



The Rail Gunner Newsletter October 2013

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THE RAIL GUNNER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

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The Rail Gunner Monthly Staff

Commander
COL William E. McRae
Command Sgt. Maj.
CSM Antonio Dunston
Rail Gunner PAO
CPT John Farmer
NCOIC
SGT Garrett Hernandez



Maj. Alan Irizarry, the 41st Fires Brigade Chaplain, prays over Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, Aug 20. The Soldiers are deploying to Kuwait to support U.S. partner-nations in the area (U.S. Army photo by Capt. John Farmer, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).

41st Fires Brigade: on a mission

Story and photos by
 Capt. John Farmer
 41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

As the sun set on the 41st Fires Brigade headquarters building, young kids ran across the grass playing tag while soldiers created a human assembly line to load their gear into baggage trucks. Friends, families and co-workers gathered in the parking lot to give hugs, share smiles and bid farewell to loved ones.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st Fires Brigade,

deployed to Kuwait, Aug. 20, to work for Army Central Command as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters.

"I should be nervous, but I think I'm more excited," said 2nd Lt. Julie Alderman, a platoon leader in 324th Network Signal Company, 41st Fires Bde. She, along with many others, has never deployed, but eagerly looks forward to the new experiences this deployment will provide.

Alderman said she expects going to Kuwait will enable her to learn more about being in the Army and what it entails. She's

RAIL GUNNER 6 & 9 SEND



**Colonel
William E. McRae
41st Fires Brigade CDR**

Rail Gunners,

Greetings from Kuwait! A few weeks ago, we all took time to remember those that were lost during the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

It is important that we never forget what happened on that day and what the tragedy now means to all of us. Our nation has been at war for 12 years and our servicemen and women continue to prove their worth, day-in and day-out, by showing the American people, and the rest of the world, that we know what it means to serve honorably.

I am honored and humbled by your sacrifice; the sacrifice of our Soldiers and especially their Families.

As summer comes to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for remaining vigilant and staying safe. Summer can be a dangerous time of year in Texas and you have proven, once again, that this brigade is successful because of its people; the Soldiers and their

Families. It only takes one major injury to derail an event, whether it be training in the field or enjoying a barbecue with friends.

With the summer heat behind us, and the holidays approaching I implore you all to continue this trend of excellence and enjoy time with your fellow Soldiers, friends and Family.

In closing, I urge you to all to continue to strive for excellence in all that you do. Your commitment to the Army Values and your fellow Soldiers matters each and every day.

So whether deployed or in the United States, at the National Training Center or in the motor-pool, whether doing PRT or enjoying family time, remember that your legacy as an individual is based on your approach, hard work and effort to live a good life to the fullest.

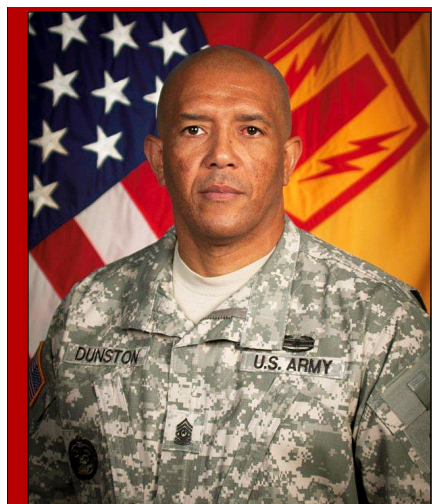
Thank you for your service, and what you do for our great Nation and the Rail Gunner team.

- Rail Gunner 6

Rail Gunners,

Gen. Colin Powell once said, "Leadership is solving problems. The day Soldiers stop bringing you their problems, is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

Those words epitomize what we as leaders should be doing. Though Soldiers might not bring all of their problems to us, they should be asking for our help, whether they



**Command Sergeant Major
Antonio Dunston
41st Fires Brigade CSM**

are studying for a board or getting our advice on a tough situation.

In the same way a child trust his parents, our Soldiers must be able to trust us completely.

Soldiers must know that it is our duty to take corrective action when necessary, that's called enforcing accountability.

All too often NCOs are involved in "likership" and not leadership – we want our Soldiers to like us and be friends with us, but that is not the point of leadership or why great Americans sign up to serve.

Our goal as leaders is for our Soldiers to follow us and trust us; trust that we will place their needs, safety and welfare above our own and that we will be both fair and impartial with reward and discipline. We earn trust and respect by setting the example.

If we live the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer and not just recite it, we can't go wrong. Rail Gunner Strong!

- Rail Gunner 9

41st Fires Bde.: on a mission (cont'd)

looking forward to the opportunity to grow in her career as an officer, she said.

Whereas there are many soldiers, like Alderman, who have not yet deployed, for others this isn't their first trip across the pond.

"It's kind of routine now," said Capt. Becky Wagner, the brigade assistant operations officer, "but this will be different though because it's more of a peace-time environment than combat."

Wagner, like many others, possesses a wealth of experience that can potentially benefit the overall mission of building and improving relationships with the U.S. partner-nations in the region.

"My last two deployments were both to Afghanistan, and we did a lot of partnering with the local military and government so hopefully that will translate a little to this deployment," Wagner said.

For most of the soldiers, the majority of their time during this deployment will be spent in Kuwait, though some elements may be moved to other areas based on future mission require-



Soldiers from the 41st Fires Brigade load gear into a baggage truck at Fort Hood, Texas, Aug 20. The Soldiers are deploying to Kuwait to support U.S. partner-nations in the area (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs)

ments. Though many may be apprehensive about what life will be like in Kuwait, there are those who are looking forward to returning to the small desert country.

"I like Kuwait, it's not bad," said Sgt. 1st Class Rick Hemion, the brigade air defense, air space management non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "I'm excited to do something new. I'm an air traffic controller, so I'm normally going over with [other air traffic controllers]

and this is my first time with a fires brigade, so it'll be something interesting, something different."

This trip to Kuwait will be Hemion's fourth deployment. He's been to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. When asked how he plans on helping the young Soldiers with no deployment experience, he said, "I'll pull them up underneath the wing and get them ready for it, they'll be fine. We trained up pretty well and I think everybody's ready."

Future leaders experience Army life

Story by
Sgt. Garrett Hernandez
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

During the summer months, Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from across the United States descend upon Army bases around the world for three to four weeks of training to prepare them for their future role as a leader.

Cadet Troop Leader Training is an event held at Army posts in the United States, Germany, Italy, and South Korea for the ROTC cadets and gives them a chance to be mentored by lieutenants.

"They are our future leaders, you want to make sure they get the right mentoring so they become good leaders," said Capt. David Clayton, commander of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade.

The 41st Fires Brigade welcomed four cadets to spend three weeks learning what life is like as a platoon leader in a field artillery regiment.

During summer break from college, between their junior and senior years, when students could be visiting family and friends or working a summer job, ROTC cadets spend a part of their time experiencing Army life.

While assigned to the 41st Fires Bde., cadets were able to see the inner workings of an artillery battery and the role they will be fulfilling once they complete ROTC.

"I got to see how a (platoon leader) interacts with her platoon sergeant and her Soldiers," said Cadet Cody Stroup a native of Mathews, Va.

While with the 41st Fires Bde., the cadets had a chance to go to the field

and see how an artillery battery functions day to day.

Stroup added that in ROTC there is not much behind the scenes work to be done, it's a lot of going to the field, but here they have a chance to see the daily operations of a unit.

After her own CTLT experience, 1st Lt. Elisabeth Veen, platoon leader for 1st Fires Platoon, Battery B, 1-21 FA, 41st Fires, resolved to make sure the cadets that came to her unit have a better learning experience than the one she had.

Veen said she wants them to enjoy their experience and learn about the real Army. She added that the Army isn't what you see in movies and on TV shows, it has its fun parts but also has its more mundane but equally important parts.

Transition of Authority



During a transition of authority ceremony, Sept 3, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the 41st Fires Brigade replaced the 75th Fires Brigade as the Army Central Command Force Field Artillery Headquarters.

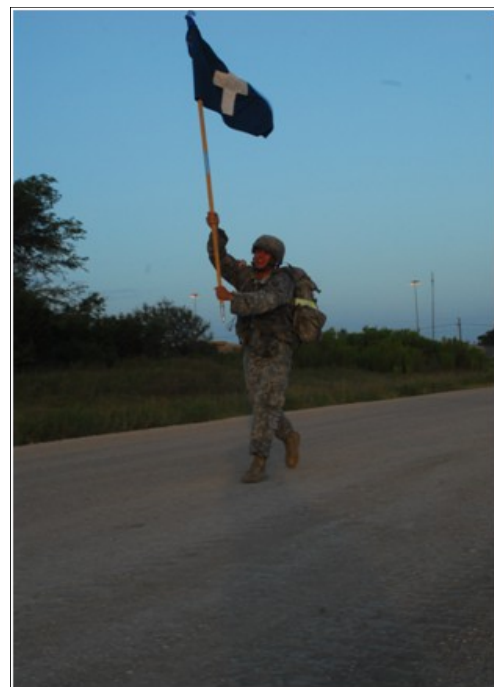


Ministry Team challenges Soldiers' resiliency



(Left) Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade do as many sit-ups as they can while competing in the battalion's unit ministry team resiliency challenge at the Applied Fitness Center on Fort Hood, Texas, July 23. The challenge was designed to test Soldier's physical and mental resilience.

(Right) Spc. Jacob Flowers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, completed over 220 sit-ups while competing in his battalion's unit ministry team resiliency challenge at the Applied Fitness Center on Fort Hood, Texas, July 23. The challenge was designed to test Soldier's physical and mental resilience (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).



Story and photos by
Sgt. Garrett Hernandez
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

The unit ministry team is at the forefront when it comes to resiliency. The team is charged with helping Soldiers bounce back from emotionally difficult life events and to prepare Soldiers how to cope with psychologically tough situations.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade competed in a resiliency challenge hosted by the Unit Ministry Team on Fort Hood, Texas, July 23. The Soldiers competed as teams, with each of the battalion's four batteries hosting a team.

"This event was a way for our UMT to reach out to Soldiers and promote the concept of resiliency in all areas of life," said Capt. Jonathan Porter chaplain for 1st Bn., 21st FAR, 41st Fires Bde.

The challenge started off on a warm summer's morning, with a four-mile ruck march down a tank trail near Turkey Run road. The competition then moved to the gym where the Soldiers continued to push themselves.

At the Applied Fitness Center

the competitors moved on to bench-presses, where the Soldiers had to lift 75 percent of their body weight for as many repetitions as they were able before moving on to sit-ups.

The sit-up portion saw three 41st Fires "Rail Gunners" complete more than 200 sit-ups each. The Soldiers were allowed as much time as they wanted in order to complete as many sit-ups as they could.

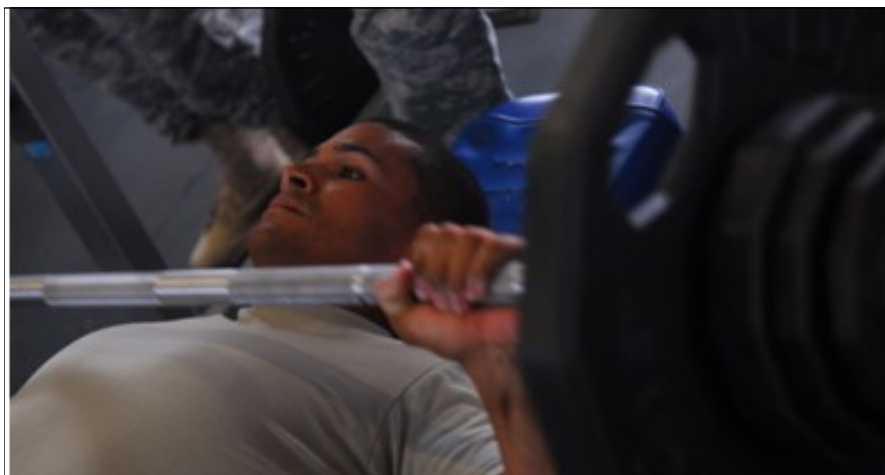
"The physical competition provided an example of pushing yourself

and not giving up, and working together as a team," said Porter.

The competition's final challenge tested the Soldiers biblical knowledge.

Battery A, "Assassins," 1st Bn. 21st FAR beat out the competition and took home the top prize; a streamer for their battery guidon.

"I'm proud of my guys and I'm proud that the alpha assassins are leading the way," said 2nd Lt. Ruston Thompson, platoon leader for 2nd platoon, Battery A, 1st Bn., 21st FAR, 41st Fires



Spc. Christian Vazquez, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, waves the chaplain's guidon as he is the first to finish a four-mile ruck march at Fort Hood, Texas, July 23. The Soldiers are taking part in the battalion's unit ministry team resiliency challenge. The challenge was designed to test Soldier's physical and mental resilience.

Renegades return home safely

Story and photos by
Sgt. Garrett Hernandez
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

Family and friends welcomed home the Soldiers of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, July 26 during a redeployment ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas.

"It feels great to be back, you appreciate the little things, even the grass," said Spc. Jesus Portillo an automated logistical specialist with Battery A, 2nd Bn., 20th FAR, 41st Fires Bde.

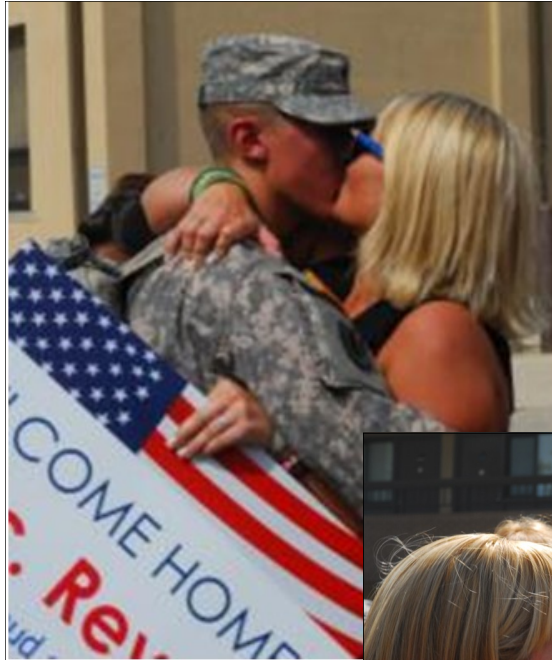
During their six-month deployment to Kuwait, the battery worked with the 75th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, Okla. In support of Operation Spartan Shield.

Battery A, also known as the "Renegades," helped train Soldiers from other countries within the region such as Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to training others the Renegades received training of their own.

The Renegades learned how to operate the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System while serving overseas. The HIMARS is a wheeled vehicle capable of firing six rockets.

When asked what her plans were for her post deployment leave, Spc. Staci Demarrias, a multiple launch rocket system repairer with Battery A, 2nd Bn., 20th FAR, 41st Fires Bde. said, "manicure, pedicure, get my hair done, relax and eat some good food."

The Renegades are scheduled to undergo reintegration training and take leave before heading back to work.



Soldiers reunite with their families after a short "welcome home" ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas July 26. Soldiers of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade returned to Fort Hood after a six month deployment to Kuwait .



Families and friends of Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade wait for their Soldier at Fort Hood, Texas as they return after a six month deployment to Kuwait, July 26 (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).



Adventure for returning Soldiers

Story and photos by
Sgt. Garrett Hernandez
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

After enduring a six-month deployment to the desert of Kuwait, away from families and friends, some Soldiers are in need of adventure and stress relief.

Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade kayaked along a six-mile course at Lake Belton, Texas, Aug. 27, to de-stress and have fun.

The Fort Hood Warrior Adventure Quest is a part of the Army's post-deployment reintegration training.

Warrior Adventure Quest is a program that was designed to present Soldiers with an alternative to the dangerous behavior typically associated with post deployment, according to the Warrior Adventure Quest website.

"It's the Army's holistic approach to reset," said Sgt. 1st Class William Hall, the noncommissioned officer in charge of Fort Hood's Warrior Adventure Quest.

This event gives returning units a chance to get an adrenaline rush in a controlled way.

Leaders in the returning unit are in charge of the activities. The event not only gives the Soldiers an



Spc. Timothy Havenhill, front and Spc. Stephen Park, rear, both Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmembers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, carry two kayaks to the edge of Belton Lake near Belton, Texas, Aug. 28. After a six month deployment to Kuwait, the battery is taking part in the Fort Hood Warrior Adventure Quest. The program is designed to provide Soldiers, who are returning from a deployment, an alternative to other high risk behaviors (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).

exciting challenge but also training to cope with the return home.

Before the Soldiers set out on the lake, they went through a short class about resiliency. The class outlined ways to deal with the heightened adrenaline levels associated with deployments.

Hall said the stress of a deployment increases Soldiers' adrenaline levels.

A Walter Reed Army Institute of Research study found that Soldiers are more likely to engage in high-risk activities after a combat deployment.

Some Soldiers will still have a need to get their adrenaline rush, and those Soldiers will seek their thrills in either a constructive or destructive way. This program attempts to provide them with a constructive way, added Hall.



Battalion adopts food care center

Story by
Sarah Rafique
Killeen Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Fort Hood commander is giving back to the town he grew up in by creating a two-way partnership between his battalion and the Killeen Food Care Center.

"The biggest reason I want to give back is because of the support they give to the Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Brett Gordon, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. "Unfortunately, some of our Soldiers have large families and have a hard time making ends meet. ... There's a lot of Soldiers that receive food from the food care center."

Gordon's unit, which consists of about 200 Soldiers, has been supporting the food bank since October but made it official Wednesday by adopting the nonprofit and displaying a sign outside its building.

Gordon graduated from Ellison High School in 1985 and is glad to be back home, working with Gerald Farris, his mentor and former agriculture teacher.

Farris and his wife, Ann, are executive directors of the Killeen Food Care Center and said they helped a record 7,384 people last month. Of those, 195 were Soldiers or their dependents.

Soldiers in the battalion typically perform labor-intensive tasks including general cleaning, maintenance, painting and landscaping so the pantry can focus its efforts on collecting and distributing food.

"When I have the Soldiers here, we explain to them what all the

Lt. Col. Brett Gordon, center, commander of 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade with help from Command Sgt. Major Jennifer Love, right, hang a sign outside of the Food Care Center in Killeen, Texas announcing the 589th's support to the food bank. 589th BSB sponsors the Food Care Center by donating food and volunteering at the local charity (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).



Gerald Farris, left, co-director of the Food Care Center in Killeen, Texas, Bob Gordon, center, board member of the Food Care Center and Lt. Col. Brett Gordon, right, commander of 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade pose for a picture after 589th BSB announced its sponsorship of the local charity Aug. 7. 589th BSB sponsors the Food Care Center by donating food and volunteering at the local charity (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).

food care center does," Gordon said. "They get to see how much food is brought here and how many people they help."

While working at the food bank, Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Love has interacted with people who benefit from their services, including some of her Soldiers.

"It's a blessing. It's an awesome feeling to give back to the community and anybody. It doesn't matter who they are or where they're from," Love said.

"I look forward to continuing our support with the food care center as we continue to volunteer our services to them."



Adopt a School year kicks off

Story by
Sgt. Garrett Hernandez
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

With summer break coming to an end for schools across central Texas, not only will students and teachers be heading back to school but also the Soldiers that support them through the Fort Hood Adopt a School program.

Soldiers from the 41st Fires Brigade will once again be volunteering at local schools the unit has adopted in order to help the schools in any way they can.

The Fort Hood adopt a school program serves eight school districts in Central Texas surrounding Fort Hood, they include: Killeen, Copperas Cove, Belton, Florence, Gatesville, Lampasas, Salado and Temple.

J.J. Johnson, the School Liaison Officer, said the Adopt a School program was started in the mid 1990's. The program has played an integral role in maintaining the Army's relationship with the local communities.

Each of the brigade's three battalions has adopted a school in the Killeen school district. 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment adopted Manor

Middle School, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment adopted Meadows Elementary School and 589th Brigade Support Battalion adopted Hay Branch Elementary School.

"Our interaction with the community is very important because it lets our Soldiers see another reason why they serve," said the 41st Fires Bde. commander, Col. William McRae. "It also allows the youth and the teachers to get a glimpse of our Soldiers, not as they see them on TV, but as real people who are serving their country."

In 2012, battalions from the 41st Fires Bde. helped their adoptive schools with events such as field days, bowling, chaperoning field trips, and hosting learning events. The battalions will continue to provide help to their schools through the 2013-2014 school year.

According to the Fort Hood Adopt a School website, "The AAS program contributes military resources and services to schools in order to nurture the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth of children in



Sgt. Ricky Montgomery, a M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System crew member, explains how the MLRS works and operates to students from Manor Middle School during 1st Battalion "First Strike," 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade live fire exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, May 9. First Strike invited Soldiers' Families, members of the local community and members of the American Legion, Post 335, Centerville, Texas to the exercise to help give them a better understanding of what the battalion does as a whole (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett

the greater Fort Hood area; to increase public awareness of the Army's mission and to foster good relations."

"Our community is very happy to have the unit involved," said Brenda Martinez, principal of Hay Branch.



Students from Manor Middle School watch as Sgt. Corey Garrell, 575th Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion "First Strike," 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade loads a used rocket pod into the back of a M948 HEMTT during a live fire exercise at Fort Hood, May 9. First Strike invited Soldiers' families, members of the local community and members of the American Legion, Post 335, Centerville, Texas to the exercise to help give them a better understanding of what the battalion does as a whole (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).



Spec. Dario Eubank, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, watches as students enjoy an inflatable slip and slide during Hay Branch Elementary School's field day Killeen, Texas, May 17. Soldiers from 589th BSB helped their adoptive school with its annual field day for the students. The Soldiers chaperoned different events to ensure students were safe and had fun (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Garrett Hernandez, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).

Walking in remembrance

Story and photos by
Capt. John Farmer
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

Twelve years ago, the United States was attacked by terrorists. The World Trade Center in New York City was destroyed, thousands lost their lives, and millions more were forever impacted by this travesty.

Twelve years later, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade and students at Manor Middle School, most of whom were barely able to walk at the time of the attack, took time to honor those who were lost Sept. 11, 2001.

Students, faculty, Soldiers, local law enforcement and volunteers from the local Armed Services YMCA participated in Manor Middle School's second annual Freedom Walk in Killeen, Texas, Sept. 10.

"In Texas, the week of Sept. 11 is Celebrate Freedom Week. We celebrate not just our first responders, our Soldiers and our veterans, but we also take some time to remember Sept. 11," said Danielle Tucker, the curriculum and instruction specialist at Manor Middle School.

"We have formed a tradition of having a pep rally to celebrate our first responders, our Soldiers and especially our adopt-a-school unit," said Tucker, "then we go on a walk, and we let our community know that we're celebrating our Soldiers."

At this year's pep rally, Lt. Col. Kenneth McDaniel, commander of the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment gave the key note speech.

He spoke to the amassed crowd of more than 650 middle schoolers about what it means to be free and about taking advantage of the opportunities available here in the U.S.

"I challenge that the best way to honor those who sacrificed to protect your freedoms is to take full advantage of the opportunities this



Volunteers from the Armed Services YMCA, students and faculty from Manor Middle School and soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade, participate in Manor Middle School's annual Freedom Walk in Killeen, Texas, Sept 10. The walk is designed to pay homage to the servicemen and women who have given their lives in service to their country as well as to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

country provides you," said McDaniel. "What you do with your freedom is only limited by your imagination."

Jennifer Washington is the principal at Manor Middle School, and she is committed to ensuring her students understand exactly what it means to be free.

"I believe that Lt. Col. McDaniel gave a wonderful speech today," said Washington. "He reminded our students that they can do anything in this world they aspire to do, and he's absolutely right. But he also reminded us that service to the country is something that provides all of us with the same opportunities."

For Washington, the Freedom Walk is not only a symbolic gesture of remembrance for those who lost their lives Sept. 11, but as a poignant learning lesson for her students: freedom is not free.

"Freedom comes with a heavy price tag, and this is just a small token of our appreciation to our first responders, our military soldiers and everyone else who defends our freedoms on a daily basis," she said. "I think it's important that our students know that the things they take for granted ... come with a price tag."

The actual walk itself was fairly short, about a mile and a half in

length. But the impact of the walk was felt far beyond W.S. Young street in downtown Killeen.

Children held patriotic signs and hand-crafted flags. The school's cheer team could be heard for blocks as they chanted, "U-S-A! U-S-A!" Soldiers, faculty, students and community members walked side-by-side down the road as passing traffic honked their horns and waved their support.

Antionette Wiggins is the Armed Services YMCA Child Care director in Killeen, Texas, and she has been participating in the Freedom Walk since its inception.

A retired Soldier herself, Wiggins loves being out with the kids, their parents and the Soldiers. "I love to see the Soldiers, especially with the kids, because they've got a lot of people, parents and friends that are in the military. I love to see this cohesion. ... I wouldn't change it for anything in the world," she said.

More than 50 schools in the Killeen Independent School District celebrate Freedom Week with walks, projects and programs every year. For the students at Manor Middle School, this is a tradition that people like Washington and Wiggins hope to see continue for years to come.

589th BSB excels at environmental stewardship

Story and photos by
Capt. John Farmer
41st Fires Brigade, Public Affairs

The Fort Hood Environmental Quality Control Committee meets on a quarterly basis and is a forum for developing ideas, coordinating activities, and developing recommendations to preserve or enhance the environment and ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and policies.

"The Fort Hood Environmental Quality Control Committee is a group of commanders and functional experts on Fort Hood that act as the proponent for environmental control on Fort Hood," said Lt. Col. Lance Cangelosi, commander of the 589th Brigade Support Battalion "Iron Caissons," 41st Fires Brigade "Rail Gunners."

This collection of commanders and environmental subject matter experts from across Fort Hood conducted a walk-through of the 589th BSB motor pool here Sept. 16., to discuss best practices and lessons learned relative to environmental stewardship and safety.

"Twice a year, the committee schedules environmental walk-throughs at various installations and activities across Fort Hood to highlight different assets that are available, programs or best practices," Cangelosi said. "For this particular walk-through ... they wanted to go through an actual unit motor pool to highlight some of the best practices that exist for motor pool operations, and 589th has a reputation for having a very good environmental quality control program."

Cangelosi said his battalion has an excellent program, because his Soldiers and noncommissioned officers take extra care with sensitive operations like the storage and disposal of hazardous materials.

Additionally, he credited their success to solid work practices within the motor pool, such as not only using drip pans when vehicles are stored, but also putting drip pans under vehicles that are being maintained.

For the Iron Caisson Soldiers, environmental stewardship isn't about mandatory monthly training or Environmental Stand Down Days, but rather a culture of doing things well, taking pride in their work and not cutting corners on seemingly mundane tasks.

"I see myself in the big picture as a mentor and a teacher," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thaddous Carr, the allied trades warrant officer in charge for the 589th BSB.

Carr is one of the key proponents for the battalion's environmental quality program and as the allied trades warrant officer, he is responsible for everything that goes on in the battalion motor pool to include environmental safety.

"Showing ... is knowing," Carr said. "I lead an aggressive program as far as teaching, having systems in place, and ensuring qualified people are in place to do the daily inspections."

For Carr, it's far more important to teach Soldiers about how to be environmentally conscious as opposed to doing it for them. He said that if he was the one doing everything, no one would learn it for themselves. His role as a teacher goes beyond himself, and he wants to ensure that the people he instructs have the tools they need to pass this on.

After some opening remarks from Cangelosi, Carr took the EQCC members on a short tour of the battalion motor pool. The members were able to see the 589th's best practices for storing and disposing used petroleum products, oil and lubricant storage, the battalion battery shed, and then finished inside one of the maintenance bays.

Brig. Gen. Clark LeMasters, commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), was particularly pleased with the walk-through.



Sgt. Alessandro Cuevas, right, a power generator mechanic with Company B, 589th Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Fires Brigade, discusses how his unit effectively stores old and used batteries in one of the battalion's maintenance bays to the Fort Hood Environmental Quality Control Committee during a walk-through of the 589th BSB's motor pool on Fort Hood, Texas, Sept. 16. The EQCC is a group of commanders and functional experts from across Fort Hood who work as a collective proponent for environmental control on the base (U.S. Army photo by Capt. John Farmer, 41st Fires Brigade Public Affairs).

"The DPW [Department of Public Works] guys knew that you had a good environmental program down here at 589th. I saw a lot of people taking notes. I think it was a victory," said LeMasters.

For LeMasters, the importance of discussing the environmental issues that every unit on Fort Hood faces can't be overstated. It's equally important for units to know that there are subject matter experts across the post they can talk to.

He said peer-to-peer communication can be less intimidating for units as opposed to interacting with some of Fort Hood's larger environmental agencies.

"When you get that link-up with the warrant officers and their NCOs, they're not afraid to pick the phone up and call their buds," LeMasters said.

With the motor pool walk-through complete, members of the EQCC can now take the lessons they've learned back to their respective organizations, and the culture of environmental awareness can continue to grow not just in 589th BSB but across all of Fort Hood.

Throughout the Brigade



Hay Branch Freedom Walk



PAS-13 training



67th FSC drown proofing



School supply drive



2-20th FAR LFX

Rail Gunners

REENLISTMENTS

Rail Gunners reenlisted during the months of July, August and September:

1-21st FAR

SPC Moore, Marcus Desean
SPC Seaholm, Adam Kurtis
SGT Thompson, Jonathan Devon
SGT Wheeler, Jody Allan
SSG Thurman, Christopher Edward

2-20th FAR

SPC Portillo, Jesus Manuel
SPC Rever, Matthew John
SPC Toves, Christopher Bailey
SPC Whiting, George Saramosing
SGT Hille, Shane Edwin
SSG Fuller, Brandon Curtis
SSG Salazar, Jaime Alejandro

589th BSB

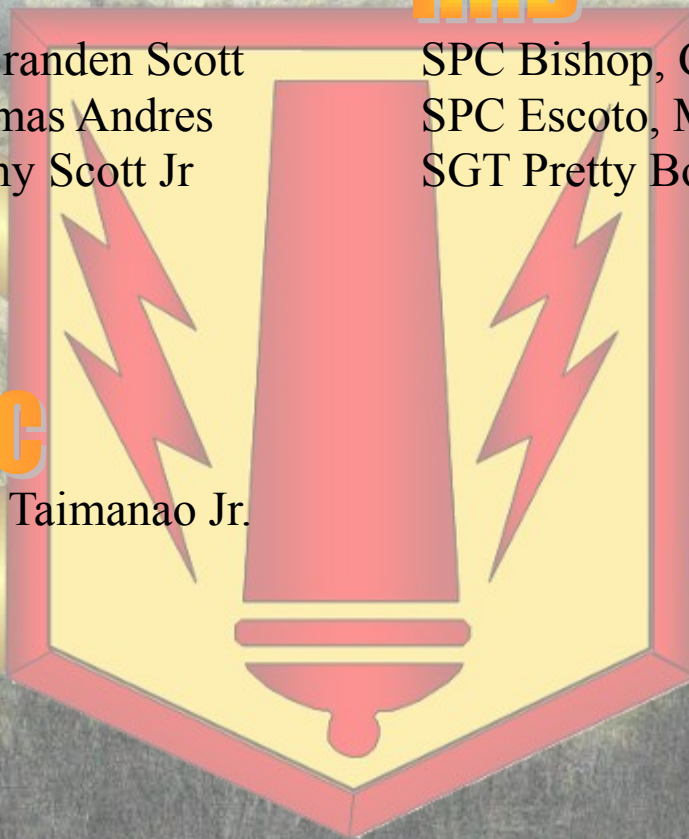
SPC Buchmeier, Branden Scott
SGT Guerrero, Tomas Andres
SGT Taylor, Tommy Scott Jr

HNB

SPC Bishop, Cody Bear
SPC Escoto, Michael Jose
SGT Pretty Boy, Valerie Ann

324th NSC

SPC Atalig, Kevin Taimanao Jr.



PROMOTIONS

We would like to congratulate all of the Rail Gunners that were promoted during the months of July, August and September:

July

SGT Carver, Johnathan

August

SPC Marashall, Micheal

SPC Nuckols, Nicolette

SPC Pontius, Craig

SGT Daniels, William

SGT Hernandez, Juan

September

SSG Johnson, Julio

PFC Maxwell, Christopher

SGT Rivers, Sean

SGT Baumgartner, William

SGT Orand, Michael

SGT Pape, Andrew

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Public Affairs Office!

CPT John Farmer: john.a.farmer24.mil@mail.mil

SGT Garrett Hernandez: garett.m.hernandez.mil@mail.mil