s SHARP program is part of its Ready and Resilient Campaign. R2C ensures the right conditions exist for Soldiers to be ready to do their job.

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**“To keep your force ready and resilient, you need an environment where people can flourish,” Altendorf said. “When there is sexual harassment or assault, you don’t have an environment that allows people to do what they need to do, so they can perform their job as a Soldier.”**

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Altendorf said the Army is striving for a cultural change that results in a positive command climate so Soldiers can reach their full potential. The SHARP program is a critical piece in achieving that goal.

# 302<sup>nd</sup> MEB Soldiers on Point at Vibrant Response 2013



Soldiers of 357<sup>th</sup> Chemical Company out of Camden, N.J., 479<sup>th</sup> Chemical Battalion, 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, test their skill sets during Vibrant Response 2013 to ensure 'readiness' at any given time. Led by U.S. Army North, the annual exercise brings together thousands of military and civilian personnel from across the country for realistic disaster-response training. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lanyard Armstrong, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command)

*Story by Spc. Richard Fullam,  
302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade*

You may have missed the news, but on July 30, 2013, a five kiloton nuclear device flattened Columbus, Ohio. An hour later, a second one devastated Dayton, Ohio. Over 50,000 Americans were estimated fatalities, a number that quickly climbed to 70,000.

This is Vibrant Response 2013, a major incident exercise held in Indiana that tests the nation's response to a mass casualty event. Thousands of Soldiers from around the country flocked to this Midwest state to test their preparedness to aid their fellow Americans in the event of an unspeakable tragedy.

The 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, had been preparing for this exercise for over a year. During three preparatory exercises under the command of Joint Task Force 51, the Soldiers of 302<sup>nd</sup> successfully executed their Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Response missions at Ft. Sam Houston and Camp Bullis in Texas, and a third one that the 302<sup>nd</sup> hosted at its Westover Air Reserve Base headquarters in Chicopee, Mass.

A Contingency Command Post under U.S. Army North, JTF-51 is a rapid-deployable two-star headquarters that can be used as an all-hazards task force

or as an augmented Joint Task Force to respond to crisis. The 302<sup>nd</sup> MEB's C2CRE mission is tasked to last two years. After Fiscal Year 2014, another unit will rotate in and the 302<sup>nd</sup> will revert to its normal operational status.

A chartered 737 flew the 302<sup>nd</sup> directly from Westover ARB to Indianapolis, where buses took them to the exercise site. As the unit in-processed at Camp Atterbury, many were vaccinated against smallpox, which will require them to take careful care of the inoculation site for up to a month until the pustule heals. From there, they and representatives from AR North and JTF-51 erected a Joint Operations Center and maintained 24-hour operations for a week, often working 13-hour days in the process. Service members from the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy worked closely with their Army brethren. Due to the scope of the notional disaster, the exercise was split into two regions. Task Force 51 centered on the Columbus incident, while Dayton was handled by TF-46.

The JOC tracked all aspects of the exercise, both notional and real world. Sometimes the lines between the two would blur and a unit would scramble to find information for a notional casualty they believed to be real. However, it's always better to err on the side of caution.





Soldiers of 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, review plans updates during this year's Vibrant Response training exercise. Led by U.S. Army North, the annual exercise brings together thousands of military and civilian personnel from across the country for realistic disaster-response training. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lanyard Armstrong, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command)



Brig. Gen. James Williams, commander of 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Maj. Gen. William Buckler, Jr., commander of 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, and Maj. Gen. Charles Gales, commander of JTF-51 discuss the progress of this year's Vibrant Response training exercise. Led by U.S. Army North, Vibrant Response brings together thousands of military and civilian personnel from across the country for realistic disaster-response training. (Photo by Spc. Richard Fullam, 302<sup>nd</sup> Maneuver Enhancement Brigade)

Across the parking lot, a DRASH tent was erected for use as a chow hall and Mobile Kitchen Trailers were set up to serve hot breakfasts and dinners to the shifts of Soldiers working long hours in the JOC. Lunch was often an MRE.

In addition, for the exercise all participants from the 302D MEB were required to wear passive dosimeters on their wrists or belts, which measure an individual's or an object's exposure to radiated energy. Ionizing radiation, such as X-rays, alpha rays, beta rays, and gamma rays, are undetectable by the human senses, therefore a measuring device is used to detect, measure and record these, and limit the wearer's exposure.

No fewer than five generals visited and were briefed on the exercise, including Maj. Gen. William Buckler, Jr., commanding general of 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, Maj. Gen. Charles Gales, commander of JTF-51 and Maj. Gen. Jimmie Wells, commanding general of the 75<sup>th</sup> Training Division. All came away impressed with the efficiency and dedication to duty of the 302<sup>nd</sup> MEB, and how far they've come in their training so quickly. Training officers and NCOs prowled the JOC floor, asking questions and noting the answers of why things were done the way they were and sometimes offering suggestions of how things could be run better.

**“You have to be ready,”**

**Brig. Gen. James Williams, commander of the 302<sup>nd</sup> MEB, implored his troops.**

**“God knows I don’t want the phone to ring. But if it does, we have to be ready to go. The lives of your fellow Americans will depend on how well we do our jobs. These are your parents, your husbands and wives, your brothers and sisters who will be depending on us to do whatever it takes to complete the mission. You’ll want to be able to tell your grandkids that you were there, helping your fellow citizens. If you’re not ready, you’ll regret it the rest of your lives.”**



# Operation River Assault a Success

*Story and photos by Spc. Justin Snyder, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. – Staring out into darkness, Spc. Hoang Tran could hardly wait to get started. Wet from an early morning storm, a little bit cold and with mud caking his Army combat boots, he eagerly directed each Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck toward the shoreline in the early morning hours of July 24, 2013.

Just as fast as the Arkansas sun started to rise through the clouds, soldiers all around him enthusiastically began moving vehicles, preparing Army engineer boats and dropping large Army green bridge sections into the river.



A CH-47 Chinook, piloted by U.S. Soldiers with the 7<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, 158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, drops a four-way ramp raft, also known as a six-float and shore to shore full-enclosure floating roadway, into the Arkansas River during a rehearsal for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael T. Crawford/Released)

“This is what I came here to do,” said Tran, 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge). “A little rain won’t do anything but motivate us to get the mission accomplished even faster.”

What began as only an idea and a goal became a reality as engineers from the 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), and 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) came together with the assistance of medics, military police, dive specialists and support personnel, to construct an Improved Ribbon Bridge across the river.

Each of the engineer units took care of unloading a quarter of the bridging section, with the final section coming from Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

When the last of 44 bridge sections hit the water, soldiers high-fived and praised each other enthusiastically as if they had just won a sporting event.

“Heck of a job guys!” said Tran, a native of Portland, Ore. “We were on a tight schedule, but we got it done faster then we expected.”

Standing in the background, Lt. Col. Keith Krajewski, 389<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion crossing area commander, could not help but be proud of what his soldiers had accomplished.

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**“These guys deserve to be happy and should be proud of what they just did,”**  
said Krajewski. **“They’ve been out here training and rehearsing for over a week now. This is like their Super Bowl. I can’t stress how well they did.”**

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Over the past week and a half, the nearly 800 soldiers participating in Operation River Assault have been vigorously training in preparation for the bridge crossing. The engineers tested and familiarized themselves with their boats and vehicles, while continuing to brush up on their soldier skills such as land navigation, marksmanship and demolition.





A CH-47 Chinook, piloted by U.S. Soldiers with the 7<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, 158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, drops a four-way ramp raft, also known as a six-float and shore to shore full-enclosure floating roadway, onto the Arkansas River during a rehearsal for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret/Released)



U.S. Army Cpl. Praderm Indratula, a bridge crew chief with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company loads a bridge section onto a heavy expanded mobility tactical truck during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith/Released)



U.S. Soldiers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company connect two sections of a bridge together during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith/Released)

This often made for long days in the field and made it crucial for them to capitalize on the limited training time they received on the bridging elements.

“We’ve been very busy from the moment we stepped onto the ground at Fort Chaffee,” said Spc. Israel Sanchez, a bridge team member with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) “We’ve practiced for every scenario. From pulling security and getting up early to building a raft, everything we did here went into the final mission today.”

Under the careful watch of the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment, 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade out of Fort Bragg, N.C, acting as a safety and support element, along with security personnel and Army medics the engineers were able to put all their training to use and complete the water bridge in roughly three hours.

The bridge was then used to transport security elements and soldiers to the opposite side of the river.

While the river assault was just a training mission, for the soldiers participating it was a glance at what their mission could involve if deployed overseas.

“This is a great opportunity to do engineer training,” said Maj. General William Buckler, commanding general of the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command and a native of Southside, Ala. “This is part of the Army Reserve training strategy and is one of the building blocks of the progressive readiness model that we use to ensure our units are ready to deploy at any time.”



U.S. Army combat engineers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) and 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), merge bridge sections together to create a barge to transport vehicles across the Arkansas River during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith/Released)





A convoy of military vehicles crosses a floating bridge assembled by various U.S. Army combat engineer units during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. The three main bridge-building units were the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Clackamas, Ore.; the 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Bridgeport, W.Va.; and the 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret/Released)



U.S. Army Spc. Kimberly Anderson checks on boats while performing safety duties during the construction of an Improved Ribbon Bridge across the Arkansas River during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. Anderson is a bridge crewman with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-role Bridge), an Army Reserve unit based in Clackamas, Ore. (U.S. Army photo by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. D. Keith Johnson/Released)

While some of the soldiers on ground have deployed before, for many it was their first chance to put together a full-enclosure bridge.

It also served as the first opportunity for many of the engineers to work together as one force.

“I’m very new to the engineer field and this was my first annual training exercise,” said Sanchez, a native of Clackamas, Ore. “The familiarity and trust you gain from working alongside people is something you can’t duplicate without actually doing it. I think this exercise is great for team building and that can go a long way overseas.”

Following the exercise, the engineers then proceeded to break down the full-enclosure bridge and will soon head back to their respective home stations.

However, you can guarantee that all the soldiers will leave with a greater knowledge of essential soldier skills and a little better at their jobs.

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**“It was great to see our soldiers saddle up and complete the mission in a timely and successful matter,” said Krajewski. “In a real life scenario, we only get one chance to make this happen. It’s a good feeling knowing they took their’s, ran with it and I think they are better soldiers because of it.”**

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# Breaking Down the Stovepipes

*By Colonel Adam S. Roth*



USACE engineers work to control beach erosion in New York.

The four components that comprise the Engineer Regiment are the Regular Army, the Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). As the Regiment moves toward the Army of 2020, it also moves toward a period of constrained resources, fiscal austerity, and sequestration. These factors confound the “flow” of the Regiment, which for the past decade at war has flowed in a laminar fashion, using overseas contingency operations funding. Now, however, it finds itself flowing in a turbulent fashion due to budget decrements. Some factors that have made the flow become turbulent include the decrease in authorized funding, the curtailment of training and exercises and—for our Regiment specifically—the postponement of ENFORCE. Moving forward, the Regiment must look at things holistically, studying the way it supports the Army and the Nation from a “one Regiment” perspective.

The flow would stop if we retrench back to the way our components were before 11 September 2001 and continue to operate along tribal “stovepipes.” After more than a decade of warfighting, we must do everything possible to continue developing and cultivating the mutual trust among the components that we now enjoy as institutional knowledge. We must also continue the dialogue, especially when the opportunities for “professional intimacy” decrease. Face-to-face interactions (which cannot be wholly replicated through teleconferences, videoteleconferences, and blogs) will become fewer. Brigadier General Peter A. DeLuca,

the U.S. Army Engineer School commandant, says that there should be no single-purpose engineer Soldier. Similarly, there should also be no single-purpose engineer event. Our challenge is to preserve professional intimacy while operating at the same level of operational tempo with fewer resources. It will be the Regiment moving forward, as one that must preserve the “engineerness” of our rich Regiment, and thrive in that environment.

## Governance

The Engineer Regiment has a heartbeat, which is the normal battle rhythm that fuels the decision-making of our senior leaders and determines the way we interact with the larger, institutional Army. Examples of this heartbeat include—

- Regimental synchronization teleconferences (usually held on the second Tuesday of every month)
- Engineer fusion cell/engineer warfighter forums (secure videoteleconferences usually held on the last Wednesday of every month).
- Regimental command councils (held semiannually).
- ENFORCE (held annually).

These events are inclusive and touch on all components. There are also other forums germane to specific components, such as the engineer advisory team for the Army National Guard, the engineer advisory board for the Army Reserve, and the Chief of Engineers

Reserve Command Council for the National Guard and Army Reserve. USACE also holds a number of meetings throughout the year to aid in senior level decisionmaking. As USACE becomes “greener” and we move toward one Regiment, are there synergies that can allow the discussion of USACE-specific issues such as civil works and include numerous “green suit” issues as well? The challenge for the Regiment is to find where and how we can optimize those engagements, continue to foster professional intimacy, and return the flow to its laminar state.

## **USACE District Footprint**

In the move toward one Regiment, there is potential in the interaction and mutual benefits of association with local USACE districts. Any district may have countless Active Army units in its footprint. But 81 percent of the Regiment is in Reserve Component units, and many of these units may not have access to the same opportunities as units located on major installations. We have started discussions with a few districts and units to see where synergies may exist, and the potential benefits may include access to—

- Professional credentialing, such as the project management profession credential or professional engineer licensure.
- Individual training opportunities offered through venues such as proponent-sponsored Engineer Corps training (PROSPECT) courses that deal with the professional level of competence expected of Army engineers in the field.
- Troop construction work (if legally feasible) that could provide training for units and help districts complete projects that do not warrant the involvement of a major contractor.
- Broadening opportunities that may provide non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and junior officers the opportunity to serve on a detailed assignment to support design, quality control, quality assurance, or another function that provides training for the individual and a measurable benefit in cost avoidance to the district.
- Training areas, since USACE controls and provides stewardship for numerous tracts of land that could provide training areas to nearby units far from ma-

jor installations, thereby decreasing transportation costs and increasing training opportunities.

- The Drilling Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program, which allows Reserve Component officers and NCOs to perform their duties at a USACE district in support of their mission. It will be critical to promote this program and provide opportunities to participate to those who may not be aware of its existence.
- Military units and organizations that can provide benefits, such as the Emerging Leader Program, to USACE efforts.
- Training that relies on Reserve Component units to test new technologies and possible material development solutions in a training environment.

## **Broadening**

When it comes to talent management, it is critical that Engineer Regiment senior leaders develop engineer officers, NCOs, and future leaders who have a broad knowledge of the Army and the systems that comprise it. The challenge for engineers is much more complex because the vastness of the Engineer Regiment requires efficacy in the three major disciplines of combat, general, and geospatial engineering and the many niche specialties such as prime power, firefighting, and well drilling. While four components comprise the Regiment, there are also tribes within those components that provide training opportunities for engineers and materially contribute to the readiness of the force. These include training support battalions and brigades under First U.S. Army; training divisions and Total Army School System battalions in the Army Reserve; Army schools such as the Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and regional training institutes in the Army National Guard.

Are senior leaders taking the opportunity to tell their best and brightest to become small-group instructors, advanced individual training platoon sergeants, or observers-controllers at a training support battalion? Or are they still pushing the next assignment to a line unit and another Afghanistan deployment? USACE districts offer broadening opportunities; but looking toward one Regiment, are we taking full advantage of the other opportunities available,

such as the Olmsted scholarships, White House fellowships, and joint schooling such as the Engineer School joint engineer officer training?

## Exercises

There has been a decrease in overall exercise participation due to a loss of funding. Can we afford to have exercises that only involve a single component? Should not all components participate in a troop construction exercise that may also serve to support theater security cooperation planning and execution? Exercises such as Nuevos Horizontes in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations and Operation Sand Castle at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, were focused on Reserve Component units, but provided training opportunities for all. We need to get better at this. If brigade combat teams will lead efforts to start the Army's regionally aligned force, should not other components be part of this solution by bringing the echelons above brigade force structure that has been a hallmark of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom?

During the Cold War, U.S. Army Europe developed "multi-echelon training." Can we not conduct exercises that start with a Phase III fight; progress to a "road to war" scenario that includes setting the theater and initial-entry operations (with additional units not in the primary training audience); involve operations by Phase IV forces in a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environment; and then continue with postconflict operations after a traditional exercise terminates? There could be multiple training audiences for different phases of the operation, just as there can be training opportunities for higher-level "white cells" that interact with the training unit commander. As we move toward "one Regiment," many formations can participate (virtually or physically), getting training value from a table that is set with limited dollars. The opportunities are there if we want to pick them up.

## Seventh Army Service Component Command

As resources decline, so too will funding for facilities maintenance and renovation. Is now not the time when we, together with the facilities engineer tribe,

develop demand signals (as a normal Army service component command would use global force management tools) that lead to associations and missions that hone critical construction skills, while also helping ourselves? The time is now for Army engineers to meld facilities requirements (under the U.S. Army Installation Management Command) and turn them into the sort of training opportunities that our U.S. Air Force Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) and Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) brethren exploit when they are not forward-deployed. Could we see a small subunit of a "construction effects" battalion dedicated to perform as the repairs and utilities section that picks up daily work orders from the Directorate of Public Works and gains critical job skill training at the same time? Is the U.S. Army Installation Management Command not the seventh Army service component command? If so, what is the Engineer Regiment engagement strategy to support its requirements?

## Conclusion

This article should serve to stir discussion about how we come together as "one Regiment." It is by no means all-inclusive. It is apparent that we must turn the turbulent flow generated by fiscal uncertainty back to a laminar flow by producing less stovepiping. Above all, we must not stop the flow due to retrenchment into our basic tribes. Otherwise, when the music stops, we will find ourselves without a chair to sit in. As always, the author welcomes vociferous debate and can be reached at [adam.s.roth2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:adam.s.roth2.mil@mail.mil).

*Colonel Roth serves as the deputy assistant commandant—U.S. Army Reserve at the U.S. Army Engineer School. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Boston University.*



# Engineers Bridge the Gap Between Training and Real Life

*Story and photos by Spc. Justin Snyder,  
354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

When describing the terrain and sights of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the words dry, desert, snow, mountain, tank and Humvee may come to mind immediately.

It is often forgotten, however, that these countries' landscapes also consists of large water sources such as the Helmand and Kabul rivers in Afghanistan and the Tigris and Euphrates rivers' in Iraq.

With every river, stream or lake comes the obstacle of reaching the sometimes-desolate towns and areas bordering these water sources. Due to these reasons it is not uncommon for terrorists to take cover in these small towns and for the people living there to go unnoticed.

"When you're talking about war and finding the bad guys, they are not always exactly the easiest to find," said Staff Sgt. Kristopher McDonald, 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi Role Bridge).

To ensure that no stone is left unturned and that every citizen receives critical help and attention, there is a need to cross these large water sources. That is where units like the 671<sup>st</sup> Eng. Co. (MRB) come into play.

The Engineers provide the ability to cross these water sources by providing boats that can assist in creating four-way ramp rafts, also known as six-floats and shore to shore full-enclosure floating roadways.

McDonald's past deployments in Iraq in 2003 and 2008 required bridges being built to help sustain a presence in hard to reach areas and the ability to provide important supply to troops.

"Waterways can be a huge obstacle for the movement of our troops and their ability to complete their mission," said McDonald, a native of Monroe, Wash. "There wasn't always the option to just go around it



U.S. Army Spc. David Marcinek, a boat operator with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) performs a float test on an Mark II bridge erection boat in preparation for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.

and even if there was, sometimes it was easier and quicker to just build a bridge."

To prepare for the possibility that they will be needed overseas, the Army Reserve soldiers are partaking in Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., from July 14 until July 24.

The operation is an exercise that combines warrior-skills training with a river-crossing mission, bridging together nearly 1,000 soldiers from a variety of Reserve and active duty units: engineers, medics, military police and dive specialists, as well as support personnel.

Specifically pertaining to the 671<sup>st</sup> Eng. Co. (MRB) engineers, it provides them the ability to test and familiarize themselves with their boats and equipment



Boat operators with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) perform a float test using a Mark II bridge erection boat in preparation for Operation River Assault in Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) perform a float test on their Mark II bridge erection boat in preparation for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.

on various lakes and rivers. The exercise culminates with a large-scale wet gap crossing exercise on the Arkansas River where they will construct a full-enclosure floating roadway.

They take opportunities like this seriously and take advantage of the ability to train on a fast water river.

“It’s not hard for us to take the boats out for a day and train on the lake at Fort Lewis,” said McDonald, whose unit’s are housed in Clackamas, Ore., and Marysville, Wash. “But to get out on an actual river with (realistic) scenery and typical landscape features can be hard to come by.”

“So we look forward to being able to hone our skills here at Operation River Assault and want to be

able to leave here saying we did our very best and didn’t waste the opportunity,” added McDonald.

Even with a presence in Iraq and Afghanistan diminishing, Spc. Josef Bennett believes the training is critical in keeping the Soldiers on their toes for future deployments, wherever it may take them. Bennett is currently serving as an engineer with the 671<sup>st</sup> Eng. Co. (MRB).

“No matter where you are in this world, there is always going to be water,” said Bennett, a native of Salem, Ore. “This world is a crazy place, so you never know where you might be headed. For those reasons we take every opportunity to get better and ensure we are ready at the flip of a switch.”

## 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command ‘Build To Serve’

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# Firefighters Get Hot at Hanscom

*Story and photos by Spc. Anthony Zane,  
362<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. – A fire can happen anytime, anywhere, and there are many reasons a fire can breakout, that is why the U.S. Army has its own firefighters.

A group of soldiers from the 287<sup>th</sup>, 339<sup>th</sup>, 356<sup>th</sup>, and 530<sup>th</sup> Engineer Firefighting Detachment Teams, as well as the 468<sup>th</sup> Engineer Firefighting Headquarters Detachment, joined together and participated in a simulated fire training exercise at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass., June 8, 2013.

The exercise used a propane-fueled, controlled fire structure with smoke-filled rooms to create a realistic scenario.

“Today we focused on structural fire fighting, doing basic hose advancements, and fire attack, as well as victim search and rescue techniques, downed firefighters, mayday calls, pumping operations, and convoy operations,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Edgecomb, noncommissioned officer in charge, 468<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment Firefighting Headquarters Company, from New London, N.H.

Soldiers were exposed to fire that can get up to 300 degrees that crawls up the walls and across the ceiling. While only a fraction of the temperatures firefighters face on an actual call, it still proved valuable training for the soldiers. The rooms were filled with smoke causing near zero visibility, another obstacle to test their skills.

Safety uniforms, equipment, close supervision by the units’ NCO’s and the use of non-poisonous, breathable vapor smoke are part of the exercise to ensure the soldiers are not injured during training.

“One of the keys to the firefighter’s uniform is it is in multiple layers,” said Staff Sgt., Brett Haynes, 468<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment Firefighting Team, Operations noncommissioned officer, from Merrimack, N.H.



A U.S. Soldier from the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Danvers, Mass., enters a building containing a controlled fire during a training exercise held in Bedford, Mass., June 8, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Anthony T. Zane/Released)

There is a thermal barrier and a moisture barrier as part of the uniform. Between all the layers, it helps manage humidity and helps deflect the heat, said Haynes. It’s the atmospheric conditions that make us really hot, and the uniform does a great job to keep us as cool as possible for the environment we are in, he said.

The air tanks are equipped with a personal accountability safety system (PASS) alarm bell in the event of low air in the tank the bell will sound, said Edgecomb.

“In the event that a firefighter goes down and doesn’t move, that alarm will get progressively louder so you can go in and locate that firefighter,” said Edgecomb.

The alarms are just one of the many ways firefighters must communicate because it is often difficult due to thick smoke, heavy equipment, and loud noises.

“A lot of the time you are going in blind,” said Spc. Russell Chesaneck, from Acworth, N.H., crew chief of 530<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment Firefighting Team. “If you can’t see, you’re crawling and you’re feeling your way through.”

When you are exposed to an environment where vision is extremely limited, and there are loud noises all around, we communicate mostly by tapping each other on the shoulders because you can’t talk well through the masks, said Chesaneck.



U.S. Soldiers with the 287<sup>th</sup>, 339<sup>th</sup>, 356<sup>th</sup>, and 530<sup>th</sup> Engineer Firefighting Teams, as well as the Headquarters Detachment, 468<sup>th</sup> Engineer Firefighters, conduct a briefing before starting a controlled burn training exercise in Bedford, Mass., June 8, 2013.



A U.S. Soldier holds part of the hose being used by others as they put out a fire during a controlled fire training exercise held in Bedford, Mass., June 8, 2013.

Another safety technique used in a fire is called “sounding the board,” in which the firefighter will tap a tool or a fist on the floorboard to check that it is secure.

At times, for various reasons, firefighters may not be able to safely enter a burning building conventionally by a door or window and finding another way in is crucial.

“When we need to go into a building we may need to go into the roof and cut a hole in it. So, before going onto the roof we ‘sound’ it to make sure it is safe to go onto it,” said Spc. Nicole Loupe, 530<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment Firefighting Team, a resident of Brunswick, N.H.

Controlled fire training is only one part of what the Army firefighters mission.

As Army firefighters, we focus on structural fire fighting which is a huge component of what we do, but we are also primarily airfield crash rescue, said Edgecomb. So, on top of knowing how to fight fires in tents, cars, and buildings they also have to be very familiar with various aircraft in the event of a crash.

The various firefighters consist of veteran soldiers, as well as newer soldiers who must conduct fire and rescue training each year.

“The newer soldiers are getting more exposure than they have previously due to the fact that we are partnering them with senior soldiers that have been firefighters on the outside, in the civilian side, as well as firefighters that have been in the unit seven or eight years,” said Edgecomb.

With the risk of a fire that can happen at any time or any place, it is the controlled burn trainings like this that keep fire fighting soldiers ready to face the fire, home or abroad.

“Training always goes outstanding with this group,” said Edgecomb. “It’s a very well disciplined, highly organized, highly motivated group of soldiers that do everything they possibly can to give me 100 percent and to give the Army 100 percent.”



# Army Divers Go to Great Depth for Mission Success

*Story and photos by Spc. Justin Snyder, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. – Wading into the Arkansas River amidst rainy conditions and smoldering summer heat, a six-man team of U.S. Army divers prepared two Zodiac Inflatable boats to take flight on a reconnaissance mission.

Surrounded by safety buoys, breathing masks and apparatus, computer equipment and various other diving gear, they worked diligently on the shoreline to ensure everything was accounted for.

“Is that boat tied off? Are there any problems with the motors? Come on guys, time to get to work,” barked Staff Sgt. Brian Winter, diving supervisor for the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment, which falls under the 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Jacob Feyers, diver for the 511<sup>th</sup> (EDD), eagerly began to change, replacing his authorized uniform of khaki shorts and a black U.S. Army Deep Sea Diving Team shirt to a wet suit with flippers, throwing on a Scuba tank before meeting for a safety briefing.

He’s preparing to ditch the white sandy shoreline for a darker, underwater place where he will communicate by a series of sophisticated rope pull signals and rely on his senses to bring him back alive.

As Rabindranth Tagore, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in

1913, once said “You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.”

“I love the water. Out there, that’s where we feel most at home,” said Feyers, a native of Detroit. “It can be a little scary, but I live for these moments.”

There is something to be said about a man who is willing to dive deep into the belly of a bed of water without the slightest bit of hesitation. Some may even go as far as to call them insane, an assessment to which Feyers doesn’t necessarily disagree.

“It takes a certain type of crazy to want to do what we do,” said Feyers. “That element of unknown brings an adrenaline rush like no other job can provide. We truly love what we do.”

The U.S. Army divers are here in support of Operation River Assault, providing diving assistance throughout the exercise, culminating with a large-scale wet gap-crossing maneuver involving numerous U.S. Army Reserve and active duty components.

With less than 150 soldiers in their Corps, the divers often go unnoticed. This exercise provides them the ability to show others what they do on a large-scale scene while proving that their profession and skill is an invaluable service to the Army both stateside and overseas.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brian Winter, rear, performs a safety check on Spc. Jacob Feyers, prior to a practice dive in the Arkansas River while on a reconnaissance mission at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013. Winter and Feyers are divers assigned to the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment, assisting the Army Reserve and active duty components during Operation River Assault.

More specifically, the divers have been using sonar equipment to create hydrographic surveys of the waterways where the operations will take place. This information is then charted using a computer system that provides three-dimensional maps of the river floor.

“It’s really an outstanding program in the aspect that it makes the jobs of those working on the bridges a lot easier,” said Winter, a native of Winthrop, Mass. “We are essentially removing the water and giving them a face-to-face view of the bottom surface.”

While few know about their military occupational specialty, it is most likely due to the fact that only 20 percent of applicants complete



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brian Winter, right, a diver supervisor assigned to the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment starts the motor to their Zodiac inflatable boat during a reconnaissance mission at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013. The divers are assisting both U.S. Army Reserve and active duty components during Operation River Assault.



Members of the U.S. Army diving team pull Spc. Jacob Feyers, left, assigned to the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment from the Arkansas River during a safety drill at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013. The divers were out on a reconnaissance mission to prepare for Operation River Assault.

the schooling and become qualified Army divers.

Their training begins with a 2 to 3 week selection course consisting of vigorous mental and physical testing. Those who make it through the initial course head out to Panama City, Fla., where they participate in a 6-month dive school.

“You have to really be committed to this,” said Sgt. Herman Goldstein, a salvage diver with the 511<sup>th</sup> (EDD). “It’s not an easy school at all. There are days where you want to give up, but you bear down and fight through it. To be able to do this job for a living, it’s all worth it.”

While their most prominent mission is diving, they provide many underwater services outside of that. Their duties are wide and far and consist of performing visual inspections, equipment recovery, debris removal, underwater cutting and welding, and salvage operations.

While getting re-acquainted with the sonar equipment at Engineer

Lake July 18, 2013, they received an unexpected training opportunity. One of the Army engineer boats being used adjacent to them was damaged and began taking water, allowing the divers to freshen up on their ability to repair damaged vessels.

They rushed into action with the limited supply they had on hand and were able to patch the hole and keep the boat afloat, using foam from an expired life vest and a bottle jack.

“We just happened to be in the right place at the right time,” said Winter. “We came out here on a different mission and didn’t have the supplies for a proper repair.”

“Luckily we were able to ‘MacGyver’ something up and help out in a tough situation. Not only did it work, but it was a good training session for us to stay sharp,” added Winter.

Other duties include using hydraulic tools to repair damaged dams, pipelines, canals, levees, docks and seawalls as well as

inspect and clean damaged vessels. Lastly they do underwater/surface demolition and are capable of using side scan sonar to locate sunken vessels, vehicles, underwater obstacles and bodies.

Normally working on a base with active duty soldiers at Fort Eustis, Va., the divers are using all of their combined knowledge to ensure that the bridging exercise goes off without a hitch.

Whether they are creating maps, patching holes, acting as a security element in case of emergency or diving for lost equipment, the diving team looks forward to helping in any way.

“Don’t let the uniform fool you. At the end of the day we are soldiers first and divers second,” said Winter. “Whether we are in the water diving or just maintaining our equipment, we are always working to get better. We like to stay fresh and this exercise is a great way to make sure we are always mission ready.”



# 94<sup>th</sup> MPs Tackle Multi-Purpose Operations

*Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Crawford,  
354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

It was hot. It was humid. Inch-and-a-half-long wasps swarmed around ruined buildings. Somewhere nearby, hostile forces lurked within the friendly village of Lonestar.

Would they ambush the soldiers? Would they try to escape? Were the reports false to begin with? What would happen to the people caught in the crossfire? These are the questions the 94<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, based in Londonderry, N.H., faced during their military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) training exercise.



U.S. Army Spc. Han Zahn approaches Lonestar Village during a Military Operations Urban Terrain training exercise as part of Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013. Zahn is a military police officer assigned to the 94<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, based in Londonderry, N.H.

The 94<sup>th</sup> MP Company acts as support for the engineer units here as they build the bridge across the Arkansas River in Operation River Assault. For military police, training for MOUT is highly critical.

“Operations move from woods to towns quickly,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Lee, acting first sergeant for the 94<sup>th</sup> MPC “Aside from route recon, we lose the most soldiers during urban operations.”

Operation River Assault is a U.S. Army Reserve exercise that focuses on individual, collective and mission-essential training.



U.S. Army Spc. Daniel Hall, left, and Cpl. Clayton Cahoon rehearse stacking outside of an entryway during military operations urban terrain training at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013. Hall and Cahoon are with the 94<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company.

“Overseas, going towards a river assault there could be a town right next to a river, and we would clear it of enemy soldiers so that engineers could come in and place equipment,” Lee said. “Taking out Osama bin Laden was a form of MOUT.”

Heading into a town isn’t just about kicking down doors and flushing out the enemy. MOUT training offers soldiers a chance to not only work on their combat skills but people skills and cooperation. Overseas, military police often enter towns to meet with key leaders to understand how the Army can assist their towns.

“What aren’t we required to do well?” Lee laughed. “MP doesn’t stand for military police – it stands for



U.S. Army Cpl. Scott Hurley, right, leads a team of military police officers during a Military Operations Urban Terrain training exercise as part of Operation River Assault at Lonestar Village in Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013. Hurley is a military police officer assigned to the 94<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, based in Londonderry, N.H.

multi-purpose. We do MOUT, law enforcement, area security, convoy security, internal resettlement and corrections.”

“We have multiple missions, not only during training, but we can be called up at any time,” Lee said. “We have various specialties that act as force multipliers during peacetime and war time.”

During Operation River Assault, soldiers with the 94<sup>th</sup> MP Company will manage traffic control points and provide law enforcement support.

“Working on cohesion is the biggest factor,” said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Chris Walbridge, the platoon leader with the 94<sup>th</sup> MP Company. “They need to get practice talking to people and dealing with escalation for civilian control. They know the fundamentals, but putting it into operation is different. Big advantage: they’ve all deployed. It makes my job very easy that they bring a lot of resources to the table.”



A military police officer with the 94<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, based in Londonberry, N.H., clears a building during a Military Operations Urban Terrain training as part of Operation River Assault at Lonestar Village in Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 20, 2013.



## INSPECTOR GENERAL Points of Contact



### 1st Step - Always use your Chain of Command

The Inspectors General who serve you are:

#### Local IG

**Name:** LTC James B. Franklin

**Phone:** 601-631-6175

**Location:** Office of the Inspector General, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, 1265 Porters Chapel Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-5790

#### HQ USARC Command IG

**Name:** COL Brian N. Smith

**Phone:** 910-570-8175

**Location:** Office of the Inspector General, HQ USARC, 4710 Knox Street, Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5010

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian, or Family Member seeking IG help. After all, Problem solving is one of the IG's primary missions.



# Cooking Up Awards

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Julio Nieves,  
326<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – To welcome a challenge is one thing, but to take on a challenge such as the Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition, which recognizes excellence in Army Food Service on very short notice, speaks volumes of the Alpha Company, 365<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion food service soldiers out of Scranton, Pa., July 22.

“Sometimes being the underdog pays off,” said Capt. Anthony Davis, commander of A Company.

Such was the case for the food service personnel in A Company who took on the Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition, Active Field Kitchen category, with a two-week notice after a food service company within the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command had dropped out of the competition.

“They’re amazing,” said Staff Sgt. Karen Strauss, the food operations manager at A Company, referring to the soldiers who embraced the challenge from day one.

“Every day they surprise me,” said Strauss. “They instill the drive to win, and it has reflected throughout this competition.”

Although Strauss volunteered her platoon for the mission with a two-week notice, she and her company commander, Davis, were both confident that her team had the necessary skills and confidence to win.

“I started to remember all the times we have been commended by high-ranking officials and other soldiers on our food service,” said Davis. “All I could think of was, ‘everybody can’t be wrong.’”

Strauss is quick to recognize and attribute the success they have had thus far in the competition to great teamwork and the different individual skills soldiers have.

“I come from a typical Italian family, so cooking is in my blood,” said Spc. Katrina James, food service specialist with A Company. “For me, food is morale, it’s a social thing. So when you put out a good meal, it definitely improves the morale of the soldiers.”

While some warrior citizens have it in their DNA, others honed their skills in their daily profession.

“I started my cooking career when I was 16 at a local Golden Coral and worked my way up to my most recent



Spc. Katrina James, food service specialist with A Company, 365<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, takes pride in baking her own wheat bread rolls as she adds the final buttery touches on them during the U.S. Army Reserve Command Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition, Active Field Kitchen category, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., July 22, 2013.

position as a head Chef at a Country Club,” said Sgt. Christopher Young, food operations NCO, A Company.

These 15 food service specialists, who are part of A Company, have distinguished themselves among more than 300 others at the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC level and are currently competing against 14 other Major Support Commands.

“In my eyes, these soldiers were winners from the moment they decided to undertake the Philip A. Connelly Awards competition,” said Davis.

Only the top four food service teams will move on to the Department of the Army level Connelly competition phase later this year.



Sgt. Christopher Young, food operations NCO, A Company, 365<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, confirms his meal plan as he and 14 other food service specialist prepare a lunch meal during the U.S. Army Reserve Command Philip A. Connelly Awards Competition, Active Field Kitchen category, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., July 22, 2013.

# Why Wouldn't Soldiers Train at Fort Chaffee?

*Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Crawford,  
354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. — Operation River Assault 2013 has come and gone, making this the fourth year in a row where Army Reserve soldiers have crossed the Arkansas River, the most commonly touted reason for the exercise to be conducted here.

“Fort Chaffee is an outstanding place to do this because you’ve got a great river to cross, wider than any other river available for this sort of training,” said Maj. Gen. William Buckler, commanding general of the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command. “We can conduct all the training we need so soldiers can learn and do the job the right way.”

But Fort Chaffee isn’t the only post that straddles a river, and it certainly isn’t the only post to regularly host annual training missions—Fort Stewart, Ga., and Camp Roberts, Calif., do both. So why has Operation River Assault been held here for the past four years?



Active duty and Reserve soldiers construct a 300 meter bridge across the Arkansas River at Fort Chaffee, Ark., during Operation River Assault July 24, 2013. Fort Chaffee has hosted Operation River Assault for four years due to the ability to control the water levels and traffic on the river as well as the availability of skills training resources leading up to the mission.

The Army Corps of Engineers controls the locks and dams up stream, enabling control over the water levels and traffic on the river so soldiers can train under conditions that maximize the exercise’s potential. Fort Chaffee offers three ideal crossing points across the Arkansas River; the chosen point this year being 300 meters wide.

There’s wildlife and critters on every post, of course, but the initial safety brief reveals more than a few dangerous insects and a strong skunk presence. Lt. Col. Stephen Dale, commander of the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Forward Support) based out of Saugerties, N.Y., said the modern amenities keep soldiers comfortably separated from nature, allowing them to get better rest, maintain their focus and ultimately train harder.

“The facilities here are very good,” Dale said. “Soldier’s don’t mind living rough ... if they think it’s for a good reason. If they think they’re living poorly ... or don’t have good facilities just because their leaders aren’t taking care of them ... that brings down morale. Our soldiers genuinely appreciate the good facilities that we have here.”

Among those facilities that include climate-controlled barracks, Fort Chaffee features a large Equipment Concentration Site, housing numerous wreckers, boats, haul-



U.S. Soldier with the 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) walks toward a Mark II bridge erection boat docked along the Arkansas River during a rehearsal for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. Fort Chaffee has hosted Operation River Assault for four years due to the ability to control the water levels and traffic on the river as well as the availability of skills training resources leading up to the mission.

ers and other equipment vital for Operation River Assault. While there are other posts separated by a river, Fort Chaffee has the space available for all the training leading up to the actual exercise.

“It’s a total package for Reserve component units coming to do this type of training,” Dale said. “This is a valuable exercise at multiple levels ... all the way down. I’m glad to be here.”

Reservists aren’t the only Soldiers at Fort Chaffee for Operation River Assault. Each year, active duty Soldiers join reservists to bridge the Arkansas River, as well as some Canadian engineers, giving reservists a chance to gain experience with joint operations. Buckler hopes working with reservists will inspire active duty commanders to develop better, integrated training for all soldiers.

“This is a great opportunity for them to gain respect for what we do,” Buckler said. “We’ve been fighting alongside active duty and national guard for 10-12 years. We need to be training that way.”



# Around the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC



Maj. Gen. William M. Buckler, Jr., commanding general of 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, and the Soldiers of 412<sup>th</sup> and 416<sup>th</sup> TECs take a breather during Operation Key Resolve held in the Republic of Korea in March 2013. In support of the Korean Theater of Operations, the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC conducts theater-level engineer operations in Korea, Hawaii, Japan, Vicksburg, Miss., and Birmingham, Ala., for staff integration, and joint and combined operations. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Maryjane Falefa Porter, 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs)



Maj. Bradley Borgos and his dedicated 'Night Shift' crew, the Soldiers of 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, recognized for a job well done during Operation Key Resolve held in the Republic of Korea in March 2013. In support of the Korean Theater of Operations, the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC conducts theater-level engineer operations in Korea, Hawaii, Japan, Vicksburg, Miss., and Birmingham, Ala., for staff integration, and joint and combined operations. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Maryjane Falefa Porter, 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs)



Lt. Col. James Pugh, Lt. Col. Charlie Foreman, Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Dolese and the Soldiers of 608<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment (Construction Management), 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, were an instrumental force in the TEC's mission success during Operation Key Resolve held in the Republic of Korea in March 2013. In support of the Korean Theater of Operations, the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC conducts theater-level engineer operations in Korea, Hawaii, Japan, Vicksburg, Miss., and Birmingham, Ala., for staff integration and joint and combined operations. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Maryjane Falefa Porter, 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs)



Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of U.S. Forces in Korea, right, congratulates military personnel for a job well in support of Operation Key Resolve held in the Republic of Korea in March 2013. Spc. Matthew Young, left, a combat engineer with the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, received a coin from Gen. Thurman for outstanding contribution to the overall mission. Young's proficiency with Command Post of the Future operations was integral to the TEC's overall success in this year's exercise. (Photo by Lt. James Pugh, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command)



Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher, command sergeant major of 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, left, and Col. (Promotable) Miyako Schanely, deputy commander, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, right, were on hand to greet and welcome home the Soldiers of Detachments 23 and 24 as they arrived through Fort Bliss, Texas, Aug. 8, 2013. After a year in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Soldiers will spend a few more weeks here to complete demobilization before returning to their individual home of record spanning across the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC footprint east of the Mississippi River.





U.S. Army combat engineers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) and 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), connect Mark II bridge erection boats to bridge sections on the Arkansas River during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. The bridge sections were assembled together to form one fully functional bridge across the river. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Soldiers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company jack up the ramp section of a barge after it leaves port during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



A U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter flies low above the water's surface of the Arkansas River to drop off a team of divers during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. Bridge-building units with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Clackamas, Ore.; 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Bridgeport, W.Va.; and 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Fort Hood, Texas, worked together to assemble a floating bridge and provide support during the exercise. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Army combat engineers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) and 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), watch from their Mark II bridge erection boats as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, 158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, drops divers with the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment, into the Arkansas River during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Army combat engineers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) and 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), participate in the annual U.S. Army Reserve training exercise Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Dalton Smith, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



A CH-47 Chinook, piloted by U.S. Soldiers with the 7<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, 158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, drops a four-way ramp raft, also known as a six-float and shore to shore full-enclosure floating roadway, onto the Arkansas River during a rehearsal for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 22, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Soldiers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) lower a Mark II bridge erection boat onto the Arkansas River during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. Bridge-building units with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Clackamas, Ore.; 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Bridgeport, W.Va.; and 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Fort Hood, Texas, worked together to assemble a floating bridge and provide support during the exercise. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Army engineers work together to prepare a floating bridge for a convoy during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. The three main bridge-building units were the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge), of Clackamas, Ore.; the 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Bridgeport, W.Va.; and the 74<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michel Sauret, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



A U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, 158<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, drops buoys as divers assigned to the 511<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment, 30<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, from Fort Bragg, N.C., look on during Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 24, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Justin Snyder, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



# It's Demo Time

*Story and photos by Sgt. Dalton Smith,  
354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Forty pounds of cratering charges, 15 pounds of shape charges, 30 pounds of C-4 and many lines of blasting caps were used by the soldiers from the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Forward Support) during a refresher course at the demolition range here at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18.

"Today we did a lot of different exercises out here," said Sgt. David Sklodowski, a combat engineer with the 854<sup>th</sup> Eng. Company. (FS). "We used C-4, shape charges and cratering charges."

The combat engineer soldiers of the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (FS) received the opportunity to practice their skills at the demolition range from simple preparation of a C-4 explosive to more advanced skills such as neutralizing enemy locations and creating defensive positions.

"It's not too often our unit gets to use explosives for training," said Spc. Robert Tighe, of North Plainfield, N.J., a combat engineer with the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (FS). "The majority of us have not used any since Basic Training."

Fort Chaffee's terrain and heat offers a realistic training environment for the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (FS),



U.S. Soldiers detonate 170 pounds of high explosives during a demolition exercise at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013. Combat engineers use cratering charges to create defensive positions and other necessary emplacements.

of Saugerties, N.Y., in case the unit would deploy overseas to Kuwait or Afghanistan.

Operation River Assault is an annual U.S. Army Reserve exercise that focuses on individual, collective and mission-essential training.

Sklodowski, having deployed to Iraq in 2006-2007 as a combat engineer, said he used the same skills being taught on this range for clearance, construction and demolition, while in theater.

"Actually, this is our first time using demolitions in this unit since I've been here the past four years," explains Sklodowski, of Parsippany, N.J. "What my soldiers did today with all of these high explosives was outstanding. I hope they gain the same experience that I have... [and] would like to see battalion plan more of this kind of training."

Soldiers with the 483<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion provided range safety and oversight of the soldiers on the range.

"The combat engineer job looked cool and I wanted to blow stuff up and use bulldozers," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Beard, of Kansas City, Mo., with the 483<sup>rd</sup> Eng. Bn. "I haven't done a lot of the cool, high-speed



U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Beard, an area clearance noncommissioned officer in charge with the 483<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion, describes to the Soldiers assigned to the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, all of the explosives being used at the demolition range at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.



operations I originally performed in years past. But now, like today, is all about the Soldier and their training.”

This group of nine combat engineers was the first of two classes who practiced demolitions for the day. The total amount of explosives that were detonated was 250 pounds.

“Though this wasn’t my first choice, becoming a combat engineer has now turned into my best choice,” said Tighe. “I hope to continue in this profession and stay motivated along the way.”



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Llewellyn, with the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, receives instructions from Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Wycoff, with the 348<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, on the proper way to insert a blasting cap into C-4 at the demolition range at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Forward Support), connect their shaped charges to the main ignition line at the demolition range at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013. The shape charge will provide a proper size hole for the 40 pounds of cratering charge that will be placed in later.

## Public Affairs

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If this sounds like something you'll be interested in taking on, please contact CPT Maryjane Porter, 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs Officer at [Maryjane.porter.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Maryjane.porter.mil@mail.mil) or (601) 631-1463 for more information.





# Army Reserve Soldier Raps, Puts the ‘Poetry in Motion’

*Story and photos by Spc. Justin Snyder, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Tucked away in a small building, amidst all the hustle and bustle of Humvees, tanker trucks, Army engineer boats practicing bridging operations and Chinook helicopters flying overhead in preparation for Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., Pfc. Johnathen O’Neill is sitting in a barber chair.

“So this is where it all happened?” ponders O’Neil, a cook with the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Forward Support) as he admires the photos and memorabilia hanging on the wall. “This is music royalty. I mean, we are talking about ‘The King of Rock and Roll’ man.” The 854<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn. (FS) is an Army Reserve unit based in Saugerties, N.Y.

While the barbershop is slow on this day, in March of 1958, the whole world had their eyes on this chair. Media outlets from all over flocked in anticipation as none other than Elvis Presley received his first G.I. military buzz cut and shaved his famous sideburns during a three-day stay at Fort Chaffee in preparation for a two-year commitment to the U.S. Army.

While O’Neill isn’t on the same level as Presley, one can dream. He recently showed off his rap skills, trying out for the Simon Cowell

produced reality show, “The X Factor” and made it to the second round of auditions in New York.

Back at the dining facility, he stares through the steam rising from the hot trays of eggs, bacon and grits. He still thinks about that moment and asks himself the question “what if?”

“I should’ve been more prepared. I was so close,” said O’Neill, who didn’t make it to the third round of auditions, which means performing for a celebrity panel of musician judges and is filmed for television purposes. “I’d been practicing my songs for weeks, but never knew I’d be auditioning without my background music. I froze and it just didn’t go well at all. Make no mistake though, I’ll learn from it and be back next year.”

However this isn’t the first bout with adversity that O’Neill has faced.

Growing up in the Bronx, the northernmost borough of New York City, he faced constant adversaries who liked to give him a hard time based on his nationality and skin complexion.

“It was tough as a kid. I went to school every day always looking over my shoulder,” said O’Neill, a native of Windham, N.Y. “I was always in fights. Mainly because I’m a red-headed kid with a different skin tone. All I knew was to fight.”



Pfc. Johnathen O’Neill, a cook with the 854<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Forward Support), and a native of Windham, N.Y., sits in a barber chair in the Fort Chaffee, Ark., barbershop July 23, 2013. The chair is famously known as the site of Elvis Presley’s first G.I. buzzcut during his two-year service in the U.S. Army. O’Neill, who goes by the name Poetry in Motion, is an aspiring rapper who made it through the second round of the reality television show, “The X-Factor.”

Coming home everyday with black eyes, scratches and fighting off personal problems, O’Neill took to poetry as an outlet. When, as a 16 year-old kid, one of his poems was published in the “Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul” series, a local freestyle rapper took notice.

“He told me my stuff was good and told me I needed to put my words to a beat,” said O’Neill. “I was hesitant at first. I always thought the rap game kind of had a negative stereotype and I didn’t want to be involved with that lifestyle.”

After some convincing, he gave the rap world a second look. As homage to the poetry that spawned the opportunity and as play on words, he took up the stage name

“Poetry in Motion.” Beginning with simple, playful rhymes and hooks, O’Neill found that making music was taking the place of fighting.

“For the longest time, I always fought my problems with my hands and actions,” said O’Neill. “Once I discovered I could take these frustrations out in the form of music, I was hooked for the better.”

Riding high on the waves of accomplishment, his homemade recordings caught the eye of talent scouts from Sony Entertainment. At the same time, he was playing high school tennis and had climbed to the third place ranking in the state of New York.

However, adversity once again reared its ugly head in the form of words from his girlfriend.

“She basically told me that I was nobody and that she couldn’t see herself with a guy who was never going to be anything,” said O’Neill. “When your 17 and in love, you take words like these very hard.”

With those words haunting his mind on a daily basis, he looked to the Army as a way to prove his merit to her. He turned down a \$200,000 record contract due to nerves and the thought he wouldn’t be able to fulfill his end of the deal and instead of following out his tennis ambitions, he left for basic training.

Still, this wasn’t enough to convince his girlfriend to stick around.

“She moved to Georgia and said she was moving on to bigger and better things,” said O’Neill. “It

broke my heart and now I was on my way to basic training with her words still spinning in my mind.”

With his old life in the rearview mirror and the Army as his new priority, he found himself struggling to comprehend his place in life. Upon receiving the news that his ex-girlfriend had also looked to the Army for new beginnings, he was ready to pack-up and head back to New York.

However, it was then in the final hour that he received the motivation he needed to succeed.

“I was literally in the process of writing my parents and I was asking them if they would be alright with me giving up. I’d had enough of basic training and was ready to quit,” said O’Neill. “I got a letter then from my ex-girlfriend saying she’d failed and that she couldn’t get into the Army.”

“Right then I decided I couldn’t give up. She had said I’d never be anything and yet here she was failing at something I still had a shot at. Any thoughts I’d had of quitting were gone and I was going to be the best soldier there was. I was no longer worried about proving anything to her, but instead proving to myself I could be something more,” added O’Neill.

It was in those coming weeks that he also realized he wasn’t alone in having to overcome issues that had plagued him as a kid. He met other soldiers who were prevailing past rough childhoods and giving themselves a better life and future.

Thanks to his fellow Soldiers and the newfound confidence in himself, he is now using his talents to

speak out on important topics and more personal moments in his life.

“The Army gave me the confidence and structure to go further and take this thing to the next level,” said O’Neill. “Knowing there are people out there just like me, I can now get my message out to a whole new audience.”

With nearly 2,000 followers on his Facebook page from various places such as India, Brazil, Europe and the United States, O’Neill’s rapping career is starting to take flight once again. One of his songs, “I Ain’t Perfect” has received more than 3,000 views on YouTube.

Recently, a video producer from his hometown took notice of O’Neill’s music and offered to make him a music video for his song, “She loves me not” and it was recently filmed at a local coffee shop.

While fame and fortune is a possibility, for O’Neill, it’s more about the opportunity to share his story. He has set high goals and aspirations, but is most proud of his service to his country.

“It took me a long time, but I can honestly say I’ve made something of myself,” said O’Neill. “Out of all my friends from back home, half of them are in and out of jail and few can say they have made it this far.”

“I owe everything I have to the Army. If everything ended tomorrow and for some reason I couldn’t make music any longer, I could go to bed at night happy knowing I served my country.”



# Rebuilding Miami, Home by Home

Story and photos by Spc. William J. Taylor,  
314<sup>th</sup> Press Camp Headquarters

The 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company is a prime example of what “Twice the Citizen” means to the community during their Innovative Readiness Training exercise in Perrine, Fla., June 1-28, 2013.

The 758<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, used their annual training to renovate two houses within the same area as their Lt. Col. Luis C. Martinez Army Reserve Center.

Rebuilding Together is a national nonprofit organization that assists low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly, veterans and/or disabled, in renovating

homes to make them more livable and accessible.

“Working with Rebuilding Together gives our soldiers an opportunity to perform their specific skill set while also outreaching to our community,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Johnny Walker, company commander, 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company. “Projects like this progress the image of the Army Reserve as a whole by showing that we care about the community and that we can both benefit by helping each other.”

Both homes that the 758<sup>th</sup> renovated are located on the same street just a few houses apart. 101-year-



U.S. Army Pfc. Sherell Perry Webley, left, and Spc. Dennis Lopez, both carpentry masonry specialists, assigned to the 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, solder a copper pipe for the bathroom plumbing during the Innovative Readiness Training with Rebuilding Miami Together project in Perrine, Fla., June 10, 2013.

old Ruby Grant owns one of the homes, and 99-year-old Mary Hill owns the other. Grant and Hill have been best friends since they were young children and have lived in their respective houses since construction in the late 1940s.

The project was done in three rotations to maximize the time and abilities of the soldiers in the 758<sup>th</sup>. Each platoon spent at least one week working on the job site and utilized the rest of their extended combat training time completing their Structured Self Development courses and participating in extensive Army Physical Readiness Training, including an Army Physical Fitness Test.

“These soldiers have an efficiency of a different level, and my grandmother and I are so grateful for their dedication,” said Derrick Bowman, grandson of Hill. “The speed and quality of their work is absolutely exceptional. They are always communicating with me and my family to let us know the progress, and it’s a great thing to



The Rev. Rufus Hill and his mother, Mrs. Mary Hill, homeowner, thank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Markus Kamberger, executive officer, 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Johnny Walker, company commander, 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, for the renovations being done on her house during the 758<sup>th</sup>'s Innovative Readiness Training with Rebuilding Miami Together, June 18, 2013, in Perrine, Fla. (Photo by Spc. William J. Taylor, 314<sup>th</sup> Press Camp Headquarters)





U.S. Army Spc. Shan Omeir, an interior electrician, assigned to the 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company fixes a fuse box which was outdated at the home of Ruby Grant during the Innovative Readiness Training with Rebuilding Miami Together project in Perrine, Fla., June 13, 2013.

see this type of professionalism from service members.”

Bowman is a former Marine and is a lieutenant for the Pinecrest Police Department. His late grandfather, Frank Hill, served in the Army during World War II.

The project also brought the attention of high profile members of the Miami community. Miami Dolphins cornerback Nolan Carroll, punter Brandon Fields and offensive tackle Nate Garner worked alongside soldiers during the beginning of the project.

According to Garner, the players love going in the community and helping people who need it. He found it amazing to get out there with the different organizations and help residents in rebuilding their home.

Volunteers from the Veteran’s Administration, Social Security Administration, Young Government Leaders, Miami Dolphins Women’s

Organization, Fins Weekend committee members and Florida Senator Dwight Bullard volunteered at the project sites as well.

“The fact the Army Reserve is pouring their time, effort, and energy into making this project happen speaks volumes to people in the communities in which I serve,” said Bullard. “Seeing the work first hand only enhances what we perceive about our service members. It is all about protecting what is good about our country and the people in it.”

**“Since the soldiers have been out here, the whole community has come to the street discussing how surprised they were with the work that was being done,” said Bowman. “Most people don’t realize that soldiers do more than just fight for our country, they help build it as well.”**

Both Grant’s home and Hill’s home needed extensive renovation. The 758<sup>th</sup> did a complete electrical overhaul of both homes because they no longer were acceptable under Florida Residential Building Codes.

The 758<sup>th</sup>’s main accomplishments for the Grant and Hill homes were the following: Americans with Disabilities Act ramp entrances, updated sewer system pipes, interior dry wall replacement throughout the houses with new interior and exterior paint and entirely new bathrooms with handicapped accessible entrances and equipment.

The 758<sup>th</sup> also replaced joists and floors, relocated a fuse box, mounted washer and dryer connections and installed new appliances in both homes along with numerous other renovations.

“Renovating these homes is great training outside of the combat zone in which we get to learn more about our job and different ways to utilize the skills we have learned,” said Spc. Emanuel Walton, plumber, 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company. “This community is where my family and I live. Being able to help my community as a reservist makes me appreciate my decision to join the Army.”

The Army Reserve motto “Twice the Citizen” denotes vigilance and a wide-ranging scope of ability and expertise. The 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company out of Perrine, Fla., has proven that the motto is more than just words. It is a commitment to the nation and the American people.



U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 758<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve remove a damaged sewer pipe from the home of Mary Hill during the Innovative Readiness Training with Rebuilding Miami Together project in Perrine, Fla., June 11, 2013.



# River Rats Create Waves, Bridges

*Story and photos by Sgt. Michael Crawford, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. – Arkansas is known for its razorbacks, snakes and intense heat, but for the next week it's become a home to River Rats.

The 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi Role Bridge), based in Clackamas, Ore., formally went by the nickname River Rats. After all, they're in the business of not only crossing rivers, but getting others across as well.

These engineers had the opportunity to prepare for Operation River Assault with a boat familiarization exercise, July 18.

Members of the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) lowered Bridge Erection Boats, MK2 into Engineer Lake here to perform stress tests, ensuring the boats could handle the hard dives and power turns needed to build a full-enclosure bridge across the Arkansas River.

"We want to identify any problems early before we get to the main build," said Staff Sgt. Sean

Thompson, a senior boat operator with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB). "It's a bit of a refresher. When we've got a five-ton bridge base sitting on the front of (the boat), it's hard to get them to turn sometimes.

"It's delicate work dealing with bridge bases coming up onto the ... bridge that you're building," said Thompson, a native of Seattle. "Any little movement has to be counteracted, so it's really easy to lose control and do damage."

Mechanical issues can arise from lack of use from long-term storage. While soldiers have plenty of opportunity to care for their own gear, here they're at the mercy of what they draw.

Fortunately, soldiers of the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB) have more than bridge builders with them.

Sgt. Scott Jakielski, a wrecker operator from Arlington, Wash., with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), was just one of a team of recovery and maintenance support, ready for the worst.

"If we have something stuck, we can't continue mission," Jakielski said. "Maintenance assets fix minor problems before they turn into major problems."

Staff Sgt. Timothy Dorris, a crew chief for the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (MRB), said the training is critical leading up to the Opera-



U.S. Soldiers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi Role Bridge), from Clackamas, Ore., pilot a boat on Engineer Lake during a boat operating exercise as part of Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.

tion River Assault exercise. Over the next three days, soldiers will construct a floating bridge across the Arkansas River.

"The big picture is the bridge," said Dorris, a combat bridge engineer from Kalama, Wash. "We can cross divisions across our bridge and that's a lot of people. When we're doing the maneuver, and there's a water obstacle in our way, we need to get past it real fast. We need the speed ... for the rest of the Army.

"All this little stuff adds together," Dorris said. "Soon as that bridge comes together ... morale's really high. That's the best reward."



U.S. Soldiers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi Role Bridge), based in Clackamas, Ore., move a boat on a heavy expanded mobility tactical truck toward Engineer Lake during a boat operating exercise as part of Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013.



U.S. Soldiers with the 671<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company (Multi Role Bridge) from Clackamas, Ore., pilot a boat on Engineer Lake during a boat operating exercise as part of Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18, 2013. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael Crawford/Released)

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# TEC on ICE

*By Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley,  
412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs*

The 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command implements the Interactive Customer Evaluation, a web-based customer feedback effort to help identify, sustain and improve the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC as a whole through feedback from Soldiers, Family members and retirees.

“Major General William M. Buckler, Jr., commanding general of the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC, wants to know how we are performing as a TEC, how we are treating our customers, and if they have any feedback on how we can improve ourselves,” said Steve Rowland, 412<sup>th</sup>’s ICE site manager. “The 412<sup>th</sup> TEC provides services to its down-trace units and contractors who submit logistical contracts or bills-of-laden to the Command.”

“ICE is the Army’s evaluation tool, which is an electronic media form of a comment card,” said Rowland. “ICE was started by the Department of Defense for installations with service providers such as “Communities of Excellence,” the PX, the bowling alley or the automotive center. But now, the Army has now encouraged ICE system wide.”

“We started ICE at the 412<sup>th</sup> a little over a year ago,” said Rowland. “But now that it has been implemented, the commanding general has mandated that all full-time staff have an ICE-link according to their service provider, or section.”

“When a section performs a service, a web-link is provided in their email,” said Rowland. “That allows the customer to leave a comment on how they’ve been treated or how been provided for.”

“The plan is now to implement ICE TEC-wide and eventually get ICE pushed down to the brigade and so on,” said Rowland. “We haven’t gotten that far yet, but it is soon to come.”

“This isn’t meant to single out individuals in an evaluation,” said Rowland. “It’s anonymous.



As an Army civilian at the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Rowland works as the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC’s Interactive Customer Evaluation site manager. ICE is an interactive web-based, customer feedback effort to help identify, sustain and improve the Army’s customer service as a whole, through feedback from Soldiers, Family members and retirees. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley, 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Public Affairs)

Only if a customer wants a reply, then the customer must put the comment into the free-text format. When they submit the comment, an email is generated stating that the customer wants a reply.”

“At that time, the comment is sent down to the command group and may be brought to the attention of the service provider (the section) if some kind of rectification is needed,” said Rowland. “I have no idea who is sending these things in unless they wish to be identified.”

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**Rowland said, “How this works is over a period of time, we’ll be able to see a trend and that’s how we improve and get things right. As long as we’re getting that feedback in, we can see what we’re doing right or what we’re not doing so well and improve upon it.”**

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# First African American Top NCO for 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command Laid to Rest with Honor

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Roger Ashley, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command Public Affairs*

VICKSBURG, Miss. – The 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command soldiers paid full military honors to retired Command Sgt. Maj. James Albert Brown Jr., who passed away June 4.

Brown was born in Bovina, Miss., on Jan. 2, 1930, and attended elementary school at the Bovina Public School, high school at Southern Christian Institute, and then went to Jackson State College. While at Jackson State, Brown was drafted into U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Brown continued his military service in the Army Reserve to become the first minority command sergeant major at the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC and served under Maj. Gen. Michael A. Schulz Jr.

Former 412<sup>th</sup> TEC chief of staff, retired Col. Benny M. Terrell said, “Out of the numerous other sergeant majors in the unit, the general reached out and picked him and that speaks to the caliber of the man that he was.”

Brown was a no nonsense guy, strictly by the book, according to Terrell. “He believed in training. He believed in taking care of the Soldier. You didn’t have to worry about that,” Terrell said.



Lt. Col. Timothy Gothard, of the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, presents an American flag to family members of the late Command Sgt. Maj. James Albert Brown Jr. during the funeral held June 10 at the Vicksburg, Miss., Cedar Hill Cemetery. Brown was the first African American command sergeant major of the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC.

“He was outstanding, that’s all I can say,” said Terrell. “He was an outstanding Soldier, and we appreciate his leadership and the path that he dug for all of us.”

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**“He set an example for a lot of us coming behind him,” said Terrell. “We had never experienced a black sergeant major. So really he was an inspiration to us all.”**

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Terrell, who became the 412<sup>th</sup>’s first African American chief of staff for the 412<sup>th</sup> said Brown gave them the tools to do anything, as long as they put the effort.

Brown retired in 1989 and was an active member of local American Legion Post Number 213 until his passing.

The funeral service was held at the Vicksburg City Auditorium June 10 and Brown was later buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery.



Soldiers of the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command fold an American flag during the funeral held June 10 at the Vicksburg, Miss. Cedar Hill Cemetery for Command Sgt. Maj. James Albert Brown Jr. Retiring in 1989, Brown was the first African American command sergeant major of the 412<sup>th</sup> TEC.



# LHI, 412<sup>th</sup> TEC Team Up for Medical Readiness

*Story and photos by Sgt. Dalton Smith, 354<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Civilian subcontractors of Logistic Health Incorporated prepared Soldiers for their annual training amongst extreme heat, high humidity and a large amount of troops here at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 16.

LHI workers performed Physical Health Assessments, dental exams, blood draws and administered immunizations at the Soldier Readiness Program center.

“These are the basic services the company must provide for the Army so the soldiers can perform their duties while at annual training,” said Gene Wiggs of LHI.

Wiggs, of Mulberry, Fla., a civilian subcontractor of LHI, works for LHI during the summer months while on vacation from his teaching job. He provided all administrative services and took basic vitals of troops.

“I try to make it as easy as possible for the transition into training,” said Wiggs. “The units tell LHI what services they need to provide for their soldiers and we try to accommodate those as fast as possible.”



Gene Wiggs, of Mulberry, Fla., a civilian subcontractor of Logistic Health Incorporated, takes the vitals of all the soldiers who enter the Soldier Readiness Program before the start of Operation River Assault at Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 16. Before soldiers begin Operation River Assault they must take of certain medical services provided by LHI.



Spc. John Kelch, of Morgantown, W.Va., with the 459<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Multi Role Bridge), receives a dental X-ray from Kerrie Windrix of Muskogee, Okla., as part of the Soldier Readiness Program before the start of Operation River Assault at Fort. Chaffee, Ark., July 16.

Sgt. Tiffany Harris, of Vicksburg, Miss., with the 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, said providing all the necessary medical services within a few days before a massive operation could be one of the best things a unit could have done for them, because there is not enough time during drill weekend to take care of everything.

“Being patient with soldiers while trying to satisfy them were some of the hardest issues to overcome,” said Amanda Ferguson, from Cocoa Beach, Fla. She said the basic things necessary for her and the other employees to run smooth are “sleep, coffee and a snack!”

“Services have been running smooth so far,” said Ferguson. “I understand that the soldiers coming in are a little impatient due to their busy work schedule or just coming on base after traveling long distances.”

“We are always making sure our troops are good to go,” said Wiggs, “Our whole goal is to serve those who have served our country.”

Approximately 1,000 soldiers went through the SRP before starting their annual training. Though not every soldier who entered needed to have services provided for them, all passed through the LHI doors to make sure they were up-to-date with their medical records.

# Employers Say Present to Veterans

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Julio Nieves, 326<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

READING, Pa. - Hundreds of service members, veterans, and dependents sought employment at the first Berks County Military Job Fair hosted by the 326<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 314<sup>th</sup> Press Camp, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, U.S. Army Reserve and the Berks County Society for Human Resource Management, located at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Leesport, Pa., July 24.

Although the economy continues to improve at a slow rate, many veterans are still out of jobs and continue to look for the opportunity to be successful in life.

“Today over 35 employers were present at this military and veteran job fair,” said Maj. Mary L. Olodun, 326<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment commander, who is also the Reading Reserve Center commander and one of the organizers of the first Military and Veterans Job Fair in Berks County, Pa.

Al Rivera, a West Point graduate who served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Fort Campbell, Ky., now general manager for the C&S Wholesale Grocers, Bethlehem, Pa., facility came to the job fair looking to hire veterans.

“Around 30 percent of our employees at the Bethlehem branch are either veterans or current service members,” said Rivera. “We make it a priority to hire veterans. What makes them quality employees is that they have a sense of teamwork and ownership that we, the employers, look for.”

Due to the commitment that service members have with the nation, requiring them to be away from their civilian jobs throughout the year, many companies are not as eager to hire Reservists or Guardsmen, but those who specifically look for service members understand the value in doing so.

“Nothing but positive experiences,” said Rivera. “Every time they go and conduct their military training, our company as a whole, benefits from the fruit



of what the military has taught them. Many times I have seen that they come back from their training with new skills and more efficient ways of doing their jobs at our facility.”

Al Rivera, a West Point graduate who served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., now general manager for the C&S Wholesale Grocers, Bethlehem, Pa., accepts the Service Member Patriot Award presented by Aderemi Olodun, the ESGR chair, East Central Region of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of Defense during the first Berks County Military Job Fair hosted by the 326<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 314<sup>th</sup> Press Camp, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, U.S. Army Reserve and the Berks County Society for Human Resource Management at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Leesport, Pa., July 24. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense national committee that works with employers, Reservists and military leadership in order to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment, and by providing support to employers through award recognition at the local and national levels.

of what the military has taught them. Many times I have seen that they come back from their training with new skills and more efficient ways of doing their jobs at our facility.”

Olodun, whose military profession is public affairs and who has volunteered as co-chair of the military job fair committee, did not allow the U.S. Army Reserve ambassador for Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee, miss this opportunity to showcase their employer award, which is presented to an employer for their continuous support to service members.

“This is a token of appreciation on behalf of the Chief of the Army Reserve Lt. Gen. Jeff W. Talley,” said the U.S. Army Reserve ambassador, George Duell Jr., as he presented Rivera with a coin, medallion and flag.

“We recognize that employers like C&S Wholesale Grocers, who is represented by Mr. Rivera, go above and beyond in supporting our service members’ careers,” said Duell, who also served as Pennsylvania’s past state chair of ESGR.





Al Rivera, a West Point graduate who served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., now general manager for the C&S Wholesale Grocers, Bethlehem, Pa., accepts a medallion, coin and flag presented by the Pennsylvania Reserve ambassador, George Duell Jr., who also served as the past state chair of the Pennsylvania Committee for Employer Support of the Guard Reserve, on behalf of the chief of Army Reserve, Commanding General of USARC Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, during the first Berks County Military Job Fair hosted by the 326<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 314<sup>th</sup> Press Camp, 412<sup>th</sup> Theater Engineer Command, U.S. Army Reserve and the Berks County Society for Human Resource Management at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Leesport, Pa., July 24. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense national committee that works with employers, Reservists and military leadership in order to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment, and by providing support to employers through award recognition at the local and national levels.

Rivera was also presented with the ESGR's Patriot Award signed by the secretary of defense. As one employer is rewarded for their support, service members also feel rewarded.

The presentation of the award that Rivera received was because one of his employees nominated C&S Wholesale Grocers for being very supportive of their military commitment in the reserve on the ESGR website, and Mr. Aderemi Olodun, ESGR chair, East Central Region of Pennsylvania, who is also husband to Olodun, travels around the eastern-central region of Pennsylvania presenting every award for service members, representing any branch of service, nominating their employer. The highest award is the Freedom Award and is actually presented by the secretary of defense in Washington, D.C.

"It is extremely important employers know that we stand with them by partnering together during events like these, to ensure, as a commander, I let them know how much we appreciate the sacrifice they make one

weekend a month, and two weeks a year by allowing their employee to serve by being my soldier at those times," said Olodun.

"Finally, something that applies to me for once," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Benjamin May, an unmanned aircraft operations technician stationed at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. "I'm getting out of the Active Guard Reserve program, so when I heard about this job fair I was very excited."

"Military" Job fairs are not often heard about across our nation as often as they may be needed: it calls for organizers, employers and recruiters who have an understanding of the military education system and how the military/veteran lifestyles work.

"This is one of the most diverse job fairs I have ever experienced in Berks County, which seemed to have a well mix of military backgrounds, genders and ages," said, Mr. Dale Derr, who is the director of Berks County Veterans Affairs and one of the volunteer committee members for the job fair. "Having the National Guard and the Army Reserve on this committee made it richer and expanded our reach to help it to be more diversified. We certainly need to maintain this relationship when planning future military job fairs."

Besides the many employers seeking veterans, multiple workshops were also available in order to enhance the job-seekers' skill sets and knowledge base on how to become more attractive to the employer.

"About a year ago, I recruited a Reservist who served as an ammunition specialist," said Kari McEwen a recruiter for National Penn. "He had all the experience and skills required to work in the financial industry: from operating computer hardware and software, in order to perform stock control and accounting procedures, to providing excellent customer service to our customers."

Rivera confirms, for many service members and their commanders, that employers like him understand in ways that sometimes only a veteran can relate to, "Hiring veterans and current members of the armed forces is our way of saying thanks for the sacrifices they make for our country."



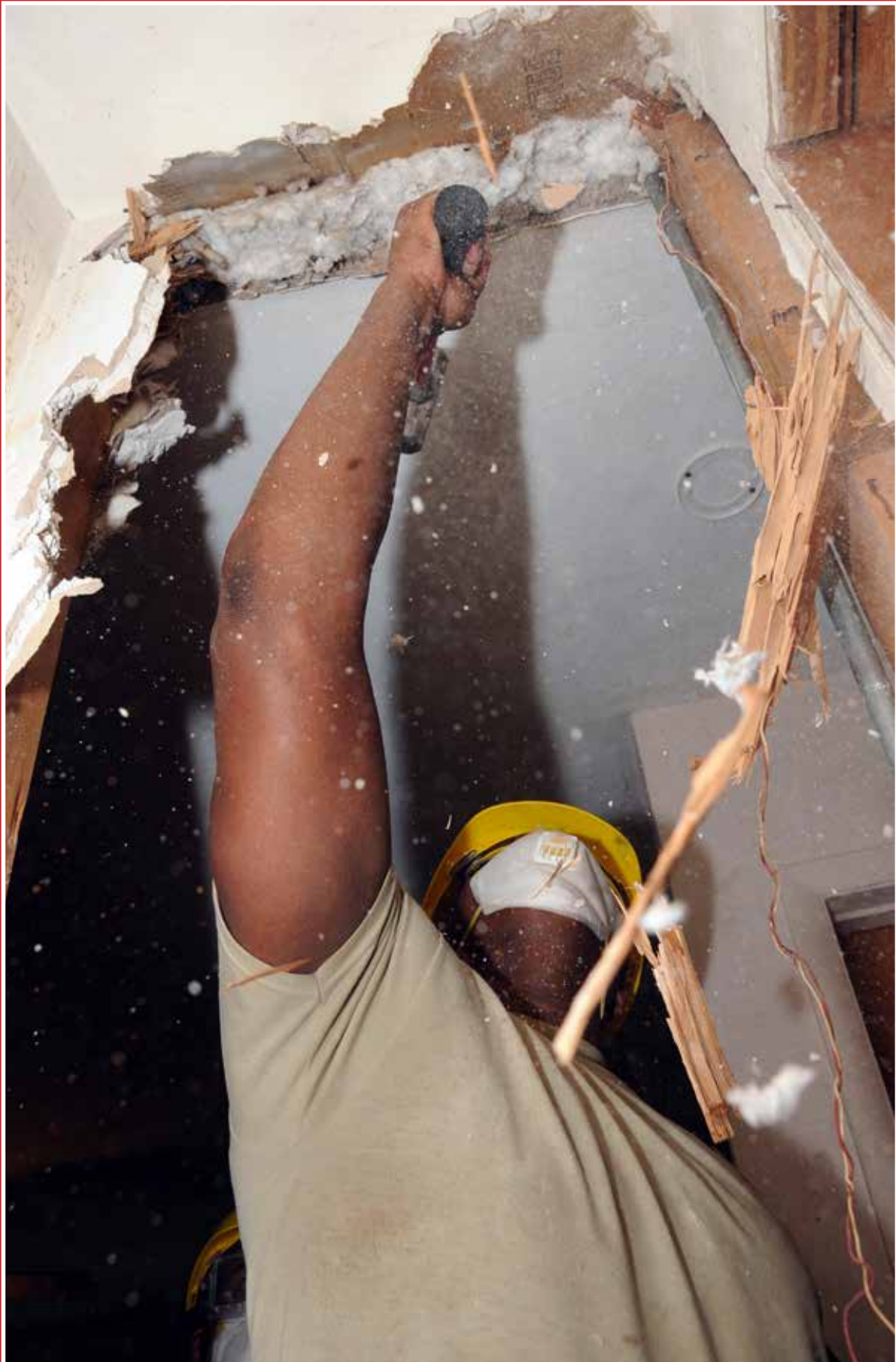


***Sometimes the signs aren't clear ...***

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**Photo of The Quarter**